



**HELEN B. PADILLA, ESQ.**

*Biography*

Ms. Helen B. Padilla (*Isleta Pueblo*) is the Director of the American Indian Law Center, Inc. (AILC). AILC is the oldest existing Indian controlled and operated legal and public policy organization in the U.S.

She has served as General Counsel and Tax Administrator for the Pueblo of Tesuque. Helen served as General Counsel for the cabinet-level Indian Affairs Department for the State of New Mexico, appointed by Gov. Bill Richardson. She was also a senior staff attorney for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians in Connecticut for over seven years, assistant regional counsel for the Social Security Administration in Denver and a legal intern with the National Indian Gaming Commission in Washington, D.C.

She received her Juris Doctorate, with a Certificate in Indian Law, her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. She is a member of the New Mexico bar, and is also admitted to practice law in Colorado and Connecticut.

Currently, Helen is Secretary of the Board of Directors of AILC and serves as a Commissioner for the AISD Business District. She was Vice Chair of the Laguna Pueblo Gaming Control Board from 2008-2012 and served five years on the Board of Directors for the Indian Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico, serving as Chair of the Board in 2009. She is a Board member of the NM Indian Bar Association. She is also an adjunct faculty member at UNM School of Law, teaching State-Tribal Relations, and serves on the Indian Law Faculty Committee.