



## **MELISSA C. CANDELARIA**

### *Biography*

Melissa C. Candelaria, a member of the Pueblo of San Felipe, is the senior policy analyst for the American Indian Law Center, Inc. In this position she focuses on federal and state policies that impact tribal governments. Additionally, Ms. Candelaria assists with the development and implementation of trainings and technical assistance to tribal governments in the areas of policy development and analysis, tribal-federal/state relations, and tribal court development.

Prior to joining the AILC, Ms. Candelaria was the senior policy analyst for the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. She was appointed to this position by Governor Bill Richardson in 2004 and focused on state and federal policies and programs that impact the twenty-two tribes in New Mexico. Ms. Candelaria was instrumental in the enactment of groundbreaking Indian legislation within the State of New Mexico. Ms. Candelaria's experience also includes working for her tribe as the Tribal Administrator and for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs through a Kaiser Family Foundation Fellowship. She serves on boards and volunteers for a number of Native American organizations.

Ms. Candelaria has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in Education from Dartmouth College, and a Master's degree from the University of New Mexico's School of Public Administration.