



# Julianne Begay

Julianne Begay is a staff attorney at Colorado Legal Services, Inc. Previously, she worked as an in-house attorney at the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and as an associate at Maynes, Bradford, Shipp & Sheftel, LLP. She is licensed to practice law in Colorado and Arizona.

## PROFILE

### Hometown:

Klagetoh, Arizona

### Law School:

Arizona State University  
Sandra Day O'Connor  
College of Law

### Lives in:

Durango

### Works at:

Colorado Legal  
Services, Inc.

### Practice Areas:

Family Law, Landlord  
Tenant, Consumer, Public  
Benefits, Indian Law

### CBA Member Since:

2015

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### Describe yourself in five words.

Conscientious, introverted, independent, considerate, analytical.

### Why did you become a lawyer?

I wanted to work in the field of Indian law and to advocate for Indian tribes in some capacity. While Indian law is not a large part of my current practice, my knowledge and background of Indian law is still useful given that Colorado's two federally recognized tribes are in the region where I practice.

### What's the best advice you've ever been given?

One of my law school professors said to always have enough money saved so that you never have to choose between your ethical/professional obligations and a paycheck. It has stuck with me to this day.

### What's your favorite memory from law school?

I had a law school professor who gave 24-hour finals—meaning we had to stay awake an entire 24 hours to complete the exam. It was the most daunting experience ever. In the middle of the exam, at about 2 a.m., I had a moment where I seriously contemplated quitting law school. I somehow managed to keep going and ended up getting a pretty good grade. It's my favorite memory from law school because it was the experience that eliminated any feelings of imposter syndrome I may have had.

### Outside of the law, what are your hobbies?

Hiking, learning how to mountain bike, playing rec league soccer, and volunteering in my community.

### What organizations are you involved in?

I'm a member of the Southwest Colorado Bar Association and recently completed a term as president. I chair the 6th Judicial District Access to Justice Committee and was a member of the 2022 CODACC (Colorado Diverse Attorney Community Circle) class. I also volunteer with 4 the Children (the nonprofit that runs our local CASA program) and Big Brothers Big Sisters, and I spent Election Day volunteering for Native Vote Election Protection, which places volunteers at polling locations in various Native American communities throughout Arizona to assist people who have trouble voting.

### What's the most random job you have ever had?

I worked as a cart attendant at Target when I was in high school. Nowadays, I always make sure to return my cart once I'm done shopping.

### How has the CBA impacted your career?

I've met attorneys from across the state who I would not have met otherwise. The CODACC program in particular has given me a supportive network of people that have many of the same challenges and passions as I do in this profession. I'm so grateful for the time I've spent getting to know the other CODACC participants.

### Who is your hero and why?

Jon Olafson. He's an amazing CBA leader and has had never-ending faith in me as a leader and as an attorney. Jon's commitment to improving our profession and making it more inclusive is inspiring. 

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