

# Jenner & Block Receives *Daily Journal* California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year Award for Landmark Settlement Protecting Native American Foster Youth

## Recognition

May 6, 2026

The *Daily Journal* has honored a Jenner & Block team with a 2026 California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year (CLAY) Award for their work in *Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria v. California Department of Social Services*—a pro bono matter that secured both individual justice and statewide policy change for Native American foster youth.

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CLAY Awards recognize the legal teams behind cases that move the needle—settlements that reshape industries and rulings that echo through courtrooms for decades.

The team was led by Partners Kate Spelman and Todd Toral, with support from Partner Keith Harper, Special Counsel Krystalyn Kinsel and Allison Tjemsland, Associates Alex Ramsey, Sriya Chadalavada, Ben Seelig, and Effiong Dampha, Paralegal Supervisor Christopher Ward, Junior Paralegal Christal May, Assistant Shoeba Hassan, and former Associates Julia Hirata and Benjamin Malings. The firm worked alongside Kimberly Cluff of the California Tribal Families Coalition.

## Related Attorneys

### Kate T. Spelman

Partner

[kspelman@jenner.com](mailto:kspelman@jenner.com)

+1 213 239 2246

**Todd C. Toral**

Partner  
ttoral@jenner.com  
+1 213 239 2294

**Amb. Keith M. Harper**

Partner  
kharper@jenner.com  
+1 202 639 6045

**Krystalyn Kinsel**

Special Counsel  
kkinsel@jenner.com  
+1 202 639 6062

**Allison M. Tjemsland**

Partner  
atjemsland@jenner.com  
+1 202 639 6028

**Alexander R.P. Ramsey**

Associate  
aramsey@jenner.com  
+1 415 293 5953

**Sriya Chadalavada**

Associate  
schadalavada@jenner.com  
+1 312 840 7272

**Benjamin C. Seelig**

Associate  
bseelig@jenner.com  
+1 312 840 7230

**Effiong Dampha**

Associate  
edampha@jenner.com  
+1 213 239 2247

**Related Locations**

Los Angeles

Century City

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