

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Lawyers of Distinction is pleased to announce that Thomas W. Fredericks of Louisville, Colorado, has been certified as a member. The Lawyers of Distinction is recognized as the fastest growing community of distinguished lawyers in the United States. Membership is limited to the top 10% of attorneys in the United States. Members are accepted based upon objective evaluation of an attorney's qualifications, license, reputation, experience, and disciplinary history. Please see our website www.lawyersofdistinction.com for further details concerning membership qualification.

Thomas W. Fredericks graduated from the University of Colorado, School of Law in Boulder, Colorado, in 1972 where he began a long and distinguished path influencing the field of Indian Law. While at CU Law, Tom was instrumental in developing the first Indian Law class. During law school, he was a charter member and first Treasurer of the Native American Law Students Association. During this time, he also helped form the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado. As a staff attorney and, later, Director he was instrumental in bringing Indian Law to the forefront of the American legal system. He worked to improve the legal and political relationships that tribes have with both state and federal governments.

On June 18, 1980, Tom was appointed by President Carter first as Associate Solicitor and then as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs for the Department of Interior. There, Tom assisted tribes in maximizing the economic return to tribes for their natural resources. He was instrumental in the Congressional passage of the Indian Mineral Development Act authorizing tribes to participate in Indian mineral development both as owner-developers and co-owners in joint ventures with private companies. He continues to assist tribes in creating business entities for natural resource development, and in identifying creative financing solutions for complex natural resource development.

While at DOI, Tom was nationally recognized for his pivotal role in formulating the National Water Policy related to securing Tribal Reserved Water Rights for Tribal Nations through negotiations and settlement, widely accepted as a strategy preferred to expensive, time-consuming litigation. This National Water Policy continues today and incorporates the Practicably Irrigable acreage standard, an essential concept in establishing western water rights.

After Tom's stint at DOI, he founded his law firm in Colorado which is now constituted as Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP where he has played a central role in the development of Indian Law over the past five decades. This law firm has become the Nation's largest Indian Law firm. Tom has developed an extensive and well-respected practice in federal Indian Law and represents tribes, individual Indians, and tribal and private corporations.

In his law practice, Tom has assisted tribes in developing Indian gaming on their reservations, with economic development on tribal lands, in negotiating with the federal government to ensure the United States is meeting and fulfilling its trust obligations to Indians, with drafting tribal governmental procedures and codes, with jurisdictional issues involving governmental agencies and local law enforcement, and numerous other vital issues related to tribal sovereignty, prosperity and improving the daily lives of Indian people.

Today, he continues to influence this field through his law firm, where he mentors Indian Law attorneys. He motivates his attorneys to excel on behalf of tribes, guiding them to a clear consensus on client goals and inspiring attorneys to give 100% to their clients, and then give more. He manages the firm's Colorado office's day-to-day services and provides oversight on all cases and transactions and continues to work directly with his staff and clients to earn their trust and respect.

Lawyers of Distinction shall not offer membership to more than 10% of attorneys in any given state. Lawyers of Distinction uses its own independent criteria, including both objective and subjective factors in determining if an attorney can be recognized as being within the top 10% of attorneys in the United States in their respective field. This designation is based upon the proprietary analysis of the Lawyers of Distinction organization alone, and is not intended to be endorsed by any of the 50 United States Bar Associations or The District of Columbia Bar Association.