

Suzan Shown Harjo (Cheyenne & Hodulgee Muscogee) is a writer, curator and policy advocate, who has developed landmark laws and led myriad campaigns for Native and Indigenous Peoples' rights; to protect cultural, historic and sacred places; and to recover over one million acres of land.

Born in El Reno, Oklahoma in Cheyenne Treaty territory, she was raised by grandparents there and on Muscogee farmland between Okmulgee and Beggs on Muscogee (Creek) Nation Treaty land, and by her aunt and uncle in Oklahoma City, as well as by her military parents in Oahu, Hawaii and Napoli, Italia; as an adult, she has lived in New York City, Santa Fe and Washington, DC. A grandmother and a Cheyenne citizen of the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, her Tsistsistas (Cheyenne) name is Vooheheva'e, Morning Star Woman; and she is Wind Clan, Nuyakv Ground, and her Mvskoke name is Fuswv Cv'mpe, Sweet Bird.

In awarding her a 2014 *Presidential Medal of Freedom*, the United States' highest civilian honor, **President Barack Obama said she has “fought all her life for human, civil, and treaty rights of Native peoples...her tireless efforts have protected Native culture, returned Native lands, and improved Native lives. With bold resolve, Suzan Shown Harjo pushes us to always seek justice in our time.”** Calling her “one of the most effective advocates for Native American rights,” the President said, “through her work in government and as the head of the National Congress of American Indians and the Morning Star Institute, she has helped preserve a million acres of Indian lands, helped develop laws preserving tribal sovereignty. She has repatriated sacred cultural items to tribes, while expanding museums that celebrate Native life. Because of Suzan, more young Native Americans are growing up with pride in their heritage, and with faith in their future. **And she has taught all of us that Native values make America stronger.”**

Honored earlier at the 1999 *White House Sacagawea Coin Unveiling and Tribute to Native American Women*, **First Lady Hillary Clinton recognized “pathmakers...who have enriched our lives and nation and upon whose shoulders we stand today....Suzan Shown Harjo, a poet and curator who has helped Indians recover some of their most sacred lands and protect their ancient cultures.”**

Elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2020, she is a Founding Member of its new Anti-Racism Committee. **A founder of the National Museum of the American Indian**, she began coalition work in 1967 that led to the NMAI establishing act, repatriation laws and nationwide museum reforms that took more than 20 years to achieve. She wrote about that journey in *It Began with a Vision in a Sacred Place* (in *Past, Present and Future Challenges of NMAI*, 2011). An NMAI Founding Trustee (1990-1996) and Chair of NMAI's inaugural Program Planning Committee, she co-authored NMAI governing documents, including policies for repatriation, collections, exhibitions and Native identity. She hosted the first three seasons of the NMAI Native Writers Series and directed the NMAI/ANA 2004-2005 Native languages project.

The Institute of American Indian Arts and NMAI honored her with a 2019 Symposium, where 14 writers presented papers that are being published in *A Promise Kept: The Inspiring Life and Works of Suzan Shown Harjo* (NMAI Press, Founders Series, 2021). She also is working with IAIA's Museum of Contemporary Native Art on a separate book, to be published at the same time, *Art and Activism: The Harjo Family Collection* (IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts Publication).

Guest Curator of the Smithsonian/NMAI exhibition (NMAI Museum on the Mall, 2014-2025), she is **Editor of the book that accompanies the exhibition** (SI/NMAI Press, 2014), **both titled, *Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations***. Created and conducted by The Morning Star Institute's *Treaties Project* (2003-2017), Ms. Harjo and then-Co-Curator, Author/Historian/ Vine Deloria, Jr., Esq. (Standing Rock Sioux; 1933-2005), shaped, planned and developed the exhibit, working with Native and non-Native Advisors that included such distinguished treaty rights experts as Hank Adams (Assiniboine-Sioux; 1943-2020), Billy Frank, Jr. (Nisqually; 1931-2014),

Haudenosaunee Faithkeeper Oren Lyons (Wolf Clan; 1930-); and John C. Mohawk, Ph.D. (Seneca, Turtle Clan; 1945-2006).

Nation to Nation won one of the Alliance of American Museums' top two prizes, the 2016 ***Overall Award--Excellence in Exhibition***. Among her other curatorial credits is the **first exhibition of contemporary works by Native artists ever shown in the House and Senate Rotundas of the US Capitol, *Visions from Native America*** (1992). Others include *Native America in Political Cartoons* (NCAI Mid-Year Conference, Tampa, 1986); *Native Images in American Editorial Cartoons* (2001); *New Native Warrior Images in Art* (2001); *Identity Perspectives by Native Artists* (2002); *9-11 Art by Native Artists for Native Peoples*. She curated *American Icons Through Indigenous Eyes* (District of Columbia Arts Center, 2007). **She co-curated *Gifts of the Spirit: Works by Nineteenth-Century and Contemporary Native American Artists for the Peabody Essex Museum's major exhibit*, 1996-1997** (Eiteljorg Museum, traveling exhibition, 1998). She curated a collection of paintings and sculpture by Native American artists for the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, Morocco, in 1992, at the request of the U.S. Ambassador and the State Department's Art In Embassies Program. (The collection was packed and readied for shipping when Administrations changed and the new Ambassador was not interested in exhibiting work by Native artists.)

An annual award—the *Suzan Shown Harjo Activist for Systemic Social Justice Award*—was named in tribute to her by NCORE (National Conference on Race and Ethnicity) in American Higher Education (2015). The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums honored her with a **2015 *Leadership Award*** and a ***Guardian of Cultures & Lifeways Medal***; and she was first to receive two ***Sovereignty Symposium Medals*** (*Leadership*, 2015; *Honored One*, 2016). **She was the first woman awarded IAIA's Honorary Doctorate of Humanities** (2011), the **first Native woman *Montgomery Fellow*** (1992) and the **first *Vine Deloria, Jr. Distinguished Indigenous Scholar*** (2008). The first Native person to serve on the Highlander Center Board, she also was the **first Native person invited to present the prestigious annual *Dudleian Lecture*** (2014), the oldest endowed lectureship at Harvard University, which began in 1755 at the Harvard Divinity School.

First to receive back-to-back residencies at the School of Advanced Research in Santa Fe, she was announced as the **2004 *Poetry Fellow*** and ***Summer Scholar*** in SAR's *El Delirio*: "An innate passion for life, Native rights, and traditional and cultural advocacy govern Ms. Harjo's commitment to a public life (and) shape her radiant orchestrations of poetry....her poems evoke a grace and passion embracing all patterns of life....'Poetry appeals to me because it can have the grace of water and the focus of rock,' she said, 'even in the same piece, and it accommodates both facts and color in the same space.'" For her SAR fellowship, she wrote an oral history poetry collection recounting "dreams, nightmares and visions that made us make the history we did" (cultural rights laws, 1965 to 1990). She read from the collection at the SAR Dobkin Artist Fellowship public reading in Spring 2004, and wrote additional poems for the SAR Summer Colloquium Series, ***Unquiet Graves, Unsettled Law: Poems and Stories on Native American Repatriation Policy***.

Her selected poems were exhibited in *Blood of the Sun: Artists Respond to the Poetry of Suzan Shown Harjo* (Ahalenia Studios, Santa Fe, 2011), curated by America Meredith (Cherokee Nation) and featuring work by 20 top Native painters, sculptors and multi-media artists. Since her first poem was published when she was twelve, she has given myriad one-poet and group readings. **She was one of 20 American women writers**, along with Nikki Giovanni, Audre Lorde and Alice Walker, **chosen for the literary opening event to International Women's Year, "Women/Voices at Town Hall"** (1975).

Her poetry is widely anthologized, most recently in ***Living Nations, Living Words: An Anthology of First Peoples Poetry*** (Norton/Library of Congress, 2021); ***Power of the Storm: Indigenous Voices, Visions and Determination, Dedicated to John Trudell*** (Renegade Planet Publishing, 2020); and ***When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry*** (2020). She is profiled in Chellis Glendinning's ***In the Company of Rebels: A Generational Memoir of Bohemians, Deep Heads, and History Makers*** (New York University Press, 2019); **Juan Williams' *My Soul Looks Back in Wonder: Voices of the Civil Rights Experience*** (Sterling Publishing Company, 2004); **Joelle Rostkowski's *Conversations with Remarkable Native***

Americans (SUNY Press, 2011); and **Adrienne Keene's *Notable Native People: 50 Indigenous Leaders, Dreamers, and Changemakers from Past and Present*** (Ten Speed Press, Penguin Random House, 2021).

In addition to curatorial essays for her exhibitions, **she writes for others' art catalogues and publications**, including: *Honor Song and Foreword for **Painting the Underworld Sky: Cultural Expression and Subversion in Art*** by Mateo Romero (Cochiti Pueblo) (SAR Press, 2006). ***Native American Sculptor Heroes***, featuring **Bob Haozous** (Chiricahua Apache), **Preston Singletary** (Tlingit) and **Roxanne Swentzell** (Santa Clara Pueblo) (*Sculpture Review*, National Sculpture Society, 2007). ***Indian Country: The Art of David Bradley*** (White Earth Ojibwe) (Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, 2015). ***Resisting the Mission*** exhibition of baskets by **Shan Goshorn** (Eastern Band Cherokee) to mark the 100th anniversary of the closing of the infamous Carlisle Industrial Indian School (Trout Gallery, 2018-2019). ***Weaving History Into Art: The Enduring Legacy of Shan Goshorn*** (Gilcrease Museum, 2020). She has written a catalogue essay—"Ancestors and Objects Escaping 'Civilization' and Going Home"—for the 2021 opening exhibition, ***Winiko: Life of an Object***—for the First Americans Museum, Oklahoma City.

An award-winning Columnist for *Indian Country Today*, her columns are published in *Indian Country Today 2019* (2020), and in *America Is Indian Country: Opinions and Perspectives from Indian Country Today: 2000-2005* (Fulcrum Publishing, 2005). **She wrote the Foreword, Camp Criers Speaking Across the Generations, and eleven featured columns** in the latter book, whose editors called her a "veteran journalist and top-shelf American Indian commentator. Seriously experienced, Harjo is as good as they come in gathering, thinking through, and delivering a piece of analytical commentary, sometimes with humor and sometimes with bite, but always with insight."

Ms. Harjo nominated, wrote tributes and organized others' written homages to the three recipients of *Indian Country Today's* "**Visionary Award:**" Billy Frank, Jr. (Nisqually; 2004), Vine Deloria, Jr. (2005), and Hank Adams (Assiniboine & Sioux; 2006). She wrote about her father, Freeland E. Douglas, Fu'co (Muscogee Nation citizen; 1922-2007), in ***A Muscogee Thunderbird in World War II, in Warriors in Uniform: The Legacy of American Indian Heroism*** (National Geographic, 2008). She wrote about her father and mother, Susie Rozetta Eades Douglas, in "**Happy 57th Anniversary, Mom & Dad**" (*Indian Country Today*, 2002). **She wrote about Vine Deloria, Jr., Esq.** (Standing Rock Sioux; 1933-2005), and their 40-year friendship, **in her Introduction to the 2007 reissue of his 1970 book, *We Talk, You Listen*** (Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press).

Her policy writings, arts criticism, social justice commentary and poetry have appeared online and in such newspapers, magazines and journals as *Akwesasne Notes, Albuquerque Journal, American Bar Association Journal, American Indian Religions, Antaeus, Arizona State Law Journal, ArtPaper, Beltway Poetry Quarterly, The Chicago Tribune, Civil Rights Journal: 40th Anniversary Edition, The Civil Rights Quarterly, ColorLines, Crosswinds, The Dallas Morning News (Sunday Reader), Dissent, El Palacio, Environmental Action, Expedition Magazine, First American Art Magazine, The Guardian, HowlRound, Indianz.com, The Los Angeles Times, The Miami Herald, MSNBC.com, Native Americas, Native Peoples, NARF Legal Review, NMAI American Indian Magazine, News From Indian Country, NewsWatch, Newsweek (My Turn), The New York Quarterly, The New York Times Upfront (News Magazine for Teens), Nimrod, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Politico, Potomac Review, Rethinking Schools: Rethinking Columbus, Santa Fe Reporter, Scholastic, The Santa Fean, The Village Voice, USA Today, Wicazo Sa Review and Winds of Change.*

Among her 2020 speaking engagements were: The 9th Annual Peter A. Jaszsi Distinguished Lecture on Intellectual Property, ***From Sacred Places to Playing Fields—The Long Struggle for Dignity and Respect***, American University, Washington College of Law. Keynote, ***NAGPRA @ 30 Conference***, with Author & Harvard Professor of History and Indigenous Studies Philip J. Deloria, for the Association on American Indian Affairs. Panelist, ***Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act & Beyond***, Arizona State University College of Law. Keynote, ***Journalism vs. Activism in the Media***, with Media Ethics Chair & Professor Joe Hight, ***Media Ethics and Fusion Conferences: Social Responsibility***, University of Central Oklahoma.

Panelist and Co-Curator, the online *Reckoning!*, “Summer of Know,” Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

In 2021, she has presented as: Guest Lecturer on *Healing Spirit: The Power of Remembrance, Reflection and Reclamation*, introduced by Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies Jim Waller and Author, *A Troubled Sleep*, Cohen Center and the Diversity and Multiculturalism Office, The Sidore Series, *Re-Membering to Heal*, Keene State College, Keene, NH. Keynoter for the Smithsonian NMAI’s Volunteer Appreciation Awards Ceremony, NMAI Museum on the Mall. Guest Presenter on *Restoration, Reclamation, Revitalization: What Sovereignty Fully Executed Looks Like*, sponsored by the Nevada City Nisenan Rancheria—one of 48 Rancherias illegally terminated by the 1950s-1960s CA Rancheria Termination Acts—*Nevada County Reads & Writes Finale*, NV Co. Community Library, Madelyn Helling Library and NV Co. Arts Council, Nevada City, CA. Guest Speaker for the **First Nations Development Institution’s 2021 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellows and for Native Youth in Philanthropy**. Guest Presenter on *Native Identity Issues* for the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center.

Also in 2021, she has been a featured speaker on: *Brand Equity: Inside the 60-Year Campaign Against Native American Mascots*, with moderator Associate Professor of Marketing and Behavioral Decision Making Hal Hershfield, at *Power to Change Impact Week 2021*, Anderson School of Management, UCLA. *Removing Native American Mascots In Sports Teams*, with Amanda Blackhorse (Navajo), introduced by American Indian Studies Center Director Shannon Speed (Chickasaw Nation), UCLA. *Cultural Misappropriation*, with Professors Madhavi Sunder (Georgetown Law), John Tehranian (Southwestern Law), Margaret Chon (Seattle U. Law), Jane Anderson (NYU), Maui Hudson (U. of Waikato), Trevor Reed (ASU Law), Jacqueline Keeler (#notyourmascot), at Roger Williams University School of Law, Bristol, RI. *Protecting Sacred Land, for Ethics in Place: A Symposium on Indigenous Peoples and the Future of Principled Democracy*, at Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion & Public Life, University of California—Santa Barbara, with *Defend the Sacred* Author/Carleton College Religion Professor Michael McNally and UCSB Religious Studies Professor/Capps Center Director Gregory Johnson. *Protecting Oak Flat and Other Indigenous Sacred Places*, co-hosted by the University of Notre Dame’s Native Student Association, Sustainability Program and Religious Liberty Initiative; moderated by Stephanie Hall Barclay, Notre Dame Professor of Law; panelist with Kristin Carpenter, University of Colorado Professor of Law; Stephen Pevar, ACLU Senior Staff Attorney; and Michalyn Steele (Seneca Nation), Professor, Brigham Young University School of Law.

A broadcast journalist in the late-1960s and early 1970s, she produced, directed and reported for the Pacifica Network’s WBAI-FM Radio Station in New York City. As WBAI’s Drama & Literature Director (the first who was not white or male), she was responsible for filling one-third of its 24/7 air time for listeners in a six-state broadcast area. With her husband Frank Ray Harjo (Wotko Muscogee; 1947-1982), she co-produced the first nationally broadcast Native issues program, *Seeing Red*, and specials and features, including their documentary on the 1972 take-over of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington, DC. They produced readings by Native writers, including N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa) of *The Way to Rainy Mountain* from his Pulitzer Prize-winning *House Made of Dawn*, and Vine Deloria, Jr., from *Custer Died for Your Sins*, as well as readings of Dee Brown’s *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee* by people from the New York Indian community for the chapter-a-day program, *Continued Tomorrow*. She also wrote the Foreword for *Signals In the Air: Native Broadcasting in America* (1995).

Among her radio productions were: **First feminist poetry reading broadcast in New York City**, a live event with such writers as Robin Morgan and Adrienne Rich. **First broadcast reading by Vietnam Veterans from *Winning Hearts and Minds***. Series of conversations with writers and readings, *Sunday Afternoon With...*, with such notables as poet Muriel Rukeyser. **Live tribute to the life and work of poet/diplomat Pablo Neruda**, which featured readings and music by his most prominent translators and interpreters; and a tribute to **folksinger Victor Jara**, including an interview with his widow, Joan Jara, following her escape from Chile after her husband’s murder. She **produced and premiered two original plays written for radio by writer Samuel Beckett for direction by Open Theater’s Joseph Chaikin**;

William Burroughs' original radio-drama adaptation of his book, *Naked Lunch*; and the American broadcast premiere of *The Trial of Joseph Brodsky*.

She produced and directed the New York and broadcast premiere of Eric Bentley's *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been*, with writers Lillian Hellman and Ring Lardner, Jr., as themselves. Performed live on air and before a studio audience, the play was followed by a roundtable discussion among actor Anne Revere, songwriter E.Y. (Yip) Harburg, lyricist/screenwriter Eddie Eliscu, writer Conrad Bromberg and others who were blacklisted or otherwise impacted by the House Un-American Activities Committee's investigations into show business (1940s-1950s).

The senior staff member at WBAI **when the news broke of the Watergate-era's Saturday Night Massacre (10/20/73), she produced the breaking news and analysis programming**, as well as an open-mic session with taxi drivers, artists and other listeners who stood in a line around the city block to have their say about the political outrage. Six months later, **she produced a cold reading of the first transcripts of the Nixon White House tapes, within two hours of their release**, by actors Tammy Grimes (as Nixon), Colleen Dewhurst, Geraldine Page, Rip Torn, John Lithgow, Sam Shepard and others portraying figures in the Watergate scandal.

At the end of 1974, her family moved to Washington, DC, where she was News Director of the American Indian Press Association. Even as she focused on Native advocacy, she served on the Board of the Native American Journalists Association and **represented NAJA on the Boards of UNITY's Journalists of Color, Journalists for Diversity and Brain Trust.** She also **co-founded and co-chaired The Howard Simons Fund for American Indian Journalists**, which awarded more than 25 Simons Fellows in 1992 and combine with a *Washington Post* initiative to provide support for young journalists of color. She **authored *Redskins, Savages and Other Indian Enemies: An Historical Overview of American Media Coverage of Native Peoples* in *Images of Color/Images of Crime* (2005)** and served on the **Advisory and Campaign Strategy Committees of *Reclaiming Native Truth: A Project to Dispel America's Myths and Misconceptions***, which published its research report in 2018.

Ms. Harjo worked for National Congress of American Indians twice, first in the mid-1970s as its Communications Director, Legislative Assistant and National Indian Litigation Committee Coordinator. A Delegate to the founding meeting of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (Port Alberni, Canada, 1975), she was one of the early drafters and negotiators of what became the United Nations' 2007 *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. **She was NCAI Executive Director in the 1980s**, as well as a Member of its Administrative Board, Editor of NCAI publications and its representative on The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. She directed and was one of the songwriters for the "Average Savage Review," a political satire troupe that performed for four seasons of NCAI conferences and was integral to NCAI's legislative strategy.

Recipient of NCAI's 2015 Native Leadership Award, she is the long-time Co-Chair of the NCAI Litigation & Governance Committee's Subcommittee on Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns. **She has written testimony, statements and other materials for hundreds of policy matters.** Most of these materials are in legislative and administrative records, sometimes under her own name. **The NMAI has archived some of her testimony presented to Congress on behalf of NCAI.**

She served as **Legislative Liaison for the Native American Rights Fund and Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, Kampelman**, and was featured in *Fortune Magazine* to illustrate what was a new trend at the time of American law firms hiring non-attorney lobbyists to advance their clients' interests. **While with the two law firms and NCAI, she played key roles in and led campaigns for, among others:**

Eastern Indian land rights laws, including for the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Nation and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. **Treaty and sovereign rights**; fishing, gathering, hunting rights in the Pacific Northwest and Great Lakes, and push-back on the white supremacists' anti-treaty hate-groups. **Water rights; religious freedom, sacred places and other cultural and environmental protections.**

Extensions to statutes of limitations on monetary damages and tort claims under 28 USC 2415. **Statutes to protect Indian child welfare and increase penalties for Native child sexual abuse.** **Charter for the Institute of American Indian Arts** and greater arts and humanities grant funds. **Defeat of six proposals** of the Reagan Administration to **cut one-third of the annual federal Indian budget** and of attempts to turn over Indian education to the states and privatize Native trust funds. **Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act, Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Defense Secretary's discretionary "Buy Indian" authority.** **Federal recognition and restoration for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, Texas Band of Kickapoo, Ysletta del Sur Pueblo and others.**

A political appointee in the Carter-Mondale Administration, she was Principal Author of the *President's Report to Congress on American Indian Religious Freedom* (1979) and Coordinator of the 50+ agencies' inaugural-year implementation of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act. She also was a contributing writer to *Fulfilling Our Promises: The United States and the Helsinki Final Act* (1979), the report on compliance with the Helsinki Accords' principles on self-determination and human rights, which was the first US inclusion in the 20th century of Native rights in international covenants.

In the **Carter Campaign**, she organized the Candidate's policy meeting with national Indian leaders. For the **Transition**, she developed the Native legislative and administrative agenda priorities, including cultural and environmental/subsistence initiatives, child welfare and tribal colleges issues and land and water rights settlements. She also helped with the vetting of Interior officials, including the first Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and the first Native lawyer to serve as Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs.

She was a **member of the Obama Native American Policy Committee** in 2008 and 2012, a **co-writer of the Candidate's Native Policy Platform** and an **Advisor to the Obama Interior Transition.** She was active with the Obama Administration's successful efforts for the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the 2010 Affordable Care Act and various national monument proclamations of lands that include Native sacred places. She also **served on the 2020 Biden-Harris Native American Committee** and on its Tribal Homelands and International Subcommittees.

Ms. Harjo is Founding President of The Morning Star Institute (1984-), which is dedicated to Native traditional and cultural rights advocacy and research. Morning Star funded NCAI's cultural work during her directorship, which achieved the NMAI Act with the historic repatriation provision, and sponsored efforts over 35 years to end the disparaging name of the Washington football team. Ms. Harjo has **directed Morning Star's *National Day of Prayer for Native Sacred Places* (2003-), *The 1992 Alliance* (1989-1992), the *Treaties Project* (2003-2017) and the *Just Good Sports* project (1984-). With Haudenosaunee Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, she co-chaired Morning Star's *Our Visions: The Next 500 Years*, the historic gathering of 100 Native artists, writers and wisdomkeepers (Taos Pueblo, 1992).**

She has **conducted Morning Star's many summits, roundtables and conferences regarding the protection of sacred lands and waters and cultural rights, including national and regional Summits on Consultation Protocols to Protect Native American Sacred Places.** In 2012, she presented testimony on the sacred places, language and culture areas of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, before the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

She led successful campaigns that won new laws in 1990: to gain passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; to drop the name of Custer from the official battle designation, rename it the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and establish an Indian Memorial; to attain the US Apology for the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre of Hunkpapa and Miniconjou Lakota; and to secure the Indian Arts & Crafts Act Amendments. She was central to the: 1990 Native American Languages Act. 1994 AIRFA Amendments to protect the Native American Church use of Peyote as a sacrament, which grew from the unsuccessful effort to attain the Native American Free Exercise of Religion Act. 1998 study act to precisely locate the exact site of the 1864

Sand Creek Massacre of Cheyenne and Arapaho People in a Treaty Peace Camp. 2000 **Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act**; and **protections for and reclamations of various Native sacred places.**

Primary author of New Mexico Governor's Executive Orders on Sacred Places and on Repatriation, she served on the NM Statuary Hall Commission, appointed by Gov. Bill Richardson, to install one of the State's two statues, Po'pay, in the National Statuary Hall. It was the vision of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo Elder Herman Agoyo to have a statue of his ancestor, the Healer Po'pay, hero of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt, which assured the survival of Pueblo Peoples and cultures. The marble statue carved by Jemez Pueblo Sculptor Cliff Fragua was installed in the US Capitol in 2005.

Morning Star has partnered with the **Native American Rights Fund on its 2021-2023 Luce Foundation-funded Sacred Places Protection Project.** Ms. Harjo serves as the **Senior Policy Advisor, working with NARF Project Leader** and Senior Staff Attorney **Brett Lee Shelton** (Oglala Lakota) and an **Advisory Circle** with Ohkay Owingeh Head Councilman and former Governor **Joe A. Garcia**, who has served NCAI as its President and Regional Vice President; **Tina Kuckkahn** (Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe), Esq., NDN Collective Grants Director and Former Director of the Evergreen Longhouse and Vice President of the Evergreen State College; **Delbert Miller** (Skokomish), an Elder and Spiritual Leader of the Skokomish Tribe, he is a culture bearer, lecturer, oral historian, wood carver, drummer, singer, and great grandfather, whose focus is language preservation; and **Lois J. Risling** (Hupa, Yurok & Karuk), an educator and tribal rights advocate, who revived the Hupa Flower Dance and conducts it and other ceremonies.

A Delegate to the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on the Environment (Moscow, Russia, 1990). She **co-authored *A Treaty among Indigenous Nations on the Protection of Native Peoples' Cultural Property Rights: An Exercise of National Sovereignty and International*, a paper with Alan R. Parker, Esq. (Chippewa-Cree) for the Protecting Traditional Knowledge Conference (The Morning Star Institute and the Northwest Indian Institute for Applied Research, The Evergreen State College, February 2000). Their work became the cultural title of the *United League of Indigenous Nations Treaty*, which was adopted by Indigenous Peoples of the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia at Lummi Nation in 2007.**

Producer of concerts and cultural and policy events throughout the 1980s-2000s, she produced the opening and closing performances of the *Earth Day 1990 Concert* on the West Steps of the US Capitol, and coordinated the dawn Four Directions Ceremony on the terrace of the National Air & Space Museum that overlooked the event tents on the National Mall. She worked with legendary rock concert promoter Bill Graham to plan an October 1992 weekend of concerts and events, and then with guitarist Carlos Santana, who stepped in as organizer when Bill Graham died in a helicopter crash in 1991. Morning Star and The 1992 Alliance worked with Randy Ross (Ponca & Otoe-Missouria) and Barry Coffin (Potawatomi & Creek) to coordinate the cultural demonstrations, artists booths, sculpture exhibition and powwow at the 22,000-seat Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View, California.

The 1992 concerts, "All Our Colors: The Good Road Concert" and "Healing the Sacred Hoop," benefitted the Traditional Circle of Elders and Youth and the International Indian Treaty Council, and featured: Jackson Browne, Ry Cooder, Micki Free, Don Henley, John Lee Hooker, Little Feat, Steve Miller, Bonnie Raitt, Carlos Santana, John Trudell (Santee Sioux) and Floyd Red Crow Westerman (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate). She also was co-writer and creative consultant for the 1993 VH-1 special, *Makoce Waken: Sacred Earth*, produced by Jessica Falcon.

Also a playwright, she has written scripts for radio and theater, as well as film projects. She co-wrote with Mary Kathryn Nagle (Cherokee) *My Father's Bones*, a short play that was part of the "Bring Jim Thorpe Home Campaign" of the Sac and Fox Nation and Thorpe's sons in Oklahoma. The play was updated with each staged reading to reflect 2013-2015 decisions in the lawsuit to rescue Thorpe's remains from Jim Thorpe, PA, which purchased his body and adopted his name to attract

tourists to his roadside mausoleum. First staged by the Autry Museum, Los Angeles, it also played at Penn Museum, Philadelphia; Supreme Court Judicial Center, Oklahoma City; NCAI Mid-Year Conference, St. Paul; Unity Native Youth Conference, Washington, DC; and Yale University, New Haven.

They co-wrote *Reclaiming One Star*, which was one of five new works chosen for the 2020 Colorado New Play Summit, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Staged readings were performed in February-March 2020, and featured Academy Award recipient Wes Studi (Cherokee). DCPA described the play as “the story behind the racist name of the Washington R*dsk*ns. Team owners (maintain) the name honors Native Americans because it pays homage to an early coach, allegedly a ‘full-blooded Sioux.’ But when Tony One Star sets out to uncover the facts behind his (ancestor’s) life and mysterious death, he shatters the myth behind the mascot...” Shortly after the play’s run in Denver, the NFL franchise dropped its disparaging name for “Washington Football Team.” **The co-authors are rewriting the play and will workshop it in September 2021 at Native Voices, the Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles.**

Active in the no-mascots movement since 1962, Ms. Harjo is part of its collective elimination of over 2,000 “Indian” names, symbols, images, mascots and behaviors. She co-drafted the *Non-Disparagement of Native American Persons or Peoples in Trademark Registration Act (2013 & 2015)*, securing the bill’s original co-sponsors and its initial list of supporting organizations. She has written extensively on no-mascot issues, including: *Offensive mascots belong in museums and history books* (*Indian Country Today*, 2017); *Just Good Sports: The Impact of “Native” References in Sports on Native Young People* in *For Indigenous Eyes Only: A Decolonization Workbook* (SAR Press, 2005); and *Fighting Name-Calling: Challenging the “Redskins” in Court*, in *Team Spirits*: (University of Nebraska Press, 2001).

Twice-featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* on racial and gender stereotyping, she often appears on media programs, organizational panels and government forums on issues of Native representations and identity in popular culture, including presenting on NCAI’s virtual convention panel, *Retiring “Indian” School Mascots* (2020) and testifying before the Nebraska Civil Rights Commission’s hearing on eliminating “Indian” mascots statewide (2021). **Organizer of the 2013 NMAI Symposium on Racist Stereotypes and Cultural Appropriation in American Sports**—a day-long program live-streamed, receiving over one million hits, a Smithsonian record—she moderated one of three panels, on case studies of mascots on four campuses, on the NCAA “hostile and abusive” list and on legislative policies.

Leader of many campaigns to end “Indian” stereotyping, mascotting and appropriating at the educational and professional sports levels, she is best known for her tireless work to eliminate the vile R*dsk*ns name and logo of the Washington football team. Lead plaintiff in the unprecedented case, *Harjo et al v. Pro Football, Inc.* (1992-2009), she and six other prominent Native people—Vine Deloria, Jr., Esq., Raymond D. Apodaca (Pueblo Ysleta del Sur), Manley A. Begay, Jr., Ed.D. (Din’e), Norbert S. Hill, Jr. (Oneida), William A. Means, Jr. (Oglala Lakota) and Mateo Romero (Cochiti Pueblo)—petitioned the federal government to cancel its six existing trademarks for the NFL franchise..

The Native side won a landmark victory in 1999, when the Trademark Trial & Appeal Board issued its unanimous 145-page ruling to cancel the marks. Their victory was overturned at the district and appellate levels by a technicality, a unique interpretation of *laches*, but not on the merits of their case, and ended in 2009, when the Supreme Court did not grant review. She recruited and organized the plaintiffs and served as expert witness and advisor for the identical follow-on suit, *Blackhorse et al v. Pro Football, Inc.* (2006-2017), and led the opposition to requests for new trademarks for the same name, in a third set of cases, *Harjo et al Letters of Protest* (2010-2017).

The Native cases were rendered moot by the Supreme Court’s 2017 decision in a completely separate case that voided their right of action—the only part of trademark law that had required that trademarks not disparage persons or hold them in contempt or ill-repute. **Now, there is no federal protection against injurious trademarks.** The Washington football team—which has not returned to a

Super Bowl since the original Native lawsuit was filed in 1992—ended its **R*dsk*ns** identity in July 2020 and announced that it would discontinue any **Native-theme** identity in July 2021.

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