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OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

## **Alicia Madalena Sylvester**

Alicia Madalena Sylvester is an enrolled tribal member of the Pueblo of Jemez (NM) and serves as the Senior Advisor and Liaison for Native American Affairs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). She came to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) from Powers Pyles Sutter and Verville PC where she served as the Indian Tribal Governments Practice Group's government relations manager handling a wide range of legislative and regulatory matters for the group's tribal clients, including Indian energy and environmental matters, budget and appropriations, sacred sites, cultural resources, and Indian housing.

Within DoD Alicia is responsible for the developing and implementing the Department's American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian consultation policies; advising DoD on issues relating to Native Americans; serving as coordinator of the Defense-wide Native American Integrated Product Team which consists of representatives of the Military Departments who meet regularly to coordinate policy and program issues relative to Native Americans; managing the DoD Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program, a program mitigating environmental impacts on Indian lands resulting from past military activities; serving as subject matter expert on matters of historic and modern federal Indian law, tribal law, and tribal policy; conducting Native American outreach activities on behalf of OSD; representing and supporting OSD on federal interagency work groups regarding Native American Affairs; and leading the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Cultural Communications and Consultation Courses designed to improve the consultation efforts of the numerous installations throughout the nation which work with Native Americans.

Prior to relocating to the Washington, DC area, Alicia worked in New Mexico as an assistant to the Office of the Governor of the Pueblo of Jemez. In that capacity, she worked directly with the Pueblo's political leadership on federal, state, and local issues affecting the Tribe. In 2006, she served as the executive assistant to the Ambassador of the Chickasaw Nation in the Chickasaw Nation's Washington, D.C. office.

Alicia received a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa, College of Law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a Bachelor's Degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

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