

UCLA Law

Native Nations Law and Policy Center

2022-2023 Annual Report



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UCLA

School of Law

**Native Nations Law
& Policy Center**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Boozhoo (Hello),

I am deeply humbled to write to you as Director of the Native Nations Law and Policy Center (NNLPC) at UCLA School of Law. Despite challenges, the NNLPC has continued to thrive, always seeking to be on the cutting edge of research, education, and advocacy regarding the rights of Native Nations and Indian people.

Central to the work of the NNLPC is a commitment to giving back to our Tribes, our communities, and to the world. We benefit greatly from the hub of innovation present at UCLA, one of the nation's premier research universities. We are fortunate to dedicate ourselves to our mission, and we benefit enormously from the immense talent and commitment of our faculty, staff, and students. Together, we seek to work on some of the most pressing challenges faced by Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples in the world today. Much of our work would not be possible without the generosity of our donors, who continue to demonstrate their belief in the work of the NNLPC and the incredible team we have established here.

This Annual Report highlights the work of the NNLPC over the course of the 2022-23 academic year. But it is with deep gratitude that I share that the NNLPC continues to look ahead to the future, as we expand our faculty, our experts, our course offerings, and our scholarly output. This transformative growth will keep UCLA School of Law at the forefront of Indigenous rights for decades to come.

Chi-miigwetch (deep thanks),

Angela R. Riley (Citizen Potawatomi Nation)

ENDOWED CHAIRS IN INDIAN LAW

In 2022, UCLA School of Law received a gift of \$4 million from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. This generous gift establishes two faculty chairs in Native American law and policy that are endowed in the honor of Distinguished Professor Emerita Carole E. Goldberg and Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Tribal Chairman Greg Sarris.



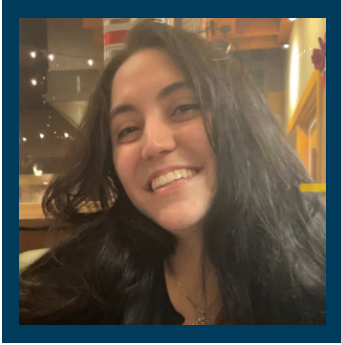
GRATON SCHOLARSHIP

In 2020, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria established the Graton Scholarship with a transformative and visionary \$15 million gift, the largest of its kind ever given from a Native Nation to an American law school. The Graton Scholarship was created to generate a substantial and lasting impact in Indian country. “Tribal law is a cornerstone of Native Americans’ quest for equality and inclusion within the U.S. justice system,” shared Chairman Greg Sarris of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Through the scholarship, the Tribe hopes that this “will begin the drive for equity for our people in our native land.” The Graton Scholarship provides incoming law students interested in pursuing legal careers in Native American law or Tribal law with full-tuition scholarship for all three years of law school.

In the fall of 2022, we welcomed our second class of four Graton Scholars to UCLA School of Law – Leila Bathke, Mary Cruz, Aine Lawlor, and Kyler McVoy. The four scholars were selected on their merits and demonstrated interest in and aptitude for Native American law; as well as a record demonstrating a commitment to Tribal communities, public service, and leadership in Indigenous rights. We have been grateful to add the Graton Scholars to our network of students, professors, alumni, and legal professionals working on the cutting edge of the fields of Tribal law, federal Indian law, and international Indigenous rights. In line with the spirit of the scholarship, the Graton Scholars have taken an active role in the school’s activities and programs.



2022-2023 Graton Scholars



Leila Bathke
(Member of the Navajo
Nation born for the Tsenjikini
clan)

Leila Bathke is a J.D. candidate in the UCLA Class of 2025. At the young age of 20, Bathke received her Bachelors of Arts at UCLA in American Indian Studies in 2021. During her undergraduate career, she worked for two years at the UCLA American Indian Recruitment project where she mentored and tutored Native American students in grades K-14. She also interned at the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians Tribal Government helping with the social media and outreach team. For many years she volunteered as a facilitator of a youth group dedicated to doing community service while growing their individual spiritual intelligences. Leila is very passionate about working towards justice across all underprivileged intersectionalities, leading her to choose the Critical Race Studies specialization at UCLA Law.



Mary Cruz
(Zapotec)

Mary Cruz is a Graton Scholar, member of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, and Critical Race Studies Program at UCLA Law. She earned a B.A. in Politics and Latin American Studies from the University of San Francisco. Prior to law school Mary worked at the Durfee Foundation where she supported Los Angeles based nonprofit organizations and leaders. In this role she helped launch the Lark Awards, a grant which funds collective care and renewal of BIPOC staff at grassroots nonprofits to combat burnout in the sector. Prior to Durfee, Mary worked with the California Immigrant Policy Center where she supported their government affairs, policy, and advocacy work in Sacramento. In addition, she has worked to address the intersections of social inequities impacting immigrant and low-income communities at organizations including La Raza Centro Legal, the University of San Francisco law clinic and the Law Offices of Curiel & Parker. Mary's commitment to social change lies at the intersection of immigrant justice, Indigenous rights, and language access stemming from her experience growing up in a Zapotec migrant family and community.



Aine Lawlor

Aine grew up in Helena, Montana and attended Bowdoin College in Maine. Throughout college, she studied Indigenous rights on the international level with a focus on environmental law and policy in the Arctic. She spent numerous years as an intern for the Arctic Rivers Project. Following graduation, Aine continued to pursue these interests and she worked for the Democratic Staff in the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee where she contributed to various projects related to Indian country, energy development, and environmental justice. At UCLA Law, Aine plans to focus on the intersection between Indigenous rights and environmental law. Upon graduating law school, Aine would like to work in the natural resources field to help provide legal and political support to Native communities and Indigenous peoples and work to co-create a more equitable and just future.



Kyler McVoy
(Member of the Miami Tribe
of Oklahoma)

Kyler is an Indiana native and proud member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. Kyler attended Indiana University for his undergraduate studies, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Japanese. Since graduating, Kyler has worked in a variety of fields aimed at protecting vulnerable people, including non-profits, government agencies, and a law firm representing disabled veterans. Kyler is beginning his 1L term as one of four Graton Scholars for the class of 2025. After graduating, Kyler hopes to pursue a legal career in Federal Indian Law or in labor law, including worker's rights and organizing.

Incoming Graton Scholars 2023-24



**Ann
Caindec**



**Michael
Chesnut**



**Luke
Colvard**



**Abigail
Gallardo**



**Rayna
Klugherz**



**Caelin
Marum**

Update on the Inaugural Graton Scholars 2021-22



**Ashley
Anderson**



**Shara
Burwell**



**Rachel
Hsu**

In her second year of law school, Ashley Anderson was immersed in several NNLPC courses such as Art & Cultural Property Law, Federal Indian Law, and Indigenous Peoples in International Law. Through TLDC she drafted bench memos and orders for the Hualapai Nation Court of Appeals. Anderson also competed in the national NALSA Moot Court Competition in Oklahoma City. She also served as Co-President of NALSA. In summer, Ashley was a clerk for the Environmental Law Institute where she supported the Advancing Tribal Sovereignty and Community Health in California project and the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.

In her second year of law school, Shara Burwell completed several courses in Indian Law which have allowed her to combine research from her other courses to write about Native and non-Native water allottee rights, which she hopes to soon publish. Shara further began working as a research assistant to Professor Riley. She has co-served as President of NALSA, Articles Editor of the Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture, and Resistance, and Managing Editor of UCLA's Law Review. Over the summer Shara completed a clerkship for Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker LLP. She will begin in fall as Co-Editor and Chief of IPJLCR and NALSA Historian.

In her second year of law school, Rachel Hsu completed every course offered by NNLPC. Through TLDC, she traveled to the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva. She supported the Indigenous Caucus as it advised upon WIPO's draft declaration on Indigenous peoples' cultural property. She is a managing editor on UCLA's Indian law journal and is the Senior Dialectic Editor on the UCLA Law Review. For Law Review, she produced a podcast episode about stolen Indigenous art. She is also participating in the upcoming Law Review symposium on Indian law. Rachel spent her summer at Crowell & Moring LLP.

Tribal Legal Development Clinic

The Tribal Legal Development Clinic, established in 1996, is designed to introduce students to the complexities of Tribal law, federal Indian law, and the considerations of group, government, and cross-cultural representation. The Clinic serves Tribal governments and organizations to provide non-litigation, legal development projects, including policy research and legislative drafting, on a broad range of subjects. In 2022 Mica Llerandi was hired as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic. In Fall 2022, the Advanced Clinic students drafted code, researched tribal legislative processes, federal precedent of custody versus detention in the Indian Civil Rights Act, and exceptions to the exhaustion requirement under 28 U.S.C. 2254(b).

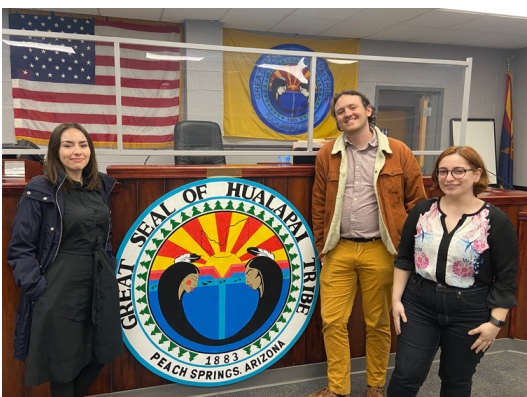


L-R: Rachel Hsu ('24) and Thomas Clelland ('23)
representing>NNLPC in Geneva, Switzerland



L-R: Charlotte Dotaro ('23), Evelyn Sanchez-Gonzalez ('24), Shasta Fields ('23)

In Spring 2023, Clinic students drafted more code, researched Tribal child welfare code, Tribal water law, prepared bench memos and draft orders. Notably, Richard M. Milanovich Fellow, Alexandra Fay, took two students to the 46th session of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland. At the IGC, the students had an up-close view of how Indigenous communities engage in international advocacy.



L-R: Ashley Anderson ('24), Patrick Nugent ('24),
Lior Krancer ('24)

The Clinic continued its rapid pace into Summer 2023 by hiring two legal interns. Over the summer, the students were able to work on several projects for Tribes and Tribal organizations. Some of the work included drafting model comments for Tribes to send to the Department of Treasury regarding the taxation of Tribally chartered corporations, research on ICWA's application to probate guardianship, drafting a criminal domestic violence code, and research on wellness courts.

ENRICHING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

NATIVE AMERICAN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (NALSA)

The Native American Law Students Association is a national organization which seeks to provide a support network for Native and other students who want to work in the field of Indian law. NALSA provides a personal and professional support network for law students interested in the field. In addition, the Association strives to foster better communication among Native American law students, the Native American community and the general public by providing a forum for the discussion of current Native American issues.

We sent two teams to the National Native American Law Student Association (NNALSA) Moot Court Competition. Our two teams included Alyssa Sanderson, UCLA Law '23, Alexandra Speed, UCLA Law '24, Ashley Anderson, UCLA Law '24, and Kristen Stipanov, UCLA Law '24. The teams worked hard with coaches Mica Llerandi and Alex Fay since the end of December, first having written their 35-page briefs, and in January and February practicing their oral arguments.

The two teams and coach Mica Llerandi traveled to Norman, Oklahoma to compete. Alyssa and Alexandra advanced to the Sweet 16 in the oral advocacy and Ashley and Kristen won 3rd Best Brief. We are so proud of our students and their hard work!

2022-2023 NALSA BOARD

Ashley Anderson (Co-President), '24
Shara Burwell (Co-President), '24
Chloë Freeman (Inter-Org Chair), '23
Paton Moody (Alumni Chair), '23
Alyssa Sanderson (Recruitment Chair), '23
Lexie Speed (Vice President), '24
Kristen Stipanov (Secretary), '24

Moot Court



Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance

Editorial Board:

Editors-in-Chief:

Alexandra Speed, '24

Shara Burwell, '24

Managing Editors:

Rachel Hsu, '24

Patrick Nugent, '24

Articles Editor:

Lior Krancer, '24

Staff Editors:

Tyler Caceres, '25

Aine Lawlor '25

Mollie Cueva-Dabkoski, '25

Ashley Anderson, '24

Joseph Gregory, '24

Leila Bathke, '25

Shundeen Martinez, '25

Kyler Mcvoy, '25

Maria Trubetskaya, '25

Mesfin Teklu, '25

Robina Henson. '25

The Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance is a law journal that publishes writings concerning Native Peoples' cultures, traditions, and histories. They publish with the goal of bettering and advancing Native Nations and Indian People and strive to actively resist the insidious effects of colonialism, racism, and the subjugation of Native Peoples while partnering with Native communities to publish writings that will bring attention to their specific situations and legal battles.

Volume 7, Issue 1, 2022

Foundations of Tribal Society: Art, Dreams, and the Last Old Woman

Gregory H. Bigler

Editorializing ICWA: 40 Years of Colonial Commentary

Sarah Deer, Elise Higgins, and Thomas White

Reframing Kānāwai: Towards a Restorative Justice

Framework for Indigenous Peoples

N. Mahina Tuteur

Lost in Translation: A translation that set in motion the loss of

Native American spiritual sites

Victoria Sutton

Sami Peoples Land Claims in Norway, Finmark Act and

Providing Legal Title

Zia Akhtar

Of Reservation Boundary Lines and Judicial Battle Lines, Part 1—

Reservation Diminishment/Disestablishment Cases from 1962 to

1975: The Indian Law Justice Files, Episode 1

John P. LaVelle



KEY INITIATIVES



Academic Webinars

UCLA School of Law
Native Nations Law
& Policy Center

**Debrief of the Oral Arguments in
*Brackeen v. Haaland***

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10
12:15 PM (PT)
VIA ZOOM


Maggie Blackhawk
Professor, NYU School of Law


Kate Fort
Director, Indian Law Clinic,
MSU School of Law


Keith Harper
Chair, Native American
Law Practice, Jenner & Block

Moderated by:
Lauren van Schilfgaarde
UCLA Law

RSVP:


In response to this Supreme Court Docket full of Indian law cases, NNLPC held the academic year's first webinar on November 10th - a debrief of the oral arguments in the historic Indian Child Welfare Act case, *Brackeen v. Haaland*. We were joined by Maggie Blackhawk, Professor at NYU Law, Keith Harper, Chair of the Native American Law Practice at Jenner & Block, and Kate Fort, Director of the Indian Law Clinic at MSU School of Law.



**ARIZONA V. NAVAJO
NATION DEBRIEF**

Join UCLA's Native Nations Law and Policy Center, ACS, and NALSA for a panel discussion debriefing the U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments in *Arizona v. Navajo Nation*.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023
12:15 - 1:30 PM (PT)**


Ezra Rosser
Professor, American University
Washington College of Law


Heather Whiteman Runs Him
Director, Tribal Justice Clinic, UA
James E. Rogers College of Law


Paul Spruhan
Asst. Attorney General, Navajo
Nation Department of Justice

Register via Zoom at:
bit.ly/NavajoDebrief

On March 22 NNLPC held a second webinar with expert panelists to debrief the oral arguments in *Arizona v. Navajo Nation*. Featuring Ezra Rosser, Professor of Law at American University Washington, Heather Whiteman Runs Him, Director of the Tribal Justice Clinic at Rogers College of Law, and Paul Spruhan, Assistant Attorney General of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. Our panelists discussed what the case means for the future of Tribal water rights, Tribal sovereignty, and the future of the Colorado River.

From the Frontlines

On May 17, NNLPC hosted our final webinar in the academic year in collaboration with UCLA School of Law in the From the Frontlines series — ‘Saving Indigenous Sacred Sites: Oak Flat and Beyond.’ Professor Angela R. Riley and Professor Lauren van Schilfgaarde spoke with Kristen Carpenter, Council Tree Professor of Law, and Director, American Indian Law Program at University of Colorado Law School.

The panelists discussed Indigenous Peoples’ rights to religious freedom, access to sacred sites, and the state of cases in the field.

UCLA LAW PRESENTS

FROM THE FRONTLINES

Saving Indigenous Sacred Sites: Oak Flat and Beyond

Join the UCLA School of Law for our latest installment of From the Frontlines! Indigenous Peoples’ rights to religious freedom and access to their sacred sites are increasingly under threat. Join us as legal experts discuss pending cases and the state of the field.

Introductions by Dean, Russell Korobkin. Moderated by **Mica Llerandi**, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic. Panel discussion with **Kristen Carpenter**, Council Tree Professor of Law, Director, American Indian Law Program at University of Colorado Law School; **Angela Riley**, Professor of Law & American Indian Studies Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native American and Indigenous Affairs, Director, Native Nations Law & Policy Center at UCLA School of Law, and **Lauren van Schilfgaarde ’12**, Assistant Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law.

UCLA School of Law

Wednesday, May 17
12 pm - 4 pm PT
RSVP: <https://bit.ly/savinghillsites>

Summer Speaker Series

Free webinar

Unpacking Brackeen v. Haaland

June 20 | 12 p.m. PDT | links.asu.edu/brackeen

Derrick Beetso, Moderator
Lauren Van Schilfgaarde, Confirmed
Paul Spruhan, Confirmed
Leonard Powell, Confirmed
Angela Riley, Confirmed
Robert Miller, Confirmed

The Native Nations Law and Policy Center held a series of timely webinars this summer highlighting significant Supreme Court rulings. The Speaker Series featured the nation’s leading legal practitioners and scholars as they explored ways in which the Supreme Court decisions impact Native peoples and Tribes and what we might expect from the Supreme Court in Indian law cases going forward. Attendees included law students, legal scholars, advocates, and members of the general public from around the world.

‘Unpacking Brackeen v. Haaland’ featured Derrick Beetso, Professor of Practice & Director, Indian Gaming and Tribal Self-Governance Programs, Paul Spruhan, Assistant Attorney General of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Leonard Powell, Senior Associate at Jenner & Block LLP, Robert Miller, Professor of Law, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, and Lauren van Schilfgaarde, UCLA School of Law.

UCLA National Native Nations Law & Policy Center

Debrief of the Ruling in Arizona v. Navajo Nation

MONDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2023
12:00-1:30 PM (PT)
VIA ZOOM

Paul Spruhan, Assistant Attorney General, Litigation Unit, Navajo Nation Department of Justice
Heather Tanana, Assistant Professor of Law & Wallace Stegner Center Fellow, University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law, Michigan Law
Heather Whiteman, Director of the Tribal Justice Clinic & Associate Clinical Professor, University of Arizona Rogers College of Law

Moderated by: **Mica Llerandi**, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic, UCLA School of Law

‘Debrief of the Ruling in Arizona v. Navajo Nation’ featured Paul Spruhan, Assistant Attorney General of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Heather Tanana, Assistant Professor of Law & Wallace Stegner Center Fellow, S.J. Quinney College of Law, Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law at Michigan Law, and Heather Whiteman, Director of the Tribal Justice Clinic at University of Arizona Rogers College of Law, with moderation by TLDC Director Mica Llerandi.

FEATURED EVENTS

UC Regents Lecture

On Indigenous Peoples' Day, October 10, 2022, Chairman Greg Sarris of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria delivered a poignant and timely Regents' Lecture on "Tribal Leadership and the Future of Indian Country." His remarks, delivered to two packed rooms at the law school, highlighted the tenacity of California Indians despite the many attempts by federal and state actors to eradicate and terminate. Chairman Sarris shared that while the "classic California Indian story" was losing sovereignty, California Indians reorganized and pushed for restoration. Chairman Sarris reminded the audience that the work is not over and, to quote his Auntie Essie Parrish, "Ain't no such a word as 'Can't'."



Apache Stronghold Teach-In and Oral Arguments



NNPLC hosted a lunchtime courtyard teach-in about the Apache Stronghold v. United States case for UCLA law school students. The event was well attended by students and NALSA. Richard M. Milanovich Fellow Alexandra Fay opened up with a brief introduction and land acknowledgment. Professors Riley and van Schilfgaarde spoke about the background of the case, which centers on the legal battle to protect Oak Flat, a sacred site, from copper mining. Over 60 students attended the lecture during their lunch break. Professors Riley and van Schilfgaarde stayed after the lecture to answer questions students had about the case.

On March 21, 2023, the NNPLC team and students traveled to Pasadena for the Ninth Circuit en banc hearing of Apache Stronghold v. United States case.

Fed Bar Conference

This year the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Conference was held at Sandia Resort and Casino on the Pueblo of Sandia, adjacent to Albuquerque, NM.

Our two esteemed Professors of Law, Angela R. Riley and Lauren van Schilfgaarde were invited speakers at the Conference. Professor Riley spoke on the panel titled, "Protection of Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination before the U.S. Supreme Court." The panel addressed why self-determination is, "critical to the continued existence of tribes as distinct political and cultural sovereigns."

Professor van Schilfgaarde was a panelist on "Tribal Nations, Abortion Access, and Native American Reproductive Health." Panelists explored the legal, political, and ethical considerations of a "safe harbor" approach as Indian Country continues to confront the continued Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Crisis and the impact of colonization and oppression on reproductive health for Native American people.



This year at FedBar, the Native Nations Law and Policy Center presented the Alumna of the Year award to Christina Snider ('13) for her dedication and distinguished service to Indian Country. Ms. Snider serves as the Tribal Affairs Secretary to Governor Gavin Newsom and leads the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs.

Graduation Celebration



NNLPC hosted an outdoor graduation dinner for our UCLA School of Law 2023 NALSA graduates, our largest graduating class yet. These seven Graduates and their guests listened to remarks from Professors Goldberg, Riley, and van Schilfgaarde, and our graduates were honored in a blanket ceremony.

The 2023 graduates were Alyssa Sanderson, Alex Sampson, Chloë Freeman, Erin Rubin, Paton Moody, Shasta Fields, and Thomas Clelland.

THE>NNLPC TEAM



Angela R. Riley

Angela R. Riley (Citizen Potawatomi Nation) is Professor of Law and American Indian Studies at UCLA. She is a Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native American and Indigenous Affairs and directs UCLA School of Law's UCLA's Native Nations Law and Policy Center as well as the J.D./M.A. joint degree program in Law and American Indian Studies. She has chaired the UCLA campus Repatriation Committee since 2010. Professor Riley's research focuses on Indigenous peoples' rights, with a particular emphasis on cultural property and Native governance, and her work has been published in the nation's leading legal journals. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Oklahoma and her law degree from Harvard Law School.

Professor Riley has served as Chief Justice of her own tribe's Supreme Court since 2010. In addition, she currently sits as an Appellate Justice at the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Court of Appeals and at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Court of Appeals. She previously served as Co-Chair for the United Nations - Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Policy Board. Professor Riley is a member of the American Law Institute. She was the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School in Fall 2015 and annually co-teaches the Nation Building course at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



Carole E. Goldberg

Carole E. Goldberg has taught Civil Procedure, Federal Indian Law, Tribal Legal Systems, the Tribal Legal Development Clinic, and the Tribal Appellate Court Clinic. The two clinics have rendered legal services to Indian tribes and Indian judicial systems. In 2006, she served as the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, and in 2007 she was appointed a Justice of the Hualapai Court of Appeals, which she has served as Chief Justice since 2015. In 2022 she was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed her to the Indian Law and Order Commission, which investigated issues of safety and justice in tribal communities, and in 2013 issued a Final Report recommending ways to improve Indian country criminal justice. Also in 2013, the Indian Law Section of the Federal Bar Association conferred upon her its prestigious Lawrence F. Baca Lifetime Achievement Award. She has twice served as Associate Dean for the School of Law, from 1984 to 1989 and from 1991 to 1992. She has also served as Chair of the Academic Senate in 1993-1994. From 2011 to 2016, she served as Vice Chancellor, Academic Personnel, for the UCLA campus.

THE>NNLPC TEAM



Lauren van Schilfgaarde

Lauren van Schilfgaarde (Cochiti Pueblo) is Assistant Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law. Her research focuses on Tribal sovereignty and federal Indian law. She previously was the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Legal Development Clinic Director at UCLA Law wherein she supervised live-client projects concerning tribal governance and justice systems, ethics, cultural resource protection, voting, child welfare, and more. She received her undergraduate degree at Colorado College and her law degree from UCLA School of Law. van Schilfgaarde previously served as the Tribal Law Specialist at the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) in West Hollywood, CA, focusing primarily on Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts, restorative justice, and tribal court infrastructure. van Schilfgaarde served as a law clerk for the Native American Rights Fund and Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. She was a Public Interest Fellow at American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado. van Schilfgaarde currently serves as co-chair for the Native American Concerns Committee of the American Bar Association and as a board member of the Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation and the AALS Section on Indian Nations & Indigenous Peoples.



Mica Llerandi

Mica Llerandi (Diné/Navajo) is the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the UCLA Tribal Legal Development Clinic at UCLA School of Law. She previously worked as a Senior Attorney at California Tribal Families Coalition where she worked on Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), tribal child welfare, and California dependency matters. Llerandi was a staff attorney at California Indian Legal Services where she worked on a variety of legal matters, including American Indian Probate Reform Act wills, ICWA cases, administering tribal elections, and code development. Llerandi also previously worked as a domestic violence attorney on the Navajo Nation with DNA-People's Legal Services, as a deputy prosecutor with the Gila River Indian Community, and as a guardian ad litem on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. She also served as an attorney with Children's Legal Services of San Diego where she represented minors in dependency cases. Llerandi received her B.A. at Yale University and her J.D. at University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

THE>NNLPC TEAM



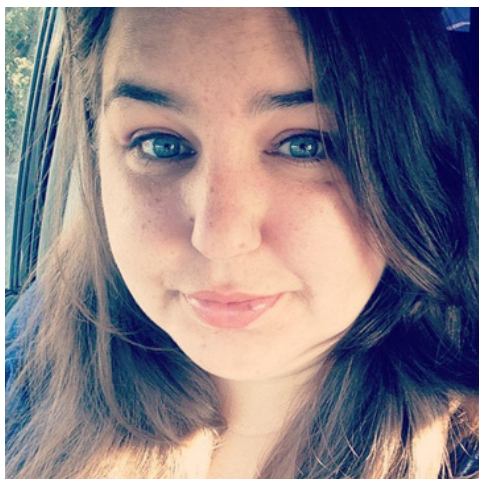
Alex Fay

Alexandra Fay is the inaugural Richard M. Milanovich Fellow at the Native Nations Law and Policy Center of UCLA School of Law. Her research explores the relationship between federal Indian law and American constitutional law. She studies federalism to understand tribal status in our constitutional structure. She also writes about tribal criminal legal systems, race and criminality, and sovereignty. Her past research has included topics of tribal co-management, food sovereignty, and water rights. In all her projects, she relies on critical methods drawn from critical race theory and political ecology. Fay received her B.A. magna cum laude at Columbia University, and her J.D. from Yale Law School. At Yale, she was an editor for the Yale Journal of Law & Feminism. She was also the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship, for which she taught English at Penza State University in Penza, Russia. Fay's scholarship has appeared in the Yale Law & Policy Review, the American Indian Law Journal, and Canopy Forum.



Rue Cepeda

Rue Cepeda (Querétaro Hñöhhñö) is the new Program Administrator for the Native Nations Law and Policy Center and the Tribal Legal Development Clinic at UCLA Law. As an alumna of California State University, Long Beach, she brings with her a B.A. in Psychology, and a Certificate in American Indian and Indigenous Studies. During her time at the university, she served as the Coordinator for the Puvungna Cultural Resource Center, serving all of the program and event needs for American Indian students; as well as the school's five cultural identity centers, through the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Cepeda was an Audience Researcher for educational programs at Rancho Los Alamitos; an archaeological site for the Gabrielino Tongva; where elementary students learn from tribal elders and cultural bearers. As a multimedia artist Rue also serves as a recurring workshop leader for International Indigenous Youth Council - Los Angeles, and Esperanza Community Housing Center.



Heather Morpew

Heather Morpew joined the Native Nations Law and Policy Center and Tribal Legal Development Clinic in January 2020 as their first program administrator after working as a paralegal and office manager for several years. She received her B.A. from California State University, Dominguez Hills in Global Studies. Heather split her time between>NNLPC and the Emmett Institute, working for both programs while attending school full-time. During her time with>NNLPC, she was responsible for the admin of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic; and spearheaded several programatic changes such as starting the>NNLPC newsletter; establishing>NNLPC's social media presence; expanding our website; and producing events for both>NNLPC and TLDC. At UCLA Law Morpew is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council and the Food From the Bar Committee.>NNLPC thanks and sends Heather our best wishes as she joins the Emmett Institute full-time as their Program Manager and begins grad school in the fall.

Faculty Highlights

2022-2023

Angela R. Riley

- Featured speaker at the Eleventh Annual John Paul Stevens Lecture at Colorado School of Law. In her lecture "The Third Sovereign: Tribal Courts and Indian Country Justice" she discussed Native Nations as the "third sovereign" within the legal framework of the United States. After her lecture, she had a fireside chat with Suzette Malveaux, Director of the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law, where she spoke about the role of tribal courts in ensuring justice in Indian country. October 18, 2022.
- Keynote Speaker in New Zealand for the Constitutional Kōrero. Riley represented Turtle Island as a keynote speaker at the conference that strives to transform New Zealand's Constitution to realize Māori rights. November 23, 2022.



Carole E. Goldberg

- NNLPC Founder Carole E. Goldberg was awarded the 2022-2023 Edward A. Dickinson Emeritus Professorship Award to honor her outstanding scholarly work and service as a Distinguished Professor of Law Emerita.

Lauren van Schilfgaarde

- Panelist at the University of Idaho College of Law's virtual Hot Topics in Indian Law Symposium's panel on "Violence Against Women Act and Reproductive Justice in Indian Country," February 17, 2023.
- Panelist for the Promise Institute's 2023 Symposium's panel on The Struggle for Human Rights in The United States where she talked about the work that NNLPC does and the international human rights mechanisms. March 4, 2023.
- Panelist at the University of Tulsa Law's Work of Sovereignty Symposium's panel on "Tribal Sovereignty." March 31, 2023.
- Panelist at the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Conference's panel on "Tribal Nations, Abortion Access, and Native American Reproductive Health." April 22, 2023.

Mica Llerandi

- Moderator for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability's – Prtizker Emerging Environmental Genius Award Conference. November 10, 2022.
- Presenter to the California Department of Social Services on the Impact of Brackeen v. Haaland. April 9, 2023.
- Panelist at the California Tribal Families Coalition, Updates on Indian Child Welfare and Cross Generational Trauma with Dr. Dionne Madrigal. November 2022.

Legal Scholarship



The Tribal Legal Development Clinic worked with the Yurok Tribe to publish "[Tribal Broadband](#)", a new publication that focuses on the creation and expansion of internet connectivity for tribal nations

Former TLDC Director Laruen van Schifgaarde and Yurok Deputy General Counsel Kori Cordero worked with TLDC students Jessica Govindu '22 and Alyssa Sanderson '23 to help tribal leaders and attorneys working on tribal lands to understand how broadband works and can be expanded.

- Professor Angela R. Riley and Professor Lauren van Schilfgaarde were celebrated in [TurtleTalk](#) for authoring the most downloaded law review articles in the field of Federal Indian law in 2022. Read their papers [here](#) and [here](#).
- Professor Angela R. Riley authored, "[The Ascension of Indigenous Cultural Property Law](#)", published in the Michigan Law Review, Vol. 121, No.1, 2022.
- Professor Angela R. Riley and Sarah Glenn Thompson authored "[Mapping Dual Sovereignty and Double Jeopardy in Indian Country Crimes](#)," recently published in the Columbia Law Review.
- Professor Lauren van Schilfgaarde co-authored [Tribal Nations and Abortion Access; A Path Forward](#), Harvard Journal of Law & Gender 2023 and authored [Restorative Justice as Regenerative Tribal Jurisdiction](#), California Law Review, forthcoming.
- Professor Angela R. Riley and Professor Lauren van Schilfgaarde contributed pieces to the Law and Political Economy Project's Symposium on Ezra Rosser's, Professor at American University Washington College of Law, book A Nation Within: Navajo Land and Economic Development. Riley's piece is titled [Good Native Governance for the Seven Generations](#) and van Schilfgaarde's piece is titled [Tribal Consultation as Right and Obligation](#).
- Richard M. Milanovich Fellow, Alexandra Fay, has produced a publication in the American Indian Law Journal, [Toward a Tribal Role in Groundwater Management](#), and [True Co-Management: Critical Approaches to Indigenous Food Sovereignty](#) in Yale Law and Policy Review.
- Professor Angela R. Riley published her latest article "[Before Mine!: Indigenous Property Rights for Jagenagenon](#)" in Harvard Law Review's June 2023 issue. The published work is a review of Michael Heller and James Salzman's Book, "Mine!: How the Hidden Rules of Ownership Control our Lives"(2021).

THANK YOU



Much of the work of the Native Nations Law and Policy Center is due to the incredible generosity of our donors. This has most recently included significant support from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and individual donors. We are incredibly grateful for these expressions of trust and investment in the advancement of Indian law. We strive to expand the breadth of the Indian law curriculum, Indian law scholarship, and Native representation in the profession.

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