



U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs

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Biographical Statement of Larry Echo Hawk Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior

Larry Echo Hawk, an enrolled member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, was confirmed by the United States Senate as the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior on May 19, 2009, and was sworn into office by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on May 22, 2009.

Mr. Echo Hawk is the 11th Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs to be confirmed since the position was established by Congress in the 1970s. In addition to carrying out the Department's trust responsibilities regarding the management of tribal and individual Indian trust lands and assets, the Assistant Secretary is responsible for promoting the self-determination and economic self-sufficiency of the nation's 565 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and their 2.2 million enrolled members.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Echo Hawk served for 14 years as a Professor of Law at Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School where he taught federal Indian law, criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, criminal trial practice, and published several scholarly papers.

A former U.S. Marine, Mr. Echo Hawk began his law career as a legal services attorney working for impoverished Indian people in California, then opened a private law office in Salt Lake City. In 1977, he was named Chief General Legal Counsel to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho, a position he held for more than eight years. He is admitted to the bar in Idaho, Utah, and California.

Mr. Echo Hawk was elected Attorney General of Idaho in 1990, the first American Indian in U.S. history to be elected as a state attorney general. He had served as the Bannock County (Idaho) Prosecuting Attorney since 1986. Before that, he served two consecutive terms in the Idaho House of Representatives, from 1982 to 1986.

Mr. Echo Hawk has served on the American Indian Services National Advisory Board and Board of Trustees. He was appointed by President Clinton to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which is responsible for coordinating the federal government's efforts to combat juvenile delinquency in the United States.

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Mr. Echo Hawk was born in Cody, Wyoming, where his father worked as a land surveyor in the oil and gas industry. He later moved with his family to Farmington, New Mexico, where he attended public schools from first grade through high school. His athletic achievements led to an NCAA football scholarship to attend Brigham Young University, where he was a member of the varsity football team from 1967 to 1969, playing in every game during his career. He started at safety as a junior and senior, leading the team and ranking fourth in the Western Athletic Conference with five interceptions as a junior in 1968. In 1969, he was named to the Western Athletic Conference All-Academic Football Team. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from BYU in 1970.

Mr. Echo Hawk received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Utah in 1973 and attended the Stanford Graduate School of Business MBA Program from 1974 to 1975. He has received numerous awards and honors, including Distinguished Alumnus Awards from both Brigham Young University (1992) and the University of Utah (2003).

In 1991, Mr. Echo Hawk was awarded the George Washington University's prestigious Martin Luther King medal for his contributions to human rights, and was honored as a speaker at the Democratic National Convention. As Idaho's delegation chair, he became the first American Indian to lead a state delegation to a national political convention.

Mr. Echo Hawk also was honored in 1995 as the first BYU graduate ever to receive the National Collegiate Athletic Association's prestigious Silver Anniversary Award, which is given to a select few prominent athletes who completed their collegiate athletic eligibility 25 years ago and have distinguished themselves in their careers and personal lives.

Mr. Echo Hawk and his wife Terry have six children and 24 grandchildren.