

In Memoriam

Gaye L. Tenosa

Please join family, friends and colleagues in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice on Wednesday, July 2, at 10:00 am for a Celebration of Life for Gaye Tenosa, who passed away peacefully on June 3, 2014, after a brief illness.

Gaye was an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Indians and had recently been asked to serve as a Justice on her Tribe's Supreme Court. After graduating from Georgetown Law School, she began her legal career in the office of Rep. George Mahon (TX), followed by a stint in private practice before joining the Department of Justice. For over twenty five years, she worked in the Civil Rights Division in the Educational Opportunities Section and the Voting Section. She then joined the Office of Tribal Justice, serving as the Deputy Director for the past six years.

While in the Voting Section, she received the high honor of being invited by the United States Solicitor General to sit at counsel table during the Supreme Court argument in *Reno v. Bossier Parish School District*. During her time as Special Litigation Counsel, she led the Election Monitoring Program to ensure the right to vote for all Americans. Gaye's passion was to ensure American Indians were provided the same access to voting as others. She was instrumental in bringing cases against counties in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah to provide language assistance at the polls for American Indians, where she helped spearhead unprecedented remedies to provide voting opportunities for all. Along with her litigation and management responsibilities, she was never too busy to answer questions and mentor others in the office.

During her time with the Office of Tribal Justice, her expertise in Federal Indian law and knowledge of Tribes enabled her to be an extremely effective advisor on litigation and policy matters. She worked tirelessly to ensure that specific protections for American Indian women were included in the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013. Gaye also mentored many legal interns during her time at the Office of Tribal Justice, and was an inspiration and guide who left a deep impression on many young attorneys.

Gaye will be remembered for her lifelong passion for justice and her defense of civil rights. She was compassionate as a lawyer and a friend; a generous and kind person to all who crossed her path.

Condolences may be sent to the Office of Tribal Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20530. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to your local shelter for battered women and children.

Please RSVP to Jeanne Jacobs at jeanne.jacobs@usdoj.gov no later than Tuesday, July 1 if you wish to attend.