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Corolyna Smiley-Marquez, facilitator (left), and Levina Wilkins (Yakama Nation), at the Boarding School Healing Symposium held at CU Law on May 14-15, 2011. More than 30 representatives from U.S. Indian tribes, Canadian First Nations, CU Law, NARF, and other institutions attended. Read more about the symposium on p. 6.

## Welcome to the Colorado American Indian Law Program Newsletter!

This is the first edition of the Colorado American Indian Law Program Newsletter, a newsletter we hope you find interesting and useful. We will highlight events at Colorado Law involving Indian law – including publications, meetings, speeches, and student and alumni news.



Colorado Indian Law Faculty, standing from left: Richard Collins, David Getches, and Charles Wilkinson. Seated from left: Kristen Carpenter, Sarah Krakoff, and Jill Tompkins. (Photo from 2009)

## Honoring David H. Getches

David H. Getches was our beloved dean, professor, and friend. We mourn David's loss and extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends. We also celebrate David's life and legacy.

On April 26-27, 2012 Colorado Law hosts a Symposium to honor David's academic work in American Indian, natural resources & public lands, and water law (see agenda on p. 2). Throughout his life, David's work reflected a deep respect for Indian tribes as he sought retribution for past injustices. Now, David's lifetime of work inspires law students who follow his path into Indian law – many of them tribal members – to help and fight for Indian people.

We have established the Getches American Indian Law Funds to support these aspirations in three areas: the American Indian Law Program, the American Indian Law Clinic, and scholarships for students focusing on Indian law. We invite you to visit the web site for more information: [www.cufund.org/GetchesIndianLaw/](http://www.cufund.org/GetchesIndianLaw/). Thank you.

# *A Life of Contributions for All Time*

*Symposium in Honor of David H. Getches, April 26-27, 2012*



*David and Ann Getches*

David H. Getches led a luminous life of public service as Founding Director of the Native American Rights Fund, historic litigator for Indian tribes, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, valued board member and chair of leading non-profit organizations, revered teacher, and Dean of the University of Colorado Law School for eight years. At the heart of his contributions lies a prodigious body of widely respected scholarship extending from the 1970s through a posthumously-published book chapter to be released this year. This symposium will celebrate David's life, especially his trailblazing scholarship.

## Thursday, April 26, 5:30 p.m.

- 5:30 Welcome and Symposium Overview, *Dean Phil Weiser*, University of Colorado Law School  
5:40 Introduction, *Professor Sarah Krakoff*, University of Colorado Law School  
5:45 Keynote Address, *Professor Charles Wilkinson*, University of Colorado Law School  
*Hero for the People, Hero for the Land and Water: Reflections on the Enduring Contributions of David Getches*  
6:45 Reception

## Friday, April 27, 8:15 a.m.

- 8:15 Welcome and Introductions, *Professor Sarah Krakoff*, University Colorado Law School  
8:30-9:00 Keynote Address, *Professor John Leshy*, University of California, Hastings College of Law  
9:00-9:20 Honorary Remarks, *President Timothy Wirth*, United Nations Foundation and the Better World Fund

## WATER

- 9:45-11:45 (Moderator, *Karin Sheldon*, Executive Director, Western Resources Advocates)  
*Professor Joseph Sax*, University of California at Berkeley  
*Justice Gregory Hobbs*, Colorado Supreme Court  
*Professor Armando Guevara-Gil*, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú  
*Professor William Rodgers*, University of Washington School of Law  
11:45-12:00 *Professor Susan Nevelow Mart*, Law Library Director, presents *The Getches Digital Archive*  
12:00-1:15 LUNCH  
12:45-1:15 Keynote Address, *John Echohawk*, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund

## LAND

- 1:30-3:00 (Moderator, *Professor Mark Squillace*, University of Colorado Law School)  
*Professor Robert Anderson*, University of Washington School of Law  
*Sarah Bates*, Senior Associate, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, University of MT.  
*Bill Hedden*, Executive Director, Grand Canyon Trust

## AMERICAN INDIANS

- 3:15-4:45 (Moderator, *Jeanne Whiteing*, Whiteing & Smith, Boulder, Colorado)  
*Professor Matthew Fletcher*, Michigan State University College of Law  
*Professor Carole Goldberg*, UCLA Law School  
*Professor Rebecca Tsosie*, Arizona State University College of Law

## *Working Together:*

# *Colorado Law & the Native American Rights Fund*

*Colorado Law & NARF: The Roots of a Rich Relationship* – by David H. Getches  
(excerpted from the *Amicus* Spring 2009)

In the spring of 1971, Tom Fredericks, then a third-year student, and Vine Deloria, Jr. '70 approached Professor Nort Steuben and Dean Don Sears telling of a new, non-profit law firm representing Indians nationally that was considering locating in Colorado. NARF, founded in 1970 with a Ford Foundation grant, was then in California. Fredericks and Deloria had advocated for an Indian law course at CU and urged that Professor Steuben and the Dean meet the young lawyers starting NARF. With more than 30,000 American Indians living within a 30-mile radius of the CU campus, the Law School is situated ideally at the "Hub of Indian Country." About a month later, Professor Steuben discussed relocating the organization with a couple of shaggy-haired NARF lawyers.

As the founding Executive Director of NARF, I was one of those shaggy-haired lawyers and remember the welcoming eagerness of the Colorado Law faculty. By the fall of 1971, NARF located near the campus in an old fraternity house that still houses the program. Soon, the office was populated with more than a dozen lawyers, including Professor Charles Wilkinson and NARF's current Executive Director John Echohawk, and Colorado Law students. Within a year, NARF was litigating in more than 10 states.

The students who urged Colorado Law to work with NARF achieved great things. Fredericks became executive director of NARF, was assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of Interior, and is a prominent Indian law attorney. The late Deloria achieved international fame as the author of more than 20 books.

Today, our alumni are representing clients in major Indian law matters all over the country and developing government policy. The Indian law tradition at Colorado Law continues. With a growing Native American student population, nationally known faculty, heavily subscribed courses in the field, a legal clinic, a certificate program, and an active students association, the American Indian Law Program at Colorado Law has been and remains one of the strongest anywhere.



*John Echohawk and David Getches at NARF in 1973.*

### *CU/NARF Post-Graduate Fellowship: The Seeds of a Great Future*

This past year we proudly launched the Colorado Law/NARF Post-Graduate Fellowship in American Indian Law. The Fellowship allows a recent graduate to provide legal services at NARF while serving the American Indian Law Program at the Law School. Current staff attorneys at NARF include Steve Moore '79 and Don Wharton '73.

NARF Staff Attorney Amy Cordalis explains: "We were very pleased to continue our historic relationship with Colorado Law by offering a fellowship to Matt Samelson '11. Matt's legal training at Colorado Law has made him a valuable asset to NARF. He has demonstrated legal skills beyond his years that have provided new insight and direction to our representation of several NARF clients."

As Matt describes it, the Fellowship has allowed him to pursue his dream job: "Whether delving into the history of federal reserved water rights and its applicability to groundwater rights, supporting NARF's work with tribal education departments, or applying the nitty-gritty of federal rules of civil procedures, the work has been challenging and rewarding."

In partnership with the Native American Rights Fund, the American Indian Law Program at Colorado Law will continue to pursue its historic legacy of lawyering, education, and service far into the future.

# NALSA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

## *CU AILP Students Impress at NALSA Moot Court Competition*

Each year the National Native American Law Students Association (NNALSA) sponsors a moot court competition open to NALSA chapters nationwide.

The 2012 competition was hosted by the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii, on February 24-25. Fifty-six teams from twenty-six schools participated, including two teams from CU. This year's moot court problem focused on Native Hawaiian land and governance rights, and the ability of the Secretary of Interior to take land into trust.

Jacquelyn Jampolsky '14 and Jocelyn Jenks '12 won first place for Best Legal Brief. Also competing were Mitch Sickon '13 and Kelsey Sargent '13. The teams were coached by Professor Jill Tompkins and students had the opportunity to deliver practice arguments to attorneys at the Native American Rights Fund.

In 2011, NALSA sent three teams to the competition at Columbia University in New York City where over sixty teams participated. Beth Baldwin '12 and Anne Mariah Tapp '12 won second place for Best Legal Brief.

The moot court competition continues to be an important educational experience for NALSA students, providing them with writing and oral advocacy skills directed on Indian law issues, while also allowing the students to meet NALSA students nationwide.



National Native American Law Students Association

*Below, from left, top row:* Matt Samelson '11, Lisa Shellenberger '11, Beth Baldwin '12, Anne Mariah Tapp '12, Jacquelyn Jampolsky '14, Daniel Cordalis '11, Zack Brown '12, and Greg Narvaez '11 at the 2010 Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference at the Pojoaque Pueblo, NM. Professor Wilkinson spoke at the conference and Professor Carpenter was an organizing co-chair.



## *Feeding Hearts & Minds: Fall Harvest Feast*

For five years, the Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) has collaborated with Oyate, an organization of Native American undergraduates, to host the Fall Harvest Feast at Colorado Law. This is a public event where the local Native community gathers to share food, family, culture, and laughter. The Fall Harvest Feast of 2011 was particularly exciting with local artisans sharing their crafts, a performance by the Lone Wolf Drum Group, and a winter clothing drive for the Pine Ridge reservation, co-sponsored by the Native American Rights Fund. NALSA President Jacqueline Jampolsky '14 reports that the group "amassed enough clothes to fill a mid-sized SUV!" In 2010, NALSA helped celebrate NARF 's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a part of the Fall Harvest Feast.

## *Annual Distinguished Lecture Series*

In November 2011, NALSA formalized its Annual Distinguished Lecture Series, to inspire the Native professionals of the future. NARF Executive Director John Echohawk was the inaugural speaker, giving a captivating talk entitled, "The Continuing Evolution of American Indian Rights Activism."



*Above:* Anne Mariah Tapp '12 (left) and Beth Baldwin '12 review their arguments between rounds at the 2011 NNALSA Moot Court Competition at Columbia University. The two took second place for the best legal brief.

# American Indian Law Clinic Spotlight

## Mock Trial: Clinic Students Argue in Front of Indian Jurors in Tribal Court Setting

American Indian Law Clinic students, working under the supervision of Professor Jill Tompkins, conducted a mock trial on Saturday, April 7, 2012, at the Denver Indian Center in Denver.

The trial, styled *Rita Nightwind Francis v. Northern Moccasin Tribal Nation*, was based on the 1978 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Santa Clara Pueblo v. Martinez*. In *Martinez*, a case argued by Prof. Richard Collins, a female full-blood Santa Clara tribal member who married outside the tribe brought an Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA) claim in federal court against the Santa Clara Pueblo. The tribe refused her child enrollment as a Santa Clara tribal member and Martinez argued that - since the tribe allowed men who married outside the tribe to enroll their children - she was discriminated on based on sex and her rights were violated under ICRA. The U.S. Supreme Court did not reach the merits of the case and held in favor of the tribe based on sovereign immunity and also ruled that ICRA provided no private cause of action for tribal members against the tribe other than habeas corpus.



The facts of *Nightwind* were similar to *Martinez* in that the plaintiff *Nightwind* challenged the tribe's refusal to enroll her child because she did not marry a member of the same tribe. But, alternatively, in *Nightwind*, the trial was held in tribal court on a tribal ordinance claim and the tribe waived its sovereign immunity on such a claim, forcing a decision on the merits.

Five clinic students participated in the trial, and the witnesses and jury were comprised of American Indians from the greater-Denver community, including Rose Cuny and Ray Ramirez from NARF, Dr. Doreen Martinez, Ernest House, Jr., Keith Smith, and Vivian Delgado. In the end, the jury found for the plaintiff, *Nightwind*.



*Above:* Jake Taufer '12 stands during the AILC's *Nightwind* trial. Seated from left are Travis Bruner '13, Beth Baldwin '12, Erica Rogers '13 (obscured) and Anne Mariah Tapp '12.

*Left:* Denver/Boulder area American Indian community members deliberate on the AILC's *Nightwind* jury.

## AILC Celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2012!

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the impressive CU American Indian Law Clinic, the oldest clinic of its kind in the country. On April 26, 2012, the AILC held a gathering at the Center for Community on the Boulder campus to celebrate the rich history of the AILC. The event took place just prior to Professor Wilkinson's address at the Getches Symposium.

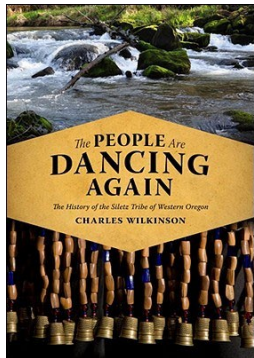
The AILC has been blessed to have continually had strong leadership, including Robert Golten, Jerilyn DeCoteau, Sarah Krakoff, and now Jill Tompkins. In 2008, the AILC received the CU Diversity Service Recognition Award presented by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs. Congratulations to the AILC and Professor Tompkins for an incredible job helping native people.

# American Indian Law Faculty Highlights

## New Indian Law Books from Colorado Law

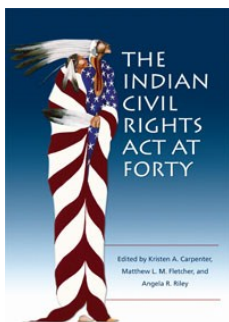
### *Siletz Tribal History*

Professor Charles Wilkinson spent five years researching and writing **THE PEOPLE ARE DANCING AGAIN: THE SILETZ TRIBE OF WESTERN OREGON**, the history of the Siletz people and likely the first tribal history ever written with complete input of the tribe. Wilkinson tells the distinct story of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – twenty-seven tribes speaking at least ten languages – who were brought together on the Oregon Coast through treaties with the federal government. Later “terminated” by the federal government, the Siletz became the second tribe to have its federal status, treaty rights, and sovereignty restored in 1977. With seven Colorado Law students (Gregg de Bie '05, Josh Tenneson '07, Maria Aparacio '07, Carrie Covington '09, Alison Flint '09, Matt Samelson '11, and Daniel Cordalis '11) serving as research assistants, **THE PEOPLE ARE DANCING AGAIN** is based on archival work and interviews with dozens of individuals.



### *Civil Rights in Indian Country*

Professor Kristen Carpenter, along with co-editors Matthew L.M. Fletcher and Angela R. Riley, has published the **INDIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AT 40**, a new book that examines the first forty years of tribal government responses to the Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA). With contributions from leading scholars and indigenous leaders, this collection provides a survey and critical analysis of how Indian tribes interpret and apply ICRA's provisions on due process, equal protection, religious freedom, and free speech. The editors conclude that while informed by the dominant society's conception of individual rights, Indian nations are ultimately adapting and interpreting ICRA in ways consistent with their own tribal traditions and beliefs.



## Recent and Ongoing Projects

**Tribes and Climate Change.** Professor Sarah Krakoff has been working with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), as well as other institutions and non-profits, to coordinate information and strategic thinking about the impacts of climate change on Indian tribes. The work began with a seed grant from CU's Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute. Colorado Law Research Fellow Julie Teel attracted additional funding to prepare climate change adaptation and renewable energy reports for tribes in the Southwest, and Julie Nania '11 is now working on the project. Complementing the applied research for tribes, Professor Krakoff has recently published *Radical Adaptation, Justice, and American Indian Nations*, 4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE 207 (2011).



**The Indian Boarding School Legacy.** In May 2011, Colorado Law hosted the **American Indian Boarding School Healing Symposium**, which drew together survivors of the boarding schools, Indian law experts, tribal cultural and language protectors, historians, educators and mental health providers. Facilitated by Professor Jill Tompkins and Native American Rights Fund Attorney Don Wharton '73, the Symposium developed a nationally unified multi-dimensional strategy to attain a national apology for the federal boarding school policy and to effectuate healing for the survivors, their families and tribal communities. AILC student attorneys Erica Rogers '13 and Beth Baldwin '12 drafted legislation to establish a federal Native American Boarding School Study Commission to effectuate the symposium strategy.



### *American Indian Religious and Cultural Freedoms*

Professors Richard Collins and Kristen Carpenter recently convened the nation's first academic workshop devoted to dialogue between general scholars of law and religion and specialists in American Indian cases. Co-sponsored by the Indigenous Law Center at Michigan State, the Workshop discussed cases on eagle feathers, sacred sites, and peyote coming up through the federal courts, especially under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Carpenter will publish her workshop article, *Limiting Principles and Empowering Practices in American Indian Religious Freedoms*, in the *CONNECTICUT LAW REVIEW* (2012).

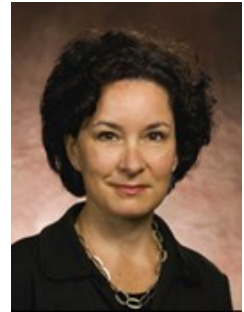


## *Alumni and Student Profiles:*

### *Patrice H. Kunesh & Jacquelyn Jampolsky*

#### *Patrice Kunesh '89*

Patrice H. Kunesh '89, Standing Rock Lakota descent, has been appointed Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she supervises the work of the Solicitor's Office on a breadth of matters concerning American Indian tribes and individual Indians, Indian lands, and Indian gaming. Before joining the Department, Patrice was a member of the faculty of the University of South Dakota School of Law where, since 2005, she taught in the areas of Federal Indian Law, Legislation, Property Law, and Children & the Law. She also directed the University's Institute of American Indian Studies.



Patrice began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund as a Skadden Public Interest Fellow and then as a Staff Attorney, where she litigated cases involving tribal sovereignty and natural resources and provided legal and policy advice to tribes on a wide variety of Indian law and tribal governance issues. In 1995 she became in-house counsel to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut, where she continued her legal and policy work in the areas of child welfare, development of tribal law and governance, and economic development. Patrice is a 1989 graduate of Colorado Law, where she was an editor of the COLORADO LAW REVIEW.

#### *Jacquelyn "JJ" Jampolsky '14, NALSA President*

Jacquelyn Jampolsky, Cherokee descent, is a third-year J.D./Ph.D. student and current president of NALSA. Jacquelyn is a California native, raised in the Bay Area and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.S. in Conservation and Resource Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 2008.



Jacquelyn was drawn to the Colorado because of its interdisciplinary offerings and strong Indian law program. Her interests focus on Indian law, international law, sustainable agriculture, and indigenous rights. She is also pursuing her Ph.D. through the Environmental Studies Department as a part of the unique J.D./Ph.D. dual-degree program offered at CU. Jacquelyn competed in the 2012 National NALSA moot court competition, winning first place for Best Legal Brief, and in 2011, traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to compete in the inaugural Inter-American Sustainable Development Law Moot Court Competition. Jacquelyn recently won 2nd place in the AMERICAN INDIAN LAW REVIEW national student writing contest for her paper entitled "Mapping Indigenous Cultural Property."

In addition to working on the dual-degree program, Jacquelyn has clerked at NARF since Fall 2010, including receiving prestigious NARF summer clerkships in 2011 and 2012, and has become an important member of the NARF team. Jacquelyn is also lead notes and comment editor for the COLORADO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY. In her free time Jacquelyn tends to her chickens, garden, and prefers to dance whenever possible.

## *Indian Law Course Offerings: 2012-2013*

#### *Fall 2012*

American Indian Law I (Krakoff)  
American Indian Law Clinic (Tompkins)  
Advanced Topics in American Indian Law Seminar: Criminal  
& Civil Justice in Indian Country (Eid)

#### *American Indian Law Program Faculty*

-Kristen Carpenter  
-Richard Collins  
-Sarah Krakoff  
-Jill Tompkins  
-Charles Wilkinson  
Adjunct Professors: Troy Eid and Jennifer Weddle

#### *Spring 2013*

American Indian Law II (Wilkinson)  
American Indian Law Clinic (Tompkins)  
Advanced Topics in American Indian Law Seminar: Indigenous  
Peoples in International Law (Carpenter)



## *Happenstance & Luck—*

*by Anne Mariah Tapp '12*

I entered law school with no idea that I would focus my career on Indian law. I'm embarrassed to admit that I didn't even know that Indian law occupied its own field. Then I had the good fortune to be assigned to every Indian Law teacher who teaches a first year course: Sarah Krakoff for Civil Procedure, Kristen Carpenter for Property, and Rick Collins for Constitutional Law. By the time I had finished 1L year, I'd learned about issues ranging from jurisdiction in Indian Country to battles over aboriginal title. By another stroke of luck, David Getches needed a research assistant; I began working for him on Indian water law issues and found both a great teacher and my career path. Writing this, it's almost funny to think how easily I could have missed these opportunities, taken a different road.

With all this as background, working with Jill Tompkins in the AILC is such a lovely ending to my time at CU Law. It is only at the AILC that I have begun to understand what it means to practice Indian law. I was assigned a variety of cases including land transfer issues, a transfer of a guardianship, a religious freedom case, sacred site protection, and a water rights issue. Professor Tompkins assigns us a broad variety of legal questions to give us the experience of being a tribe's in-house counsel. As an aside, tribal in-house counsel have my great admiration; it was not easy to get up to speed on all these issues!

My favorite cases at the AILC have been working on land based issues, specifically water rights and sacred sites. In both of these areas, I have been able to see the great length of time involved in Indian law and the importance of place. These issues appear, either directly or impliedly, every day in the academics of Indian law. However, speaking to tribal members and tribal attorneys about the history of these disputes is an entirely different experience.

The AILC has also brought me closer to the Indian law community, both within and outside of CU Law. For instance, members of the Indian law community participated as jurors, witnesses, and coaches for our mock trial. The attorneys at the Native American Rights Fund visit our classes frequently to share their experiences and advise us on many issues. The AILC has given me the opportunity to build and deepen friendships with peers and mentors in the Indian Law community and that is a truly invaluable gift. This is particularly true within CU Law where I have been able to work with many of the professors in the Indian law program. Working with (and trying to keep up with) my professors was an unexpected bonus and it was great to have their encouragement as I began the shift from the classroom to practice. I never imagined that any part of law school would give me the community, camaraderie, and joy in my work that I experience almost every day. While I may have begun my career in Indian law by happenstance and luck, I made a good (and conscious choice) to end it with the AILC.

## *An Elder: Vine Deloria (1933-2005)*

Vine Deloria Jr. '70 was born into a distinguished Yankton Sioux family and was a former CU-Boulder professor, author, and influential American Indian leader. He wrote more than 20 books, including *God is Red*; *We Talk, You Listen*; *American Indian Policy in the Twentieth Century*; *Singing for a Spirit*; and *Custer Died for Your Sins*, one of the most influential American Indian affairs books ever written. In 2002, he received the Wallace Stegner Award, the highest honor presented by the CU-Boulder Center of the American West. The inscription read: "Always grounded in the stories told by the plains and ridges of your Sioux homeland, and guided by your vision of a vibrant tribal sovereignty, you have become a hero for the ages in Indian country and far beyond, you have changed the West and the world through your activism during the termination crisis, your spirited leadership ever since, your vast and influential writings, and your encompassing mind and matchless courage."

## *Colorado American Indian Law Program Fellow: Daniel Cordalis*

Daniel Cordalis '11, Navajo, is working as our first American Indian Law Program Fellow, a new position designed to assist the school in strengthening its Indian law program. Daniel, former NALSA President and Research Assistant for Professor Charles Wilkinson, will work closely with faculty and the Dean's office to increase the presence of Colorado Law in the native community, both locally and nationally, and help attract more American Indian students to Colorado Law. Daniel is completing a joint J.D./Ph.D. in Law and Environmental Studies and will begin a clerkship with Justice Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr., in the Colorado Supreme Court in Fall 2012.

## *Save the Date!*

### *U.N. Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples to Visit Colorado Law*

In 2007, the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We will be honored to host S. James Anaya, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, at Colorado Law January 23-24, 2013. Anaya will serve as our annual Thomson Visitor and deliver a community lecture – details to follow!





## Colo. Commission of Indian Affairs Convenes at CU Law

Colorado Law hosted the quarterly meeting of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (CCIA) on March 23, 2012. The statutorily-created CCIA is located in the Lt. Governor's office and serves as the official liaison between the Colorado Indian tribes and the State of Colorado. The meeting brought leaders of the two Colorado tribes, the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, CCIA Executive Secretary Ernest House Jr., and other key state officials together to discuss an array of topics, including health care, fishing rights, higher education, and repatriation. Colorado Law alumni including Peter Ortego '93, General Counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Monte Mills '03, Director of the Legal Department for the Southern Ute Tribe, participated.



Dean Weiser addressed the CCIA meeting, reaffirming Colorado Law's commitment to our Indian law program and in continuing to educate American Indian students. "We are deeply committed to tribal law within our community," Weiser said. "Getting students from Native American communities and Indian tribes is a priority, and so is getting them scholarships." The Ute leaders urged Dean Weiser to remember and celebrate the tribal history of the Boulder area, perhaps formally. Weiser agreed, and offered that Colorado Law would like to work on such an important event. Lt. Gov. Garcia also asked Daniel Cordalis '11, Colorado Law American Indian Law Program Fellow, to speak about the Colorado Indian Education Foundation's scholarship program, which Cordalis was a recipient of, and his educational experience at Colorado Law.



**Above:** Dean Phil Weiser (right) addresses the CCIA. Seated to Weiser's left are Southern Ute Tribal Council Member Pathimi Goodtracks, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, and CCIA Executive Director and Ute Mountain Ute tribal member Ernest House, Jr.

**Left:** Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council Member, and former Tribal Chairman, Manual Hart discusses tribal issues at the CCIA meeting.

**Right:** Daniel Cordalis '11, speaks at the CCIA meeting.



Photographs courtesy of Jeremy Wade Shockley/The Southern Ute Drum.

# Alumni Whereabouts

We are pleased to share some professional updates on members of our community, noting just how many of them are working in American Indian Law and related fields! If we are missing your information or you'd like to send a correction or update, please get in touch with our new Director of Alumni Relations Katy Brown [katy.brown@colorado.edu](mailto:katy.brown@colorado.edu).

**Amy Alderman '89** lives in Mfuwe, Zambia, and works at The Bushcamp Company.

**Edward Halealoha Ayau '89** (Native Hawaiian) is an advocate, activist, and leader in the movement for Native Hawaiian rights, repatriation and the care of ancestral remains.

**Brad Barlett '98** is the managing attorney at the Energy Minerals Law Center, in Durango, CO.

**Joshua Breedlove '06** (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians) is a staff attorney for his tribe.

**Sarah Bond '81** is an Assistant Attorney General in Montana, specializing in water law and Indian law.

**James Bransky '85** is an attorney for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians.

**William Brooks '88** is an Tribal Attorney at the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians

**Shanna Selsor Burgin '07**, (Muscogee (Creek) Nation) is an Assistant Attorney general for her tribe in Okmulgee, OK.

**Melissa Campobasso '00** (Colville) is an attorney for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, WA.

**Stephanie Chen '09** is an adjunct professor for the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the University of Hawaii School of Law.

**Lucita Chin '98** is Associate Regional Counsel at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Louis Christensen '97** (Kiowa Tribe) is a Corporate Compliance Officer at the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

**Catherine Condon '91** is partner at McElroy, Meyer, Walker & Condon, P.C., in Boulder where she represents tribes in natural resources, treaty litigation, gaming and other matters.

**Michael Connor '93** was appointed as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation in 2009 after working in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee since 2001.

**Gregg de Bie '05** has been an associate attorney with McElroy, Meyer, Walker & Condon, P.C., since January 2009.

**Debra Donahue '89** is a professor of law at the University of Wyoming where she teaches Federal Indian Law, Natural Resources, and Public Lands law.

**Carrie Covington Doyle '09** is an attorney at Tilden, McCoy + Dilweg, LLP, in Boulder, where she practices Indian Law.

**Anna Dronzek '11** is a clerk for Judge John R. Webb on the Colorado Court of Appeals.

**Affie Ellis '07** (Navajo Nation) has been appointed to the Indian Law and Order Commission, created by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. She is President of Ellis Public Affairs and was previously an Asst. Att'y General in Wyoming.

**Alvina Earnhart '03** (Navajo Nation) is an attorney at Fredericks, Peebles, and Morgan, LLP, working in Indian law.

**Anita Fineday '89** (White Earth Band of Ojibwe) is the Managing Director of the Indian Child Welfare Project at the Casey Foundation in Seattle.

**Alison Flint '09** is an associate attorney at Earthjustice, and clerked for Gregory Hobbs of the Colorado Supreme Court.

**John Fredericks, III, '87** (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation) is a Partner at Fredericks, Peebles, and Morgan, LLP, in Mandan, ND.

**Thomas W. Fredericks '72** (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation) is a Partner at Fredericks, Peebles, and Morgan, LLP, in Louisville, CO.

**Celene Sheppard Hawkins '08** is Associate General Counsel, at Ute Mountain Ute.

**Dave Heisterkamp '93** is a principal at Wagenlander & Heisterkamp, LLC, where his practice includes Indian housing law. He is also on the Board of the Colorado Indian Bar Association and a member of the American Indian Law Clinic Advisory Committee at Colorado Law.

**Wendy Helgamo '95** (Ho-Chunk) is Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

**Andrew Huff '99** (Chippewa Cree) is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Montana.

**Laurel Iron Cloud** (Oglala Sioux) is the Deputy Director of the Indian Law and Order Commission.

**Kristina John '96** (Navajo) is an attorney at Maynes, Bradford, Shipps & Sheftel, LLP, representing the Navajo Nation and Southern Ute Tribe.

Becky Johnson '98 (Osage & Cherokee) is the Director of Human Resources at the Osage Casino and previously was the Sr. Asst. Attorney General of the Cherokee Nation.

William Johnson '93 works at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice where he recently worked on a much publicized coal mining royalty case.

Martha King '97 (Alaska Native) is a Partner, Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP, Louisville, Colorado.

Ellen Kohler '93 runs her own practice in Saginaw, MI. Prior to starting her own firm, Ellen worked for the U.S. Dep't of Justice and The Watershed Center at Grand Traverse Bay.

Patrice Kunesh '89 (Standing Rock Lakota descent) is the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she supervises the work of the Solicitor's Office on Indian affairs.

Lloyd Landreth '86 (Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma) runs his own law firm in Jenks, Oklahoma, representing clients in industries including oil and gas, airlines, and transportation.

Sam Maynes '88, is a partner in the law firm of Maynes, Bradford, Shipp & Sheftel, LLP. His practice is focused primarily to representation of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Eve Woods McDonald '95 (Cherokee Nation) works in the Attorney General's Office in Colorado.

Elizabeth Meyer '76 is a senior partner at McElroy, Meyer, Walker & Condon in Boulder P.C., where she handles domestic law matters, representing the Navajo Nation and other parties, including in Indian Child Welfare Act work.

Don Miller '72 is a practicing attorney in Boulder, CO, specializing in federal Indian law.

Monte Mills '03 is the Director of the Southern Ute Tribal Legal Department.

Steve Moore '79 is a staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund, practicing water law, natural resources, and religious freedoms. He serves on the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs.

Luke Mulligan '97 runs his own firm in Flagstaff, AZ.

Gregory Narvaez '11 (Pinoleville Pomo Nation) is an associate at Fredericks, Peebles, and Morgan, LLP, in Sacramento, CA, practicing in trial advocacy, international business, taxation, gaming, and tribal economic development.

Anetra Parks '01 (Cherokee/Nez Perce) is the Director of Law Career Services at the University of Wyoming.

Kim Perdue '10 is a clerk on the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Melissa Pingley '08 works at the Dep't of Housing and Urban Development, Denver.

Stanley Pollack '78 is an Assistant Attorney General in the Water Rights Unit at the Navajo Nation.

Lisa Shellenberger '10 (Choctaw Nation) is an attorney at Shelton, Smith & Ragona, LLC, practicing in criminal law, family law, and Indian law.

Marlon Sherman '97 (Oglala Lakota) is associate professor of Native American Studies at Humboldt State University.

Mariana Shulstad '66 worked from 1968-94 for the Interior as an attorney advisor and field solicitor in Indian Affairs.

Lucy Rain Simpson '98 (Navajo) is the Executive Director of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, dedicated to reclaiming the sovereignty of Native nations and safeguarding Native women and their children.

Quanah Spencer '03 (Yakama) is Of Counsel and Vice Chair of the Williams Kastner Indian Law Practice in Seattle, WA.

Gabriella Stockmayer '11 is a law clerk to Judge Dan Taubman on the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Daniel Steuer '03 is an attorney at McElroy, Meyer, Walker & Condon in Boulder where he practices federal Indian law.

Cynthia Stovall '97 is an attorney at Sherman & Howard in Denver, CO.

Mark Suagee '79 (Cherokee Nation) has been the Public Defender in Cochise, AZ, since 1997.

Jennifer Turner '04 is an Attorney Advisor at the U.S. Department of Interior.

Jana Turvey '95 (Aleut) is VP of Legal Affairs & General Counsel for Ahtna, Inc., an Alaska Native Corp., in Anchorage, AK.

Thomas Van Norman '92 (Cheyenne River Sioux) served in the South Dakota House of Representatives from 2002-2008 and represents the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

Don Wharton '73 is a staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund.

Frank Wilson '95 works out of the U.S. Solicitor's Office in Portland, OR.

Lisa Yellow Eagle '09 (Navajo/Lakota) is a Deputy District Attorney in the Juvenile Division, in Boulder, CO.

Stephanie Zehren-Thomas '04, is a partner at Hester & Zehren, LLC, in Louisville, CO, and a member of the American Indian Law Clinic Advisory Committee at Colorado law.

# The Back Page: Opportunities & Events

## New Internship Opportunity: Summer 2012 at the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Colorado Law announces a new internship program with the Justice Department of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The internship will give a Colorado Law student the opportunity to work under the supervision of General Counsel Peter Ortego '93 and Associate General Counsel Celene Hawkins '08, on various matters including tribal code drafting and compilation; tribal civil and criminal jurisdiction; gaming and economic development; natural resources planning; cultural resources protection; environmental protection; and water law. The interns will gain valuable experience working with Tribal attorneys, staff, and leaders, and have the opportunity to see the Reservation. Contact Colorado Law's Career Development Office or email [kristen.carpenter@colorado.edu](mailto:kristen.carpenter@colorado.edu) to apply.



## 2012 Community Calendar

- Annual Ute Bear Dance, May 25-28, Ignacio, CO.
- Native American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference, April 30 – May 3, Cherokee, NC.
- Niwot Native American Film Festival, held on the First Fridays in 2012, in May. May 4, 2012, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Elysian Fields Auctions, 6924 79th Street, in Niwot, CO. Contact information, Elizabeth Darling, (303) 931-3084, email [niwotprairieproductions@gmail.com](mailto:niwotprairieproductions@gmail.com)
- University of Denver (DU) Pow-Wow, Saturday, May 26, on Driscoll Green, 2190 E. Asbury Avenue. Denver, CO 80208.
- Intertribal Timber Council Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, May 14-18, Warm Springs, OR.
- Jim Thorpe Native American Games, June 10-18, Oklahoma City, OK.



We welcome inquiries about the American Indian Law Program at Colorado Law, as well as contributions to future newsletters.

Please contact:  
Professor Kristen Carpenter  
[kristen.carpenter@colorado.edu](mailto:kristen.carpenter@colorado.edu)  
Professor Jill Tompkins  
[jill.tompkins@colorado.edu](mailto:jill.tompkins@colorado.edu)

University of Colorado Law School  
Wolf Law Building, 401 UCB  
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*Above:* This image, designed by the American Indian law Clinic and Turtle Mountain Chippewa artist Larry Desjarlais, is taken from the Clinic's Kiva Conference Room table. The turtle on the table is for the Northern Arapahoe Tribe and other area tribes, representing the source of life. The buffalo symbolizes not only the plains tribes for which this area is a historical migratory crossroads, but also the University of Colorado. The bear is the sacred symbol of the Ute Tribes. Finally, the salmon represents of the Northwest, Northeast, and Native Alaska tribes.

