

A. Joseph (Joe) Sarcinella V, Esq.

Brief Bio

Joe Sarcinella is the Senior Advisor & Liaison for Native American Affairs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He grew up between Northern California's rural Sierra Nevada Mountains and Southern California's Ventura County. Joe was a scholarshiped football player at Boise State University but after a devastating injury he chose to transfer to Sacramento State where he rehabilitated his injuries and was offered a football scholarship. After graduating with degrees in both Business Administration and Government, he earned an academic fellowship to the Graduate College at ASU earning a Masters of Science in Justice & Social Inquiry with a concentration in Public Policy in Indian Country. He later earned a full fellowship to the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at ASU graduating with a certification in federal Indian law from the renowned Indian Legal Program. Joe has a broad professional background working in non-profit youth programming and as a law and policy professional providing services for colleges and educational institutions, 4 tribal governments, the federal government and numerous private individuals and groups on a pro-bono basis. He comes to the Department of Defense from the Navajo Nation Washington Office where he was a government and legislative affairs associate handling the gaming, taxation & finance, transportation, sacred sites and landscapes, Human Rights, NAGPRA and cultural resources portfolios. Joe has a rich cultural background, his paternal grandparents were French Basque and Italian and his maternal grandfather was Creek and Scottish from the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee while his maternal grandmother was Hunkpapa Lakota & Assiniboine from the Wood Mountain Indian Reserve in Saskatchewan Canada. Joe is a member of the Arizona Bar.