

POWER ACT



2026 VIRTUAL EVENT

Wednesday, May 20 at 4:00 PM (ET)

SPEAKERS

Hon. Laura Taylor Swain



Laura Taylor Swain was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on July 11, 2000, and entered on duty on August 31, 2000.

She became Chief Judge of the Court on April 10, 2021. A native New Yorker, Chief Judge Swain graduated from Radcliffe College of Harvard University, cum laude, and from the Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Constance Baker Motley from 1982 to 1983. Judge Swain was also the first woman, and first person of color, to serve as a member of the New York State Board of Law Examiners, and served as such for 10 years prior to taking the bench. She served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of New York from November 1996 until August 2000. Judge Swain chaired the Advisory Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure from 2007 to 2010. Judge Swain has served the judiciary and the community through committee and board membership of numerous organizations, and has received numerous awards as well as honorary degrees.

Jennifer R. Rawlings, Esq.



Jennifer Rawlings is a Senior Contracts Manager at Yale University and the Co-Director of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights. The Center for Indigenous Peoples

Rights is an Indigenous-lead, non-profit organization providing advocacy, policy development and critical nation building support to Indigenous Peoples. The CIPR promotes the establishment and maintenance of respectful, authentic and supportive relationships with tribal nations, communities, and peoples. Attorney Rawlings is a member of the Seaconke Wampanog Tribe of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts with a double major in Journalism and Legal Studies as well as a certificate in Native American Indian Studies. She received her law degree from Quinnipiac University School of Law where she also served as an adjunct professor. Attorney Rawlings recently received the Inclusive Excellence Award from the Quinnipiac School of Law Alumni Association.

About the Power Act

The Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent (POWER) Act was signed into law in September 2018 to help combat domestic abuse and sexual violence. The POWER Act mandates that each year the Chief Judge of each Judicial District across the country hold at least one event promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way to empower survivors of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault, engage citizens, and help lift victims out of the cycle of violence. The bill also requires that every two years an event be held in areas with high numbers of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, with a focus on addressing these issues among Native populations.



To **RSVP** and see a complete list of co-sponsoring courts, please scan the above QR code or visit the program registration page at <https://www.nynd.uscourts.gov/power-act-2026>

Registration Closes on May 15, 2026