

CHIEF JUDGE PATRICIA LENZI

Cedarville Rancheria Tribal Court
California

Judge Patricia Lenzi is an enrolled member of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and serves as an appellate justice for the St. Regis Mohawk Appeals Court and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Court of Appeals. Judge Lenzi is the Chief Judge of the Cedarville Rancheria Tribal Court and a Deputy Judge for the Colorado River Indians Tribal Court.

Judge Lenzi has extensive courtroom experience as well as general legal experience. As an attorney, she has tried over 100 cases to jury verdict. Judge Lenzi joined the National Tribal Judicial Center in 2012. She has been a licensed attorney since 1992. She has extensive courtroom experience as well as general legal experience, and has tried over 100 cases to jury verdict during her career.

She has successfully represented tribes in tribal, state and federal civil litigation, administrative matters, and appeals. In the area of federal Indian law, Judge Lenzi has drafted ordinances and resolutions; criminal law; juvenile delinquency; social services and dependency law; energy law; employment law; cultural and historic preservation; economic development; gaming law; governmental negotiations; contracts; alternative dispute resolution; business & commercial law; construction defects; government agencies & programs, real estate law; state, local & municipal law; administrative law; tribal government; tribal sovereignty and self-determination; gaming compact negotiation, and taxation. She has worked with implementation of VAWA; IGRA; ICWA; ICRA; SORNA; and TLOA in Indian Country. Her private practice included family law, criminal defense, bankruptcy and civil litigation, where she offered pro-bono representation to Native Americans.

Prior to being appointed to the judiciary, Judge Lenzi served as a Deputy District Attorney with the Sacramento, Yolo, and Alpine County (California) District Attorney's Offices, and as the Tribal Prosecutor for the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA and the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. Her criminal law practice includes experience in domestic violence; child abuse and child sexual abuse; homicide; gang prosecution; threat assessment and threat management; stalking; robbery; arson; identity theft and fraud. She served on Yolo County's Advisory Committee on Tribal Matters.

Judge Lenzi provides continuing education for professionals throughout the United States, and was an adjunct professor for Trial Practice at the University of California at Davis School of Law, King Hall. She has extensive experience as an instructor for

professional colleagues throughout multiple states, and agencies outside the U.S., including members of the judiciary through the National Tribal Judicial Center, the National Judicial College, the Inter-Tribal Council of California; numerous tribal, state, local, federal and international law enforcement officers; private sector business security specialists; social workers; bar associations; community groups and students. The topics included prosecution of child molest and domestic violence cases in Indian Country, identity theft, law enforcement and the courts' responses to stalking, implementation of "full faith and credit", threat assessment and threat management, protective/restraining orders, courtroom demeanor, "special victims," federal Indian law, and a variety of additional topics.

Judge Lenzi is a member of the California Bar and is admitted to practice in all of the federal district courts of California, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, each of the tribal courts where she presides, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribal Court and the Washoe Tribal Court. She holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.