

RENNARD STRICKLAND: A BIOGRAPHY



RENNARD STRICKLAND¹

Rennard Strickland was born on September 16, 1940 and greatly contributed to the field of Federal Indian Law throughout his life.² After graduating from Muskogee Central High School, he attended and graduated from Northeastern State University.³ He received his J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School, his M.A. from the University of Arkansas, and his S.J.D. from the University of Virginia.⁴

1. Photo from *Former Oregon Law School Dean Rennard Strickland Passes*, UNIV. OF OR. SCH. OF L., <https://law.uoregon.edu/former-oregon-law-school-dean-rennard-strickland-passes> (last visited Jun. 13, 2022).

2. Obituary, *Rennard Strickland*, NORMAN TRANSCRIPT (Jan. 9, 2021), <https://obituaries.normantranscript.com/obituary/rennard-strickland-1081391832>.

3. *Id.*

4. *Id.*

As revision editor-in-chief, Strickland worked on *Felix Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law* for which he was cited by many courts and scholars.⁵ Along with this scholarship, he also authored, co-authored, edited, and co-edited numerous books, book chapters, and articles.⁶ He had multiple publications with the *American Indian Law Review* including the articles: "American Indian Law and the Spirit World;" "An Essay: Take Us by the Hand: Challenges of Becoming An Indian Lawyer;" and "Providing for the Health Care Needs of Native Americans: Policy, Programs, Procedures and Practices."⁷

In 1992, Judge Ellison, federal district judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, appointed Strickland Chair of the Osage Constitutional Commission.⁸ Strickland was a tenured professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law for a number of years.⁹ Also, as dean, he served four law schools at the University of Tulsa, Southern Illinois University, Oklahoma City University, and the University of Oregon.¹⁰ Along with his academic accolades, Strickland appreciated art and donated his "Spirit Red Collection" to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma and his "Law and Popular Culture" collection to the Law Library at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.¹¹

5. *Id.*

6. *Id.*

7. See Rennard Strickland, *American Indian Law and the Spirit World*, 1 AM. INDIAN L. REV., no. 1, 1973, at 33; Rennard Strickland, *An Essay: Take Us by the Hand: Challenges of Becoming an Indian Lawyer*, 2 AM. INDIAN L. REV., no. 1, 1974, at 47; Rose L. Pfefferbaum, Betty Pfefferbaum, Everett R. Rhoades & Rennard J. Strickland, *Providing for the Health Care Needs of Native Americans: Policy, Programs, Procedures, and Practices*, 21 AM. INDIAN L. REV. 211 (1997).

8. Obituary, *Rennard Strickland*, *supra* note 2.

9. *Id.*

10. *Id.*

11. *Id.*; Marilyn Nicely, *Strickland Collection of Law and Popular Culture*, UNIV. OF OKLA. COLL. OF L. (Dec. 20, 2011), <https://law.ou.edu/news-and-media/strickland-collection-law-and-popular-culture>.