

## Biographies of Presenters to the Commission on Indian Trust Reform and Administration

September 13-14, 2012 in Bismarck, ND

### Panel on Hard Assets – September 13, 2012

**Jeanne S. Whiteing** - Ms. Whiteing is a lawyer at Whiteing & Smith in Boulder, CO. Ms. Whiteing represents Indian tribes and tribal entities, focusing on natural resources law, Indian water rights, land claims, jurisdictional, tax and environmental regulatory issues.

**Thomas W. Fredericks** – Mr. Fredericks is a lawyer with Fredericks Peebles & Morgan, LLP in North Dakota. Mr. Fredericks received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Minot State University in 1965 and earned his J.D. from the University Of Colorado School Of Law in 1972. Mr. Fredericks is considered one of the leading experts in tribal law with considerable experience in legal and political issues that Tribes have with state and federal governments. Career highlights include not only successfully litigating hundreds of cases but Fredericks served as Director of the Native American Rights Fund, Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs, and served as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs within the Department of the Interior under the Carter Administration. Additionally, Fredericks authored the first compact for the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the First Solicitor’s Opinion dealing with the issue of tribal gaming, and formulated the Indian Water Settlement Policy as it relates to Indian Tribal Nations.

**Helen Sanders** - Helen Sanders, who retired several years ago, lives in Oakville, Washington, on the allotment farm that was originally owned by her great-grandmother. Ms. Sanders is a member of the Chehalis Tribe of Southwest Washington.

Over her career, Ms. Sanders owned her own company, M&G Logging, in the 1970s. Other work experience includes employment at the Lucky Indian Casino as Hostess Supervisor of the casino’s restaurant. She also served four years as Secretary of the National Congress of American Indians.

Always a community activist, Ms. Sanders was the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit *United States v. Mitchell*. The U.S. Supreme Court rendered two decisions in the case. The decisions are referred to as “Mitchell I” and “Mitchell II.”

For her outstanding efforts over the years, Ms. Sanders, a charter member of the Indian Land Working Group, received the ILWG Achievement Award in 2005. She is a recipient of the Washington Women in Timber Award, an organization of which she was president from 1980-1982.

Ms. Sanders, born and raised in Oakville, graduated from Oakville High School. She has one daughter; one granddaughter; two grandsons; and “the twins,” a great-granddaughter and a great-grandson.

## Panel on Trust Reform and Trust Models – September 14, 2012

**Mario Gonzalez** – Mr. Gonzalez is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and presently serves as legal counsel to several Sioux tribes. He is the first recipient of the Distinguished Aboriginal Lawyer Achievement Award (1995) given by the Native Law Center of Canada, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. He is also co-author of *The Politics of Hallowed Ground: Wounded Knee and the Struggle for Indian Sovereignty* (1999).

**Janie Hipp** – Ms. Hipp is the Senior Advisor for Tribal Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Office of Tribal Relations. The Office of Tribal Relations is located in the Office of the Secretary, and is responsible for government-to-government relations between USDA and tribal governments.