John David Gates, J.D.

An enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, John was born and raised in Gallup, New Mexico, which is located 135 miles west of Albuquerque. John’s primary areas of professional expertise focus on federal Indian law and policy, and international indigenous human rights. John received his undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico, and his law degree from the University Of Iowa College Of Law. After graduating from law school, John served as prosecutor for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and served on the bench as Judge Pro Tem for the Laguna Pueblo, located in New Mexico. John taught courses in Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico from 1997/2004, where he also worked collaboratively with the faculty to establish a bachelor degree program in NAS. In 2004/05, John was awarded a J. William Fulbright Senior Scholar fellowship to teach courses in federal Indian law and international indigenous human rights at the University Of Bonn, Germany. He currently serves as an expert witness in civil and criminal cases in Hawai’I that concern Native Hawai’ian sovereignty and self-determination. He currently is a full time faculty member in The Evergreen State College Master of Public Administration/ Tribal Governance Program.