Tribal Legal Development Clinic
Summer 2022 Law Clerk Application Now Open

The UCLA School of Law’s Tribal Legal Development Clinic connects law students directly with tribal leaders, officers, and attorneys, to provide legal development services to Indian tribes. The Clinic hosts non-litigation, tribally-driven projects that cover a wide cross-section of subjects. Students work in teams, consult regularly with a tribal liaison, and produce a work product under the supervision of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Legal Development Clinic Director.

Summer Clinic law clerks are a paid, full-time position, either at the UCLA School of Law campus or remotely. The Clinic is designed to foster the next generation of tribal lawyers. Students are exposed to the complexities, historical contexts, and professional and ethical responsibilities of tribal lawyering. Whenever possible, Clinic law clerks travel to Indian country to meet with tribal clients to collaborate, deliver work products to governing bodies, and participate in relevant meetings and hearings.

Clinic projects have included drafting statutes and other governing documents, researching and drafting appellate bench memorandums, building court infrastructure, and developing training materials. Prior projects have spanned the subject-matter spectrum and have included repatriation and cultural resource protection, family law, restorative justice, civil procedure, criminal procedure, non-profit development and more.

The Clinic is a part of UCLA Law’s Native Nations Law & Policy Center, a national resource for the support of Native Nations. The Center successfully works to enhance Indian nations' laws and governmental institutions while advancing cultural resource protection.

We are currently recruiting incoming 2L and 3L students for 2022 summer law clerk positions. Interested applicants should send the following to Heather Morphew at morphew@law.ucla.edu

- Cover letter;
- Resume;
- Transcript; and
- Writing sample
The start and end dates for the 2022 Summer Clerkships are flexible, but the positions must be no less than 9 weeks between May 30, 2022 and August 12, 2022. Law clerks work 40 hours per week. Candidates are rising 2Ls or 3Ls. We seek to have the clerkship result in an excellent writing sample. Native law students are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted until December 15, 2021.