



For Immediate Release

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AMERICAN INDIAN LAW CENTER’S “PRE-LAW SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKAN NATIVES” RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Native-serving program receives the ABA 2012 Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity

Albuquerque, NM – December 13, 2011 – The Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaskan Natives (PLSI) today announced that it will be recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Education Pipeline for exemplary leadership in pipeline programming. PLSI is a program of the American Indian Law Center, Inc., that has been attended by many of the nation’s preeminent Native attorneys, judges, law school professors and deans, and tribal chairs since its inception in 1967.

The ABA 2012 Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity recognized PLSI for their exemplary leadership in pipeline work. The ABA Council on Racial and Ethnic Diversity commended PLSI for its “outstanding accomplishments and significant contributions to diversifying” the law profession. The ABA will formally honor PLSI at the ABA Midyear Meeting in New Orleans, LA on February 3, 2012.

“The Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives is especially honored to receive this year’s award from the American Bar Association,” said Helen B. Padilla, Director of the American Indian Law Center and PLSI alumna. “Our mission to build, promote, and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education and leadership is the foundation of our efforts – and we are grateful to be recipients of this prestigious award.”

PLSI is an intensive two-month program that prepares American Indian and Alaska Native individuals for the rigors of law schools nationwide, and helps those students establish a network with other Natives who will be graduating from law schools and entering the legal profession at the same time they will.

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About the American Indian Law Center Inc.

Established in 1967, 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. For more information please visit www.aile-inc.org.

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