



3RD ANNUAL TRIBAL LEADERS CONFERENCE
TRANSITIONS:
New Directions in Tribal Leadership

MARCH 22-23, 2010

HYATT REGENCY TAMAYA RESORT & SPA | SANTA ANA PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO

Hosted by: American Indian Law Center, Inc.



American Indian Law Center, Inc.

Established in 1967, the American Indian Law Center, Inc. (AILC) is the oldest existing Indian-managed and Indian-operated legal and public policy organization in the country serving to strengthen, promote, and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education, training, and leadership.

AILC's mission is to provide training and technical assistance to tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal courts; legal and policy analysis on various issues important to tribal governments; and preparatory legal education to individuals. AILC accomplishes its mission by directing its focus on: the Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI); Policy and Legal Analysis; and the Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals (SWITCA).

Over the years, the AILC has worked with officials from more than 20 states, hundreds of tribes and Native American organizations, and has trained thousands of professionals and paraprofessionals. As a result, AILC has a unique, in-depth knowledge about tribal institutions, including tribal courts and their place in tribal government, and about tribal, state, and federal relations.

Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals

AILC's Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals (SWITCA) provides an appellate court forum for tribes located in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and West Texas. Since its inception in 1989, SWITCA has allowed tribal courts to bring cases before a panel of experienced judges to render decisions at the appellate level for those tribes that do not have the financial means or governmental infrastructure to administer a court of appeals for tribal court decisions. Appellate services are available without cost to member tribes.

Additionally, SWITCA provides training, technical assistance, legal research, and support services to tribal courts, tribal judges, and tribal court staff in the region in an effort to strengthen tribal and Pueblo court systems and tribal jurisdiction.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21 ~ PRE-CONFERENCE

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

PRE-REGISTRATION

RESORT FRONT LOBBY

MONDAY, MARCH 22 ~ DAY ONE

8:00 AM

REGISTRATION
Continental Breakfast

TAMAYA BALLROOM E

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

PLENARY SESSION
Invocation & Welcome

TAMAYA BALLROOM E

Bruce Sanchez, Governor, Santa Ana Pueblo
Myron Armijo, Lt. Governor, Santa Ana Pueblo

Welcome & Introductions

Helen B. Padilla, Director, American Indian Law Center, Inc.
Sam Deloria, President of the Board of Directors, American Indian Law Center, Inc.

Emerging Challenges for Tribal Leaders at the Local, State, and National Levels

Panelists: *Marvin Trujillo, 2nd Lt. Governor, Laguna Pueblo*
Myron Armijo, Lt. Governor Santa Ana Pueblo
Regis Pecos, Former Governor, Cochiti Pueblo

10:45 AM- 12:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BEAR A

FEDERAL INDIAN LAW AND SOVEREIGNTY

Presenter: **Rebecca Tsosie**

This presentation will focus on the expression of sovereignty by Native Nations in the United States, with emphasis on its political, cultural, and legal dimensions. The presentation will provide an overview of the important principles of Federal Indian law and policy that affect tribal sovereignty and will focus on what Native Nations can do to enhance their own sovereignty as they continue to develop their institutions of governance, such as administrative structures and tribal court systems. The presentation will summarize key legal and policy issues facing tribal leaders in areas such as jurisdiction, environmental protection, and cultural resources protection.

BEAR B

TRIBAL TAXING AUTHORITY

Presenter: **Joe Tenorio**

Many tribes have used the power to tax to accomplish a number of purposes which may include raising revenue, regulating conduct or activity, stabilizing the economy, and protecting the tax base from taxation by other governments. Sometimes, however, tribes exercise their sovereignty by not enacting a tax to accomplish other purposes which may include limiting administrative burdens on the tribe, providing tax-free incentives to businesses, and attracting customers to purchase goods or services on tribal land. Whatever the underlying purposes may be, they may be thwarted by competing governmental interference. This session will explore how tribes can work with other governments in reaching mutually beneficial resolutions when competing governments have an interest in taxing the same subject matter. A case in point is the recent joint effort by state and tribal representatives in drafting a bill that increases the state cigarette tax while preserving the current tax differential enjoyed by tribal retailers and protecting the exclusive tribal right to tax sales of cigarettes on tribal lands.

EAGLE A

TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Panelists: **Michael Chavarria, Brian Vallo, Theresa Pasqual, Milton Bluehouse, Jr., and Lloyd Lee**

Upon taking office, tribal leaders are bombarded with a multitude of issues. One of the most important is the protection of tribal environmental and cultural resources in the context of Environmental Justice. Panelists with backgrounds in cultural resources preservation, environmental programs, and environmental justice within tribal communities will share their experiences on how best to protect tribal natural/environmental, and cultural resources, and how to develop successful working relationships with federal and state agencies.

EAGLE B

COMMUNICATING A MESSAGE: DO I WRITE A NEWS RELEASE, TWEET, FACEBOOK OR BLOG?

Presenters: **L. Stephine Poston and Kim Baca**

This session will focus on how to effectively communicate a message to your tribal community,

policymakers, and to the general public using media such as print, television and radio. You will hear from a public relations perspective of “pitching” your story and a journalist perspective of what interests a reporter. Given the evolution of electronic media, part of the session will provide a brief overview of social marketing such as Twitter, Facebook and Blogs.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

TAMAYA BALLROOM E

Tribal Leader Keynote Address

Everett Chavez, Former Governor, Santo Domingo Pueblo

Indian Country Counts-2010 Census Campaign Update

Amadeo Shije, Tribal Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



BEAR A

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

Presenters: *Rodina Cave and Sam Deloria*

Sometimes there is a misunderstanding about the meaning of tribal sovereign immunity. Sovereign immunity is just one aspect of tribal sovereignty that has important implications for tribes within the context of contract negotiations, tribal court jurisdiction, and economic development. This session will explore the basics of tribal sovereign immunity to help leaders gain a better understanding of this legal concept and will help distinguish this term from the overall concept of tribal sovereignty.

BEAR B

RIGHTS-OF-WAY & LEASE AGREEMENTS: NEGOTIATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Presenter: *Joe Tenorio*

With the current high demand for both traditional and renewable energy sources and technologies, tribal communities are well situated to use their natural resources to enhance their local tribal economies. In this regard, the implications for tribal sovereignty, and the impacts on tribal land, environment, natural resources, and tribal economies create a complicated and dynamic ‘reality’ for tribal governments in rights-of-way and lease agreement negotiations. This session will help participants understand the differences between rights-of-way and lease agreements and advantages and disadvantages of each mechanism. Participants will have the opportunity to generally discuss factors affecting rights-of-way and lease agreement negotiations and their impacts on tribal sovereignty and environmental and natural resources, and what tribal leaders should keep in mind throughout the negotiation process.

EAGLE A

CHALLENGES IN INDIAN POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT DECADE

Presenter: *Regis Pecos*

Federal Indian policies have impacted our tribal governments and tribal communities over the last 100+ years. This session provides an opportunity for tribal leaders and members to reflect on how these policies have affected our core values as Indian people. An understanding of past policies is important to inform the development of sound Indian policies in the future, and underscores the responsibility of individuals, families and tribal governments in protecting and preserving our core values (culture, languages, and ways of life) for future generations.

EAGLE B

USING THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT TO PROTECT NATIVE CHILDREN AND TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Presenters: *Beth Gillia & Cynthia Aragon-Stanaland*

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) aims to enhance tribal sovereignty, promote the continued existence and cultural vitality of Indian tribes, and protect Native children from abuse and neglect. This presentation will introduce tribal leaders to ICWA’s “tools” (jurisdictional requirements, notice, transfer, intervention, heightened burdens of proof, requirements for expert testimony, and placement preferences, among other things) and describe ways that tribes can use these tools to protect Native children, families, and tribal sovereignty. We will then consider ways that tribes and states have collaborated to best implement ICWA’s provisions (for example, through joint powers agreements and other jointly developed protocols, and the exercise of concurrent jurisdiction using combined hearings), and address the role of tribes and tribal courts in child welfare cases involving Native children.

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

BREAK

Light Refreshments

TAMAYA BALLROOM E

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BEAR A

INDIAN CASE LAW UPDATE

Presenter: *Sherri Thomas*

Case law is the body of law created by judges' written opinions on various subject matters (i.e., taxation, jurisdictional issues, criminal law, etc.) that are potentially binding unless overruled. It is important for tribal judges and tribal leaders to be aware of the current state of the law, especially cases relevant to federal Indian law and cases impacting tribal court jurisdiction. The presenter will provide an in-depth analysis on recent case law and rulings of interest to tribal courts.

BEAR B

SOUTHWEST INTERTRIBAL COURT OF APPEALS (SWITCA) MEETING

Presenter: *Helen B. Padilla*

The American Indian Law Center's Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals (SWITCA) provides an appellate court forum for tribes located in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and west Texas that may not have the financial means or governmental infrastructure to administer a court of appeals for tribal court decisions. SWITCA member tribes can bring cases before a panel of experienced judges to render decisions at the appellate level at no cost. To learn how your tribe can be a member of SWITCA or if your tribe is already a member, you are encouraged to attend this meeting. Your input on SWITCA related appellate services provided to tribes and pueblos is important.

EAGLE A

THE ROLES OF IN-HOUSE ATTORNEYS, CORPORATE COUNSEL AND LAW FIRM ATTORNEYS

Panelists: *Maxine R. Velasquez, Katherine Gorospe, and Carolyn Abeita*

Most tribes are now faced with many legal issues that impact their communities on a daily basis. Deciding to hire an in-house tribal attorney, in-house corporate counsel for their economic enterprises or to have an outside law firm provide legal representation is an important and costly decision for tribal leaders. This session will cover the important factors that should be considered when deciding to hire in-house counsel, corporate counsel or law firms to provide legal representation and the different roles that each type of attorney can play in providing effective legal assistance to a tribe.

EAGLE B

GRANT-WRITING FOR TRIBAL COURTS AND JUSTICE FUNDING

Presenter: *Dara Schulman*

This session will discuss strategies to successfully identify tribal court and other justice funding sources, and develop and write grant applications. The presentation will focus specifically on the Department of Justice's new FY 2010 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation.



TUESDAY, MARCH 23 ~ DAY TWO

8:00 AM **REGISTRATION** **TAMAYA BALLROOM E**
Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM-10:30 AM **PLENARY SESSION** **TAMAYA BALLROOM E**
Welcome Remarks
Helen B. Padilla, Director, American Indian Law Center, Inc.
Westlaw, Indian Policy & Legislative Updates
Joseph Kubes, Director of Strategic Alliances, Westlaw
NM State Representative James Roger Madalena (D-Bern, McK, R.A. & Sandoval-65)
Pilar Thomas, Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs, U.S. Interior Department

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

BEAR A **TRIBAL CODE DEVELOPMENT, A SIGNIFICANT EXERCISE IN TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY**
 Presenter: *Gloria Valencia-Weber*
 It is critical that pueblos and tribes enact laws, develop codes, and build tribal courts that expressly and fairly address the issues on which state and federal interests can conflict. This session will cover some key cases and questions that tribes must understand to operate effective governments. Building blocks for constructing tribal law and courts as an exercise in tribal sovereignty will be discussed.

BEAR B **INDIAN CASE LAW UPDATE-REPEATED SESSION**
 Presenter: *Sherri Thomas*
 Case law is the body of law created by judges’ written opinions on various subject matters (i.e., taxation, jurisdictional issues, criminal law, etc.) that are potentially binding unless overruled. It is important for tribal judges and tribal leaders to be aware of the current state of the law, especially cases relevant to federal Indian law and cases impacting tribal court jurisdiction. The presenter will provide an in-depth analysis on recent case law and rulings of interest to tribal courts.

EAGLE A **A TRIBE’S DILEMMA: THE PROS & CONS OF HIRING LOBBYISTS**
 Presenters: *Charlie Dorame and Conroy Chino*
 Hiring outside lobbyists to advocate for your tribe can be expensive. Often, tribal leaders are more effective at lobbying because they know the issues and needs of their people. This advocacy takes time and requires tribal leaders to travel and be away from their community. This session will discuss the advantages and disadvantages to hiring outside lobbyists and the reasons why tribal leaders are sometimes the best advocates for fulfilling their communities needs.



EAGLE B **TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY**
 Presenter: *David S. Melton*
 Learn what it takes to bring renewable energy technology to tribal lands as a means of tribal economic development. This session will provide information on the various renewable energy media, including photo-voltaics, solar thermal, and wind energy. The presenter will discuss some of the first steps tribal leaders need to consider in pursuing this type of economic development for their tribal communities.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM **LUNCH** **TAMAYA BALLROOM E**

CONFERENCE WRAP UP
Helen B. Padilla and Sam Deloria
CLOSING PRAYER
Tribal Leader

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Carolyn Abeita (Isleta Pueblo) is a partner in the Van Amberg, Rogers, Yepa and Abeita law firm in Albuquerque. In 2007 Abeita was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson to the UNM Board of Regents. She is a New Mexico Board Certified Specialist in Federal

Indian Law. She has served on the Board of Directors of Equal Access to Justice and is a former appellate judge for the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe. She received her bachelor's degree in Sociology in 1984 and is a 1988 graduate of the UNM School of Law.

Cynthia Aragon-Stanaland (Navajo Nation) is a partner of Aragon and Soto- Hall LLC, a law firm specializing in Juvenile Law ,Criminal Defense, Tort Litigation, Personal Injury and Indian law. Currently, Aragon serves on the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, the New Mexico Civil Legal Services Commission, and the New Mexico Adult Parole Board. Aragon has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of New Mexico and received her juris doctorate from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1996. Aragon is a former Associate Visiting Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico Southwest Indian Law Clinic.

Kim Baca (Navajo/Santa Clara Pueblo) is a communications and marketing consultant for non-profits and small businesses with more than 16 years of experience. She is the marketing director of Native American Public Telecommunications, a national non-profit that awards funding to Native American filmmakers producing for PBS. Previously, she served two years as interim executive director at the Native American Journalists Association. Baca has public relations, policy and lobbying experience at the federal and state levels and served as a reporter for the local, regional and national press. She is working on a M.B.A. at the University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management.



Milton Bluehouse, Jr. (Navajo Nation) is the Native American/Alaskan Native Program Manager for the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. Most recently, Bluehouse served as the Tribal Liaison for the New Mexico Environment Department. He received degrees in Political

Science and History at the University of Arizona in 2000 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

School of Law in 2004.

Rodina Cave (Peruvian Indian) earned her law degree and Indian Law Certificate from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, where she was selected by the faculty as Outstanding Graduate 2001. Cave serves as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law and coaches the law school's Native American Law Students Association moot court teams. She also serves as Chair-Elect on the New Mexico State Bar Indian Law Section Board of Directors. Cave is a partner in the Nordhaus Law Firm's Albuquerque office. She has worked on litigation in federal, state, and tribal courts regarding water rights, sovereign immunity, tribal trust funds, tribal jurisdiction, and gaming. Her work also includes client support for projects involving tribal water, land acquisition, federal legislation, tribal court systems, and protection of traditional properties and resources.



J. Michael Chavarria (Santa Clara Pueblo) is the Water Quality Coordinator for Santa Clara Pueblo's Environment Department. Chavarria served two years as the Governor of Santa Clara Pueblo and has previously served in other leadership roles including

Lt. Governor, Tribal Treasurer, and Tribal Interpreter. He was recently appointed by Governor Bill Richardson to serve as interim Vice-Chair of the New Mexico Commission on Indian Affairs.



Conroy Chino (Acoma Pueblo) is a founding member of the Advocates for Business and Community Development, LLC, a New Mexico company providing tribes with technical assistance and consulting services in business and economic development. Chino served as Acoma

Pueblo's lobbyist for the past four sessions of the New Mexico Legislature. He is a former member of The NATV Group LLC, a consulting company dedicated to offering comprehensive political, business, and strategic counsel to tribal governments. His accomplishments also include serving as an appointed leader of his tribe, a Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Labor, Acoma Gaming Commissioner, and a television reporter and news anchor in Albuquerque and Los Angeles. Chino has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Mexico.



Sam Deloria (Standing Rock Sioux) is the Director of the American Indian Graduate Center and is regarded as one of the premier analysts of Indian policy in the nation. Deloria has also served as a deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs. Deloria attended Yale

University for both undergraduate and law school. Deloria served as Director of the American Indian Law Center, Inc. (AILC) for 37 years and now serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the AILC.



Charlie Dorame (Tesuque Pueblo) is the Governmental Affairs Director for the Pueblo of Tesuque. Dorame is a former four-term governor and lifetime member of the Tesuque Tribal Council. For 25 years he served as tribal administrator for his tribe.

He was recently appointed to the New Mexico Finance Authority by Governor Bill Richardson and also chairs the New Mexico Indian Gaming Association, Inc.



Beth Gillia, J.D., M.A., is a Senior Attorney at the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center (CLC), where she develops print publications, web-based and live training, and educational materials for judges, lawyers, and others in the child welfare and juvenile

justice systems. In this capacity, Gillia regularly participates in Tribal-State Judicial Consortium meetings, where she learns about and responds to the training needs common to both state and tribal court judges. Before joining the CLC, Gillia worked for the Judicial Education Center, and for three years was a tribal court judge at the Pueblo of Isleta, where she heard criminal, civil, and children's court cases. Gillia regularly speaks and trains state and tribal judges, lawyers, and social workers on issues related to improving the child welfare system.

Katherine Gorospe (Laguna Pueblo) serves as Legal Counsel and Government Relations Director for Laguna Development Corporation. Gorospe was previously employed in Oregon as the Executive Officer of the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Affairs and as Executive Assistant to the Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. She practiced law at the Nordhaus Law Firm in Washington, D.C., and was the Director of the American Indian Environmental Office with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Gorospe is a member

of the New Mexico Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. She holds a B.S. in American Studies from Oregon State University and a J.D. from Willamette University College of Law.



Dr. Lloyd Lee (Navajo Nation) is a Professor in the University of New Mexico's Native American Studies Program and is also a book review editor for the academic journal, *American Indian Quarterly*. After teaching American History at Wingate High School outside of Gallup, NM, Dr. Lee earned

his PhD in American Studies from the University of New Mexico. His dissertation titled, "21st Century Diné Cultural Identity: Defining and Practicing Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'eh Hozhoon" examined cultural identity among Navajo college graduates and college students.



David S. Melton (Laguna Pueblo) is the President and CEO of Sacred Power Corporation, the largest Native American renewable energy system integration manufacturer in the U.S. with nearly 50 employees. Melton is an experienced entrepreneur with

over twenty-three years experience working in the high-tech industry. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico. He previously served as Chairman of the National Indian Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Albuquerque Energy Council. Melton has a B.A. in Economics from the University of New Mexico.



Helen B. Padilla, Esq. (Isleta Pueblo) is the Director of the American Indian Law Center, Inc (AILC). Padilla is the Vice Chair of the Pueblo of Laguna Gaming Control Board and the Past Chair of the Board of Directors for the Indian Law Section of the State

Bar of New Mexico. She has served as General Counsel and Tax Administrator for the Pueblo of Tesuque where she helped establish a Tax and Revenue Department. She worked as General Counsel of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, Assistant Regional Counsel for the Social Security Administration in Denver, and spent more than six years as Senior Staff Attorney for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians in Connecticut. Padilla is licensed to practice law in three states and holds a BBA and MBA from UNM's Anderson School of Management.



Theresa Pasqual (Acoma Pueblo) serves as Executive Director for the Pueblo of Acoma’s Historic Preservation Office and as Historic Site Director for Acoma “Sky City” the 28th historic site named by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is charged

with protecting the cultural, archaeological, and historical resources of the Pueblo. Pasqual successfully led a three year, multi-tribal effort in the nomination and eventual listing of Mt. Taylor to the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties as a Traditional Cultural Property. Recently, she was named a member of the state’s first Native Reburial Grounds Act Taskforce charged to ensure Native human remains are reburied with dignity, and is an Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is pursuing her degree in SW Archaeology & Geology at the University of New Mexico.



Regis Pecos (Cochiti Pueblo) is the Chief of Staff for the New Mexico Speaker of the House Ben Lujan. Pecos is the only Native American in the United States to serve in this capacity in any of the 50 state legislatures and to serve in a prominent advisory role on major

policy developments and decisions. He co-founded the New Mexico Leadership Institute, and in partnership with Princeton and Harvard Universities, established the Summer Policy Academy for Native American high school students. He is a former Governor of the Pueblo of Cochiti and served as the Executive Director of the NM Office of Indian Affairs for 16 years.



L. Stephine Poston (Sandia Pueblo) is the Owner of Poston & Associates, a public and governmental relations firm with a focus on Native American entities. She has a M.A. in organizational management with 20 years experience in public and

community relations at the tribal, federal, state, and local levels. Poston has extensive experience in legislative matters at the tribal, federal, state, and local levels ranging from preparing and delivering testimony to lobbying. She has led numerous public relations campaigns in areas such as renewable energy, healthcare, education, benefits of Indian gaming, and the protection of sacred sites generating positive media coverage in mainstream and Native publications. Poston is also the consulting editor for the *American Indian Graduate* magazine.

Dara H. Schulman is a Policy Advisor for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), responsible for national scope training and technical assistance programs in the areas of adjudications, mental health, substance abuse, evaluation, and tribal justice issues. She is responsible for supporting the development of national initiatives in these areas to support local, state, and tribal justice practitioners. Ms. Schulman works to establish partnerships at all levels of government across the country and helps to identify and coordinate training and technical assistance delivery. Ms. Schulman has worked at BJA on discretionary grant programs since 1998. She received her undergraduate degree in Public Policy from the College of William and Mary and her Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University.



Joe M. Tenorio (Santo Domingo Pueblo) joined Chestnut Law Offices as an associate attorney in February 2002. Tenorio obtained his juris doctorate from Arizona State University College of Law with an Indian Law Certificate in 2001. Tenorio recently received

his Executive Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of New Mexico. Mr. Tenorio holds a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Princeton. He is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico and the Federal District Court.



Sherri Thomas works in the Faculty and Public Services Department of the Law Library and is responsible for providing reference services to law school students, staff, faculty, and the public. Thomas created and teaches a two-credit-hour Indian

Law Research course and frequently leads legal research workshops. She is a member of UNM School of Law’s Indian Law Faculty Committee and the Indian Law Certificate Committee. She is also the current Chair of the Native Peoples Law Caucus of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and serves on the Indian Law on State Bar Exams Committee of the Federal Bar Association. Prior to joining UNM School of Law, Thomas worked as the Information Manager for Environmental Risk Analysis, Inc., a bio-litigation consulting firm in San Mateo, CA. She also worked as a Database Specialist and Cataloguer for Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, PC, based in Palo Alto, CA.



Rebecca Tsosie (Yaqui) is the Executive Director of the Indian Legal Program at Arizona State University (ASU) and a professor of law at the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at ASU. Tsosie has worked extensively with tribal governments and organizations

and serves as Supreme Court justice for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. She earned her bachelor's degree and her law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.



Gloria Valencia-Weber is a professor of law at the University of New Mexico School of Law and is also the founder of the Indian Law Certificate Program. Valencia-Weber worked for the ACLU, where she coordinated a diversified students program,

and taught psychology at Oklahoma State University. While enrolled at Harvard Law School, she discovered that Indian Law offerings were scarce and was forced to learn much about that area of law on her own. After two federal judicial clerkships, she established the country's first Indian Law certificate program at the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1990. She was recently nominated by President Obama to serve on the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, which provides legal services to Native Americans in 25 states.

Brian D. Vallo (Acoma Pueblo) has nearly 20 years of experience working with tribal communities throughout the Southwest, including his own tribe. Vallo has a wealth of direct work experience in the areas of historic preservation, cultural resources management, economic development, tourism and the arts. While at Acoma Pueblo, Vallo served as an appointed tribal government official and as the founding director of both the Acoma Historic Preservation Office and the Sky City Cultural Center and Haaku Museum. In addition to maintaining his own business, Black Mesa Consulting, Vallo also works as the Marketing and Tribal Projects Coordinator for Santa Fe-based firm Barbara Felix Architecture & Design. He voluntarily serves on a number of local and national Boards which promote cultural preservation, education, and the arts.



Maxine R. Velasquez, Esq. (Laguna Pueblo) has a juris doctorate, Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of New Mexico, and an Associates of Science, Administration of Justice from the

Allan Hancock College, California. Velasquez is licensed to practice law in the State of New Mexico and is a certified New Mexico Mediator. For five years, Velasquez served as In-House General Counsel for the Pueblo of San Felipe, where she advised, assisted, and represented the Pueblo, its subdivisions, and business entities on matters including but not limited to gaming, land, taxation, contracts, tribal ordinances, regulations and policies, economic development, rights-of-way negotiations, and water. Velasquez also represented the pueblo before federal, state, and local governments. She previously worked at the Stetson Law Offices, P.C., as an associate attorney for five years. In 2001 she became a member of the Laguna Gaming Control Board and currently serves as the Chair.



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THANK YOU...

AILC would like to thank the following individuals who served on our Conference Planning Committee. During the past few months, planning committee members gave up several hours of their time evaluating comments from last year's conference, suggesting topics for some of our breakout sessions and suggesting speakers.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Edward Calabaza

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Heidi Nesbitt

Melissa C. Candelaria

Dr. Lloyd Lee

L. Stephine Poston

Marilynn Crelier

Judge Robert Medina

Travis Suazo



The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) announces a new strategic alliance with West, a Thomson Reuters business. Under this alliance, West offers to editorially annotate select Native American Tribal case law, codes, constitutions, ordinances, court rules, and compacts, and then publish them on Westlaw, West's premier online legal research service. There is no cost to any tribe to have their Tribal law published on Westlaw; West simply seeks affirmative permission from a tribe to distribute the tribal laws on Westlaw. By providing judges, legal practitioners, and researchers easier access to Tribal law via Westlaw, Tribal governments and courts can effectively account for and strengthen the sovereign status of Tribal nations and their rights.



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