5TH ANNUAL TRIBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: TRANSITIONS

FEBRUARY 27-29, 2012
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino | Albuquerque, New Mexico
Host: 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.

PRE-LAW SUMMER INSTITUTE

Since 1967, AILC has been running the Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI). PLSI is an intensive two-month program which prepares American Indian and Alaska Native individuals for the rigors of law school by essentially replicating the first semester of law school. Likened to boot camp by many former participants, the PLSI concentrates its content into eight weeks of instruction, research and study, teaching students the unique methods of law school research, analysis, and writing. The success of the PLSI in providing a nationally respected pre-law orientation can be traced to its original and continuing intent — that it be based on sound legal education principles, and not function as a philosophical, political, or cultural training ground. For more than four decades, AILC has remained dedicated to providing valid training in the skills required for the study of law. PLSI received the 2012 Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity during the American Bar Association’s Midyear Meeting in early February.

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.

TRIBAL COURT TRAINING PROGRAMS

AILC, in collaboration with the University of New Mexico School of Law’s Institute of Public Law and Southwest Indian Law Clinic, created the Tribal Court Training Program (TCTP). The TCTP is a nation-wide training program designed to aid tribal court judges, prosecutors, clerks and administrators in their efforts to improve the administration of justice in Indian Country and the communities they serve. The program was developed in consultation with an advisory board comprised of tribal court judges, prosecutors, clerks, practicing attorneys and others who provided their expertise and hands-on perspective on the unique issues facing tribal courts. Each training session is taught by UNM School of Law faculty along with experienced tribal judges, practitioners, clerks and administrators at the National Indian Program Training Center. Funding for the TCTP is provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services. In addition, attorneys who successfully complete the training can receive CLE credits.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 ~ PRE-CONFERENCE
4:00PM - 6:00PM  Pre-Registration/ Hotel Check-in

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 ~ DAY ONE

8:00AM - 12:00PM  Registration

8:30AM - 10:30AM  Breakfast Bar (Seminar Room)

INVOCATION  (Manzano Sunrise)
Governor Frank Lujan, Pueblo of Isleta
(or designee)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Helen B. Padilla, Esq., Director, American Indian Law Center, Inc.
Sam Deloria, President, Board of Directors, American Indian Law Center, Inc.

PLENARY SESSION
Understanding Washington and Winning the Budget Battle
Presenter: Greg Smith, Partner, Hobbs, Strauss, Dean & Walker, LLP

10:15AM – 10:30AM  Morning Break

10:30AM – 12:00PM  BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Manzano Sunrise  Federal Indian Law & Sovereignty
Presenter: Rebecca Tsosie

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.

Rio Grande  All Indian Pueblo Council (AIPC) (Part I) - Review of Strategic/Implementation Plan
Facilitated by AIPC Officers for Pueblo leadership

Bosque  Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA): Part I - Prosecution of Major Crimes in Indian Country - An Overview from Start to Finish; Part II - Operations of the BIA Office of Justice Services (OJS) Division of Corrections in the Southwest Region
Presenters: Kyle Nayback, Keith Elliott, and James Begay

This session will cover two topic areas. The first presenter focuses on what happens to federal felony cases that occur on Indian reservations and are prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. From the initial investigation, to working with victims, and federal trials, tribal leaders will get a thumbnail sketch of the federal process. The discussion will include prosecution of juvenile cases and alternatives to incarceration as well as Special Assistant United States Attorneys and Tribal Liaisons under the Tribal Law and Order Act.
PLENARY SESSION
Funding Legal Services for Indigent Native Americans
Presenter: Gloria Valencia-Weber, Professor of Law, University of New Mexico School of Law and Founder of the Indian Law Certificate Program

Since Congress created the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in 1974, it has a mandate to provide civil legal representation for poor Native Americans. Today LSC provides legal services to Native Americans in 25 states. LSC faces congressional proposals to eliminate or deeply cut the funds for these legal services.

2012 “Get Out the Vote” Initiatives
Presenter: Laurie Weahkee, Executive Director, Native American Voters Alliance

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Manzano Sunrise

The Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA) of 1968 and Jurisdiction of Tribal Courts
Presenter: Stephen Pevar

This session will discuss the historical background of the ICRA, the protections it affords, the remedies available for violations of the ICRA, and how the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 amended the ICRA.

Rio Grande

Tribal Infrastructure: Building Public and Private Partnerships For Growing Tribal Communities
Presenter: Rebecca Martinez

This session will examine public and private partnerships as an alternative way to fund infrastructure for growing tribal communities. The presentation will include effective strategies for project development and project management. Participants will be given examples of successful community projects that were made possible by combining public and private resources. Participants will learn the critical need for strategic comprehensive planning to guide the community in creating a culturally appropriate project and site plan. Learn how various clearances, project planning and development of timelines play a key role in successful project completion.

Bosque

The Federal Budget and Appropriations Process: Timelines and Key Players in the Process
Presenter: Greg Smith

This session will review in detail exactly whom you should contact and when in order to maximize your impact on the Federal budget process. It will review the current budget situation of the United States, with a focus on how the national crisis affects Federal Indian program funding. It will also review how to develop an effective strategy to ensure that your voice is heard.
**TLOA: Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 - Considerations for Code Development**
Presenter: Stephen Pevar
This session will highlight some of the specific code provisions that Tribes should consider in order to implement enhanced-sentencing options created by the TLOA. Specific topics include criminal codes, rules of procedure, licensure, etc.

**Tribal Consultation: Increasing Dialogue and Cooperation with Federal and State Governments**
Presenters: Alvin H. Warren, Maxine R. Velasquez, and Greg Smith
Forging productive working relationships with Federal and State agency and governmental leaders can make a significant difference in a tribe’s ability to achieve its goals. Federal and State governments are required to consult with tribes by law and policy but tribes must know how to use that process effectively. Presenters in this session will share best practices and lessons learned that enable tribal leaders and representatives to make the best use of consultation opportunities.

**Emerging Issues in Indian Gaming**
Presenters: Georgene Louis, Eduardo Provencio, David Peterson, and Regina Jojola
As tribes begin, or continue, to work with states on tribal-state gaming compacts, a number of emerging issues are arising that affect tribal sovereignty and tribal self-governance. This presentation will focus on three of these emerging issues: 1) Internet gaming and its effect on tribally-owned casinos; 2) Protecting tribally-owned casinos from litigation arising from the limited waiver of sovereign immunity for visitor slip-and-fall claims at the gaming facility; and 3) Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians v. Schwarzenegger and its effect on negotiation of new and renewing tribal-state gaming compacts.

**All Indian Pueblo Council (AIPC) (Part II) - Review of Amended Bylaws**
Facilitated by AIPC Officers for Pueblo leadership

**Evening Reception**
Entertainment by Gregg Analla, Artist and Musician (Isleta/Laguna Pueblo)
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29 ~ DAY TWO

8:00AM – 9:00AM  Continental Breakfast  (Seminar Room)

9:00AM – 10:30AM  PLENARY SESSION  (Manzano Sunrise)

Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) Update
Presenter: Christopher B. Chaney
Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice

10:30AM – 10:45AM  Morning Break

10:45AM – 12:00PM  BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Manzano Sunrise

Tribal Court Training Project (TCTP): Training Opportunities and Indian Case Law Update
Presenters: Melanie P. Fritzsche and Sherri Thomas

This session will cover two topics. The first presenter will provide an overview of the Tribal Court Training Program (TCTP) including in-person trainings and two online training programs focused on intimate partner sexual abuse (IPSA) and domestic violence restraining orders in Indian Country. This session will provide the attendee with basic information about the use and content of the online trainings including the research methodology used to develop the trainings. The TCTP was developed and implemented by the American Indian Law Center, Inc. and the University of New Mexico School of Law’s Southwest Indian Law Clinic and funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services.

The second presenter focuses on Indian case law. Case law is the body of law created by judges’ written opinions on various subject matter (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.

Rio Grande

Indian Health Service System Overview
Presenter: Ken Lucero

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is an agency within the Department of Health & Human Services. The mission of the IHS is to provide health care services to Native Americans living on and off of their reservations. This session will provide an overview of the history of the agency and how it operates today at the national, regional, local and tribal levels.

Bosque

Using Strategic Planning Effectively to Protect Tribal Sovereignty and Achieve Economic Self-Sufficiency
Presenter: Alvin H. Warren

When used effectively, strategic planning can be a powerful tool for Tribal leaders and Tribal business managers to achieve your top priorities and initiatives while managing the unpredictable day-to-day challenges. In this session, Blue Stone Strategy Group Principal/Executive Vice President Alvin Warren will discuss how to successfully use planning to: identify and prioritize core issues facing your Tribe or Tribal business entities; determine opportunities and strategies to enhance enterprise performance and profitability; establish realistic goals, objectives and actions in line with the overall “big picture”; build consensus and develop ownership in the plan;
focus available funding and staffing resources on key priorities; create more effective programs and policies; establish benchmarks to measure progress and, ultimately, achieve the best outcomes for your Tribe or Tribal business entities.

All Indian Pueblo Council (AIPC)  
(Part III) - New Mexico Legislative Update  
Facilitated by the AIPC Legislative Committee for Pueblo leadership

12:00PM – 1:30PM  
Lunch Provided  
(Seminar Room)

PLENARY SESSION
The Affordable Care Act and Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act: An Overview and Update
Presenter: Michael E. Bird, MSW, MPH

The Need for Tribal Language Interpreters in New Mexico Courts
Presenters: Christine Sims, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico College of Education, and Barbara Creel, Associate Professor of Law, University of New Mexico School of Law

There are many issues that may arise with tribal people in the justice systems of this state. This is a discussion about language interpretation and translation in tribal, state and federal courts. Due Process and access to justice issues may arise when traditional languages are spoken by people in an English speaking court. Given the emphasis on traditional language revitalization and preservation, interpreters may serve a new and important role; however, there is much to talk about before issues and advances are determined.

A Collaborative project of the American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center, University of New Mexico and the Administrative Office of the Courts, New Mexico Supreme Court.

Closing Remarks
Helen B. Padilla, Esq.

Closing Prayer
Governor Frank Lujan, Pueblo of Isleta (or designee)

2012 Tribal Leadership Conference Adjourns
James Begay (Navajo Nation) is presently the Supervisory Correctional Specialist with the Office of Justice Services, Division of Corrections for District II, IV and VI. His responsibilities include overseeing a total of 91 tribes within his area of responsibility. Some of those areas include the following agency/regions: Laguna, Mescalero, Navajo Region, Northern Pueblos, Ramah/Navajo, Southern Pueblos, Southern Ute, Zuni, Miami, Southern Plains, Anadarko Concho, Pawnee and the eastern region. Prior to joining the BIA, he worked with the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer for 7 years. He then began with BIA in 2000 as an Adult Correctional Officer at Ute Mountain Ute Agency. He was instrumental in opening the new BIA Chief Ignacio Juvenile Justice Center program. Through his efforts Chief Ignacio Juvenile Justice Center received certification from the Colorado Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor as a Collocated facility. Today, Begay’s duty station is in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the District Office and he has served in both official capacities as Supervisory Corrections Program Specialist which is presently vacant, and performing his current position as the Supervisory Correctional Specialist. Begay consistently looks for ways of improving performance and strategically contributes to departmental initiatives and further takes on responsibilities beyond his basic duties. Begay is a certified Correctional Officer and Law Enforcement Training Instructor through the U.S. Indian Police Academy.

Michael E. Bird (Kewa Pueblo/Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo) has over 25 years of public health experience in the areas of medical social work, substance abuse prevention, health promotion and disease prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, behavioral health, and health care administration. Bird is the first American Indian and social worker to serve as President (2000-2001) of the American Public Health Association. He has been involved in numerous projects and programs on a local, tribal, national, and international level. Bird earned a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Utah, and a Master’s Degree in Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2009, he was recognized as Alumnus of the Year by the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley. He currently serves on the Board of the Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation, American Indian Graduate Center, Bemalillo County Off Reservation Native American Commission, Health Action New Mexico, Seva Foundation, National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health Advisory Committee (Canada) and AARP National Policy Council.

Christopher B. Chaney (Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma) currently serves as a Deputy Director in the Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice where he handles Indian country criminal justice issues including: law enforcement, courts, detention/ corrections, intelligence, information sharing, and homeland security issues. Chaney also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Howard University, School of Law where he teaches Federal Indian Law. From 1992 to 1997, Chaney ran a solo private law firm in Farmington, New Mexico working primarily in the field of Indian law including serving stints as the prosecuting attorney for Jicarilla Apache Tribe, prosecuting attorney for Southern Ute Tribe, and administrative law judge for Navajo Housing Authority. He also worked for the US Department of Justice, from 1997 to 2003, as an Assistant United States Attorney in Salt Lake City, Utah where he prosecuted violent crime from Indian country (including the Navajo Nation and the Ute Tribe’s Uintah & Ouray reservation), served as liaison to the eight tribes located in Utah, and served a detail assignment to the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys’ - Counsel to the Directors Office (in Washington, DC) working on Indian country and other criminal law issues. From 2003 to 2008, Cheney served in the Department of the Interior as the Associate Solicitor for the Division of Indian Affairs, Deputy Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - Office of Justice Services (law enforcement, courts, corrections, police academy, and internal affairs), and as Deputy Director for the BIA Office of Indian Services (social services, housing, welfare, roads, “638” contracting, and tribal government matters). He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma (1984) and his Juris Doctor from Brigham Young University’s J Reuben Clark Law School (1992). Chaney’s bar memberships include: Utah, New Mexico, Navajo Nation, and United States Supreme Court. Chaney lives in Grove, Oklahoma.
Barbara Creel (Jemez Pueblo) joined the UNM law faculty in 2007, bringing an expertise in Indian Country criminal defense. She currently teaches in the Southwest Indian Law Clinic, supervising students in representation of tribal individuals and groups in tribal, state and federal court. She also teaches courses in Federal Evidence and Criminal Law in Indian Country. Prior to her Professorship, Creel served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender (AFPD) in the District of Oregon for seven years where she developed an expertise post-conviction relief and in federal habeas corpus. As an AFPD, Creel represented individuals accused of federal crimes at the trial level and at the appellate level and assisted in the defense of Native American clients on cases from reservations prosecuted under the Major Crimes Act. She also served as the Tribal Liaison for the Portland District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, fostering government-to-government relations regarding cultural and natural resources of Federally Recognized Tribes of the Columbia River Basin. Creel has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Colorado and a Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

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.

Keith Elliott (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) is a Correctional Program Specialist for the Office of Justice Services, Albuquerque, Division of Corrections. Elliott was the former Supervisory Corrections Specialist for Districts II, IV and VI. Included with these Districts are Navajo Region, Southwest Region, Southern Plains Region, Eastern Oklahoma Region and Eastern Region. Prior to his present appointment, Elliot served the Bureau of Indian Affairs as Lead Correctional Officer and Detention Specialist at the Ute Mountain Ute Agency in Southwestern Colorado. He began his career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1999. Elliott started in the corrections profession as a Correctional Officer with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in 1984, working his way to Correctional Counselor, Senior Case Manager and Assistant Facility Head. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology, with a major/minor in Criminal Justice from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Elliott is a certified Law Enforcement Instructor Training Program (LEITP) instructor.

Melanie P. Fritzsche (Laguna Pueblo) is a staff attorney with the American Indian Law Center, Inc. She has assisted tribes with the development and implementation of their court systems and code development. Fritzsche also has practiced in the areas of water law and family law. She is an appellate judge for the Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals. Fritzsche serves on the board of the American Indian Graduate Center. She received her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law with an Indian Law Certificate and a Natural Resources Certificate. She was a member of the Natural Resources Journal. Fritzsche attended the Pre-Law Summer Institute. She received her B.A. from Adams State College. Fritzsche is a member of the New Mexico State Bar.

Regina Jojola (Isleta Pueblo) is currently the Executive Director for the New Mexico Indian Gaming Association, Inc. She graduated with her Bachelors in Business Management from Haskell Indian Nations University and obtained her Masters in Business Administration from Baker University. Prior to taking the position with NMIGA, Inc. she worked as a supervisor/table games dealer at the Hard Rock Albuquerque. She resides in Isleta Pueblo with her two daughters.

Georgene Louis (Acoma Pueblo) is a junior associate with Luebben Johnson & Barnhouse LLP. Her practice is focused on Indian gaming, government relations, tribal economic development and commercial transactions. Before joining the firm, she served an appointed term as State Gaming Representative for the State of New Mexico. She has taught Indian law topics as an adjunct professor at the
Ken Lucero (Zia Pueblo) has served on the Tribal Council since 1999 and is the Tribal Council’s designated health representative. Lucero also worked as the Assistant Tribal Administrator of Zia Pueblo for eight years. He currently works as the Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Native American Health Policy. Lucero also serves on various Tribal, State and Federal boards and committees. Tribally, Lucero serves as a Co-chair of the All Indian Pueblo Council’s Health Committee and is the Zia Pueblo representative to the Indian Health Service Albuquerque Service Unit Indian Health Board. Nationally, he is a member of the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC). On behalf of the DSTAC Lucero participates on the National Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee and was a member of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act National Steering Committee. His latest appointment is to the US HHS Secretary’s Tribal Health Advisory Committee. He was elected as Chairman by the national tribal representatives at the inaugural meeting.

Rebecca Martinez is a staff manager for the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) and administers the Agency’s capital outlay projects and the Tribal Infrastructure Fund, working in cooperation with New Mexico’s tribal communities since 2004. She provides training and technical assistance in the areas of community infrastructure planning and development, implementation of capital outlay projects, and initiating legislative priorities. Martinez has over 30 years of experience working for tribal interests and started her foray into Indian Country in 1977 working with the NARF in operations and management. Martinez led the campaign and creation of the Pueblo of Jemez, Watotowa Visitor Center. She honed her development skills working at the Institute of American Indian Arts and the SWAIA. She also served as the Executive Director of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), leading operations, fundraising, and programs including the National American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) in 2010. Martinez received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Martinez is of Hispanic heritage from Antonito, Colorado and was raised in Northern Utah.

Kyle Nayback (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) is an Assistant United States Attorney in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a 1996 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law, with an Indian Law Certificate, and where he was an editor for the New Mexico Law Review. After law school, he went to work in Washington, D.C., first working for the Sonosky Law Firm, and then serving in several federal agencies working on Indian Law issues. He was the Director of Congressional and Public Affairs at the National Indian Gaming Commission, and then moved to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Tribal Justice where he served as Deputy Director.

Helen B. Padilla, Esq., (Isleta Pueblo) is the Director of the American Indian Law Center, Inc. (AILC). She has served as General Counsel and Tax Administrator for the Pueblo of Tesuque. Padilla was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson as General Counsel for the cabinet-level Indian Affairs Department for the State of New Mexico. She was also a senior staff attorney for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians in Connecticut for over seven years, assistant regional counsel for the Social Security Administration in Denver, and a legal intern with the National Indian Gaming Commission in Washington, D.C. She has served five years on the Board of Directors for the Indian Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico, serving as Chair of the Board in 2009. Currently, Padilla is serving as the Secretary of the Board of Directors for the American Indian Law Center, Inc. and is Vice Chair of the Laguna Pueblo Gaming Control Board. She teaches State-Tribal Relations, as an adjunct faculty member, at the UNM School of Law and is also a member of the Indian Law Faculty Committee. She received her Juris Doctorate, with a Certificate in Indian Law, her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. She is a member of the NM bar, and is also admitted to practice law in Colorado and Connecticut.
David Peterson is a Shareholder at Keleher & McLeod, P.A. Peterson has extensive experience litigating Indian law issues in tribal, state and federal courts. He is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and has practiced in other tribal courts in New Mexico and Arizona including the courts of the Hopi Tribe, the Yavapai Apache Nation, and the Pueblos of Acoma, Isleta, Laguna, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Tesuque, and Zuni. Many of the Indian law cases Peterson has handled involve jurisdictional issues including the extent of tribal, state and federal civil adjudicatory authority and the extent of tribal authority to tax. Other Indian law cases included defense of individuals, corporations, and tribes against claims of wrongful death, personal injury, violation of constitutional rights, employment discrimination, and wrongful banishment.

Stephan Pevar is a graduate of Princeton University (1968) and the University of Virginia School of Law (1971). From 1971 through 1974, Pevar was a staff attorney with South Dakota Legal Services on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation. From 1976 to the present, he has been a National Staff Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. Pevar has litigated some 200 federal cases involving constitutional rights, including cases in more than ten different Federal District Courts, three different U.S. Courts of Appeals, and one case in the U.S. Supreme Court. The areas of his specialty include free speech, Indian rights, prisoners' rights, and the separation of church and state. In addition to his work with the ACLU, Pevar was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Denver School of Law, where he taught a course entitled Federal Indian Law from 1983 through 1999. Pevar is the author of The Rights of Indians and Tribes (Oxford University Press 2012). He has litigated a number of cases in the field of Indian rights and has lectured extensively on the subject.

Eduardo Provencio is an associate at Keleher & McLeod, P.A. Provencio represents a number of clients in civil litigation matters, including litigation of Indian law issues in state and federal courts. Provencio has defended tribal interests in jurisdictional claims, challenges to tribal sovereignty, tribal election issues, claims of personal injury at gaming facilities, and premises liability causes of action. He is a 2009 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and its Indian Law Certificate program.

Gregory Smith is a partner with Hobbs Straus. Smith has represented Indian tribes and tribal organizations as an attorney and as a government affairs specialist for nearly twenty years. His work on behalf of tribal clients has included introducing and securing passage of Federal legislation, advocating for and securing appropriations earmarks, successfully advocating for executive clemency, drafting testimony for Congressional hearings, preparing comments for federal rulemakings, developing legislative strategies, and preparing press releases and related public relations materials. Smith led the successful effort to restore to the Pueblo of Acoma its subsurface rights, as well as a successful effort to include an affirmative recognition of the inherent sovereignty of the New Mexico pueblos in critical jurisdictional legislation. He has advised tribes on the drafting of constitutions, civil and criminal codes, as well as gaming-related contracts and related ordinances and regulations. Smith has also assisted a number of tribes on economic development and cultural protection matters. He has extensive training experience in Indian Country having taught over 55 seminars and workshops before members of more than 150 Indian tribes. In 2008, Smith was named “Indian Child Advocate of the Year” by the National Indian Head Start Directors Association. He serves on the National Council of the National Museum of the American Indian. Smith has chaired several boards, including the Board of the Native American Library and Museum Project, Inc., and the Board of Native American Photovoltaics, Inc.

Sherri Nicole Thomas is an Associate Professor of Law Librarianship and a member of the UNM Law Library Faculty and created and teaches the two-credit-hour Indian Law Research course. Thomas has also been appointed to the Law School’s Indian Law Faculty Committee and the Indian Law Certificate Committee, University of New Mexico Faculty Senate Library Committee.
and serves as current Chair of the Native Peoples Law Caucus of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Thomas is Black and is an enrolled member of Taos Pueblo (Tiwa), and she grew up on the Dine (Navajo) Reservation. Her life in Indian country and her status as an enrolled Tiwa member have cultivated her concerns and interest in Indian law, history, and current issues. She received her JD from the University of New Mexico School of Law with an Indian Law Certificate.

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’Conner College 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 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. In 2010, she was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, which provides legal services to indigent Native Americans in 25 states. She also serves on the Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals.

Maxine R. Velasquez (Laguna Pueblo) attended the 1995 PLSI program. She earned her BA, MPA and JD from the University of New Mexico, and is licensed to practice law in New Mexico. She began her career working for a local law firm representing tribal clients, for five years, then went on to serve as In-House General Counsel for a Pueblo of San Felipe, for another five years. She now serves as In-House General Counsel for the Pueblo of Tesuque. Maxine also serves as the Chairwoman for the Laguna Gaming Control Board and the Laguna Construction Company Inc.

Alvin H. Warren (Santa Clara Pueblo) has dedicated his career to serving the people of his Pueblo and other Tribes. Alvin is a Partner and Executive Vice President of Blue Stone Strategy Group. As New Mexico’s cabinet secretary of Indian Affairs from 2008-2010 Alvin worked closely with tribal leaders, Governor Bill Richardson and other leaders to develop and accomplish an ambitious, proactive agenda to enhance funding and services to Native Americans and strengthen state-tribal relations. He played a key role in the enactment of the NM State-Tribal Collaboration Act in 2009 and permanent funding for the NM Tribal Infrastructure Fund in 2010. Alvin served nine terms in Santa Clara’s tribal government, including two consecutive terms as Lieutenant Governor. For sixteen years he assisted his Pueblo and other indigenous peoples with mapping, protecting and reacquiring their traditional lands. Alvin has chaired several boards, including the NM Tribal Infrastructure Board and the Santa Clara Governor’s Task Force on Youth and Families. He is also the chair of the Native American Caucus for the Democratic Party of New Mexico. His awards include the 2010 Excellence in Leadership Award from the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico. Alvin graduated from Dartmouth College with a Bachelor’s Degree in History and lives in Santa Clara Pueblo with his wife and children.

Laurie Weahkee (Diné, Cochiti and Zuni Pueblo) serves as the Executive Director for the Native American Voters Alliance (NAVA). Laurie has worked as a community organizer developing issue campaigns, civic engagement and community empowerment strategies for over 20 years. Laurie has served on numerous boards and now currently serves on NM Voices for Children Board of Directors. In 2005 Laurie received a Cultural Preservation Award from the NM Department of Indian Affairs for her work on Native American sacred site protection. In 2008 she was elected to be New Mexico’s 12th Add-on Super-delegate to the National Democratic Convention.
5TH ANNUAL TRIBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: TRANSITIONS

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