



## Catherine F. Munson

### Partner

607 14th Street, NW  
Suite 900 , Washington , DC USA 20005  
t 202.824.1435 | f 202.585.0017  
cmunson@kilpatricktownsend.com

### Services

Litigation  
Native American  
Native American Litigation

Catherine Munson is co-leader of the Native American Affairs practice. She has extensive litigation experience, representing tribal clients in a wide variety of complex cases before the Court of Federal Claims, federal district courts, federal appellate courts, the United States Supreme Court and administrative agencies. Ms. Munson specializes in water-related litigation and in advising clients on water matters, including water marketing, leasing, storage, protection of water quality, water regulation, and code drafting. Ms. Munson regularly advises clients on dealings with the Department of Interior and enforcement of the United States' trust responsibility.

Ms. Munson is a regular speaker at Indian law conferences and co-chairs a tribal water law seminar each year.

Ms. Munson was awarded the Managing Partner Pro Bono award for her work on behalf of the Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe in southern New Mexico. Ms. Munson has been recognized in 2020 and the four years immediately preceding as a Washington D.C. "Super Lawyer" for Native American Law and as a 2013 Washington D.C. "Rising Star" for General Litigation by *Super Lawyers* magazine. Ms. Munson was listed in the 2020 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for Native American Law and she was also ranked nationally as a "Recognized Practitioner" for Native American Law in 2020 by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*.

### Experience

Lead counsel for the Ak-Chin Indian Community in its case against the Central Arizona Water Conservation District involving Ak-Chin's congressional confirmed water settlement. Successfully obtained summary judgment in favor of Ak-Chin confirming Ak-Chin and the United States' interpretation of Ak-Chin's settlement Act resulting in additional water being delivered to Ak-Chin on an annual basis.

Lead counsel for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in its case against California water districts seeking a declaration and quantification of Agua Caliente's federally reserved rights to groundwater. The Agua Caliente



Tribe seeks to enjoin the water districts from further infringing on the Tribe's federal rights by degrading the water quality in the Coachella Valley and over drafting the aquifer. The United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Tribe holding it has a federally reserved right to groundwater. The matter is pending.

Successfully represented tribe in connection with self-governance funding and negotiated favorable settlement resulting in a substantial increase in annual funding for the tribe.

Successfully negotiated substantial settlements for four tribal clients in actions against the United States for mismanagement of trust funds and assets.

Successfully represented the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe in an action seeking to enforce the United States' obligation to affirm or deny the Tribe's amended gaming compact.

Successfully represented a Tribe and more than 1,000 allottees in a complex class action trespass claim against the United States regarding an expired transmission line right-of-way. The matter involved obtaining favorable rulings from both the United States Court of Federal Claims and the District Court for the District of Arizona.

Represented one of the most successful gaming Tribes in the country in a case before the National Labor Relations Board, defending the Tribe's sovereign authority to apply its own Tribal employment laws in place of federal law. Also represented Tribe on campaign strategies prior to and during elections.

Obtained the first discovery ruling by a federal court requiring that the United States search through 34,000 boxes of records it stored at the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR) in Lenexa, Kansas. Prior to this decision, the United State required tribes to bear the burden of searching for the records.

## **Education**

Emory University School of Law, J.D. (1999)

*with honors*

Vanderbilt University, B.A., Political Science (1995)

*cum laude*

## **Admissions**

District of Columbia (2009)

Georgia (1999)



## Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

## Insights

### Events

*Baley v. United States* and Other Key Cases: The Future of Winters

September 14, 2020

### News Releases

Record-Breaking Recognition for Kilpatrick Townsend in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2021

August 20, 2020

### Webinars

QuaranTICA: COVID-19 Related Litigation

June 2, 2020

### News Releases

23 Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Recognized in *2020 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers*

April 27, 2020

### News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Achieves Top-Tier Recognition from *Chambers USA 2020*

April 24, 2020

### News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Achieves Strong Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2020

January 6, 2020

### News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Named 2020 Law Firm of The Year for Native American Law by U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms"



November 1, 2019

### [Events](#)

Tribal Water Law Conference  
September 26, 2019

### [News Releases](#)

Twenty-Two Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Recognized in 2019 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers  
June 7, 2019

### [Perspectives](#)

KT Client Success | Big Win in Water Rights Fight  
April 3, 2019

### [Publications](#)

Takeaways From Justices' Divergent Tribal Tax Treaty Opinion  
March 27, 2019

### [Publications](#)

Two Possible High Court Approaches To Tribe Tax Dispute  
November 6, 2018

### [News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Named 2018 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers  
May 7, 2018

### [In The News](#)

Catherine Munson Quoted in The Wall Street Journal re: "In Palm Springs, a Fight Over Who Controls the Drinking Water."  
August 1, 2017

### [Publications](#)

Tribal Rights to Groundwater  
July 15, 2017



## Events

Ninth Circuit Holds Indian Reservations Have Reserved Groundwater Rights: Agua Caliente Band v. Coachella Valley Water District

June 13, 2017

## News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Named 2017 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers

May 22, 2017

## In The News

Okla. Tribal Landowners Get Pipeline Kicked Off Property

March 28, 2017

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend Counsels Agua Caliente in Win "9th Circ. Upholds Calif. Tribe's Groundwater Rights"

March 7, 2017

## Alerts

2016 Native American Tax Litigation Roundup

January 24, 2017

## In The News

KT is...Trending, November 19 - December 2, 2016

December 5, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report, October 22 - November 4, 2016

November 7, 2016

## Publications

2016 Native American Tax Litigation Roundup

October 24, 2016

## In The News

KT is...Trending, October 7-14, 2016

October 17, 2016



## Events

Tribal Water Law Conference

September 29, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report August 19-26, 2016

August 26, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report August 12-18, 2016

August 19, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report July 15-21, 2016

July 22, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report April 29 - May 5, 2016

May 5, 2016

## News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Named 2016 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers

May 2, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report March 24 - April 14, 2016

April 15, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report March 11-17, 2016

March 18, 2016

## In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report February 17-25, 2016

February 26, 2016



### [In The News](#)

Catherine Munson and Mark Reeves noted as Counsel for Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in the Law360 article, "Water Districts' Defenses Cut From Tribe's Groundwater Suit."

February 25, 2016

### [In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report February 4-11, 2016

February 12, 2016

### [In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report January 28 - February 4, 2016

February 4, 2016

### [Publications](#)

Dealing With Expired Rights-Of-Way In Indian Country

February 1, 2016

### [In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report January 22-28, 2016

January 29, 2016

### [In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report January 8-14, 2016

January 14, 2016

### [In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report October 30 - November 5, 2015

November 6, 2015

### [News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsends Catherine Munson: Featured Speaker at Two California Conferences Addressing Tribal Water Law

October 20, 2015

### [In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report September 11-24, 2015



September 25, 2015

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report August 14-27, 2015

August 28, 2015

[Alerts](#)

Divided Sixth Circuit Panel Upholds NLRB Jurisdiction to Enforce NLRA against Tribes Even When the Act Conflicts with Tribal Employment Laws

June 10, 2015

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report May 8-14, 2015

May 15, 2015

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report April 23-30, 2015

May 1, 2015

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Noted as Counsel to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians by Law360 re: "5 Native American Environmental Cases To Watch In 2015"

April 28, 2015

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report March 20-26, 2015

March 27, 2015

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Noted as Counsel to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians by Law360 re: "Calif. Tribe Scores Win In Coachella Valley Water Rights Row"

March 23, 2015

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report March 6-12, 2015

March 13, 2015





[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Names Catherine Munson Managing Partner of Washington, DC Office

March 12, 2015