



Getches-Wilkinson Center
for Natural Resources, Energy,
and the Environment

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2015 Getches-Wyss Fellowship

The David H. Getches Native American and Natural Resources Law Fellowship was made available as the result of a generous gift from the Wyss Foundation. The Getches Wyss Fellowship will support a recent Colorado Law School graduate in carrying out a project that addresses a significant issue or issues of importance in Native American and/or natural resources law. The fellowship will be awarded through a competitive process to an applicant who demonstrates a sincere interest in pursuing a career in the field of Native American or natural resources law. The awardee will be hired by the University of Colorado Law School to work with the Getches—Wilkinson Center, in conjunction with the faculty and staff of the Law School, or with a non-governmental organization or Indian tribe, under the supervision of the Center.

A preference will be given to proposals that will allow the applicant to work at the Law School and that address land and water conservation, stewardship, and sound natural resource management in Indian country, and that have as at least one objective illuminating such issues for the benefit of tribal governments. Applicants may develop their own proposals but should consult with the appropriate faculty or organization with whom they wish to work, as well as with the Center to ensure the feasibility of the project. Priority will be given to proposals that align significantly with current research and projects being conducted by Center faculty and staff. The following projects are ongoing, and the Center would welcome applications/proposals that further one or more of them:

1. Professor Charles Wilkinson is interested in a proposal that entails making a substantial commitment of Fellowship time to his current book project. The book is a comprehensive history of the “Boldt Decision,” the extraordinary 1974 ruling in *United States v. Washington* that, among other things, held that the tribes are entitled to 50% of the salmon harvest in Northwest Washington. It happens that the lead attorney for the tribes was David Getches, while he was Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund. The working title is: “THE BOLDT DECISION: AT LONG LAST, PURE JUSTICE — The Story of the Courage and Vision of Judge George Boldt and the Northwest Tribes.” For this project, the successful Applicant would need to have a strong background in Indian Law, history, and culture.

2. Associate Professor Carla Fredericks, who also the Director of the American Indian Law Program, is currently providing advice and counsel to Ms. Victoria Tauli Corpuz, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She is interested in a proposal that entails making a substantial commitment of Fellowship time to assist in this work. For this project, the successful Applicant would need to have a strong familiarity with the declarations, conventions and other instruments of international law that are relevant to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals that are currently in development.

3. Kathryn Mutz and Kelleigh Helm of the Center are currently working on the Intermountain Oil and Gas BMP Project and the Law Atlas Project relating to the regulation of oil and gas operations in the United States. They are interested in a proposal that entails making a substantial commitment of Fellowship time to assist in this work as it relates to oil and gas development on tribal lands and/or in Indian Country. For this project, the successful Applicant would need to have a strong background in both Indian law and oil and gas/energy law.

4. Professor William Boyd leads the Governors Climate & Forests Task Force (GCF), a network of 26 subnational jurisdictions in Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Spain and the United States working to reduce tropical deforestation, develop pathways to sustainable development and improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. As a key component of the commitments made by GCF governors through the [Rio Branco Declaration](#), and continuing a tradition of prioritizing social and environmental safeguards (including indigenous rights and inclusion), GCF states and provinces are working to develop meaningful partnerships with groups representing the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) of the Brazilian and Peruvian Amazon, Mexico and Indonesia, including COICA, the Surui People, MADN, and Alianza Meso-American de Pueblo y Bosques, among others. The GCF invites candidates with a background and/or interest in the nexus between climate change, forest governance and IPs/communities to submit proposals for projects focused on, for example, research to provide a strong policy foundation and strategy for the engagement of GCF states and provinces with IPs, including international law and norms governing relationships between states and IPs (for example, FPIC and other emerging principles and norms); and/or determining the nature of indigenous rights over lands in GCF states and provinces, and making policy recommendations to GCF members on options for formal partnerships and engagement with IPs in the development of sustainable and equitable jurisdiction-wide programs for low emissions development.

If one of these projects is of interest, please contact the faculty or staff member(s) identified above before submitting an application to discuss the project and the Applicant's proposal in more detail.

In addition, there may be other faculty or staff members aligned with the Center who are working on projects or research that is of interest to an Applicant. In that case, the Applicant should contact such faculty or staff member to discuss that project or research and how it might best be incorporated into an Applicant's proposal.

Applicants must have a mentor (faculty or other) who will provide guidance and help ensure that the Fellow will succeed in the project. Finally, Applicants will be expected to complete a paper or report of publishable quality during their Fellowship.

Salary is \$4,000 per month for 12-15 months. Start date is flexible but sooner is better (early August at the latest). The position is full-time, but someone who wanted to work part-time for a couple of months while studying for the Bar Exam might be accommodated. Salary would be prorated accordingly.

Applications are due by **Friday, March 20** and should include: (1) Brief cover letter; (2) Proposal, including a statement of your research interests, how they align with a G-W Center project, and your publication goals; (3) Resume; (4) Law school transcript. Interviews will be conducted during the week of March 30-April 3, the winning Applicant will be selected on Wednesday, April 8.