

DANIEL ORTEGA

Daniel is an AILC staff attorney. From 2003 to 2019, he was a Research Professor at UNM law school. In that capacity, he collaborated with AILC on a multi-year project to train tribal court personnel. He also developed and directed the law school's Master of Studies in Law degree program, which offers an optional concentration in Indian law. From 1998 to 2001, Daniel was Special Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid. From 1992 to 1998, he practiced federal Indian law in Albuquerque, representing tribal governments in general legal affairs, economic development projects, and litigation. Daniel is a member of the New Mexico Bar and has taught legal ethics at UNM law school.

Daniel earned his J.D. from UCLA, where his Indian law course catalyzed his interest in this practice area. While at UCLA, he was a judicial-clerk intern at the New Mexico Court of Appeals. Daniel received his B.A. Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Gamma Mu from Colorado College. After college, he had a Watson Fellowship for independent study in Spain to observe the re-assertion of the Catalan language and culture during the transition from dictatorship to democracy. He is fluent in Spanish and conversant in Catalan.