

UCLA Law

Native Nations Law and Policy Center

2021-2022 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. Though the last few years have not been without 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 2021-22 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 research agendas. 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)

GRATON SCHOLARSHIP

In 2020, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria established the Graton Scholarship with 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 is created to create 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. The inaugural cohort of Graton Scholars received an additional \$10,000 a year to defray living expenses.

In the fall of 2021, we welcomed our inaugural class of three Graton Scholars to UCLA School of Law – Ashley Anderson, Shara Burwell, and Rachel Hsu. Graton Scholar Rachel Hsu notes the importance of the Scholarship by saying, “Higher education is often inaccessible, and the Graton Scholarship makes a significant difference in my ability to attend and excel in law school.” Graton Scholar Shara Burwell similarly evokes the intent and purpose of the gift by stating, “I am incredibly fortunate to have received the Graton Scholarship, and I hope to use this opportunity to give back to Native Nations.”

The three Graton 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. As we welcome our second cohort of Graton Scholars, we are excited to see Ashley, Shara, and Rachel taken on roles as mentors to incoming students.



FEDERATED INDIANS OF
GRATON
R A N C H E R I A

2021 GRATON SCHOLARS



Ashley Anderson



Shara Burwell



Rachel Hsu

Ashley Dawn Anderson is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a Graton Scholar at the UCLA School of Law. This summer, she interned for the Litigation Team at the Natural Resources Defense Council. And after law school, she hopes to defend the water and land rights of Native Nations. Ashley completed an honors degree in History and Literature at Harvard College (Class of 2019). During college, she taught biology classes for a summer in China, studied abroad in Prague, and worked as a Student Tour Guide at the Harvard Art Museums. After college, she split her time between Boston and her childhood home near Lake Tenkiller in Cherokee County, Oklahoma, where she tried out various jobs (freelance editor, a K-12 substitute teacher, a barback, and a data annotator for MIT) before starting law school last fall. This year, Ashley will serve as Co-President of NALSA.

Shara Burwell is a descendant of the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe Tribe in present-day Minnesota. She was born in San Francisco and grew up in the Bay Area. She attended college at San Diego State University, where she earned a B.A. in Economics, and a minor in Spanish. She graduated in 2018 and moved to Ollantaytambo, Peru to work for Awamaki, a non-profit that helps Indigenous women start their own businesses and lift their rural Andean communities out of poverty. After a year of living abroad, Shara got a job in the legal and finance department of a small health and tech start-up, where she worked until she moved back to Southern California for law school. Shara is now a 2L and is excited to get more involved with all that UCLA Law has to offer. She joined the staff of the Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance last spring, and was accepted to UCLA's Law Review staff this summer. She will begin her tenure as the Co-President of the Native American Law Student's Association. Shara is planning a career in Federal Indian Law, and looks forward to learning Federal Indian Law from Professor Riley this fall. Someday, she hopes to work for a law firm that practices Tribal law and policy.

Rachel Hsu studied art history and architecture at Barnard College of Columbia University. From there, she began her career in the arts, working for a museum, a gallery, and a fine art studio in New York. This arts background supported her entry into the legal field, and she joined an intellectual property boutique firm as a legal assistant in 2019. There, she worked closely with issues of cultural heritage and appropriation, work that inspired her to pursue a career in cultural property law. In her first year at UCLA Law, Rachel took Property Law with Angela Riley, a class that explored Indigenous land disputes in America and the federal appropriation of culturally significant sites. This provided a foundation for her work as a summer law clerk with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, a Tribe fighting to protect a ceremonial painting on land appropriated for a NASA missile testing. Rachel is also a staff editor on the Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture, & Resistance. Rachel has built strong personal and professional connections on campus. She was a student government representative in her first year and will be the communications director in the coming school year. As a UCLA Law Fellows mentor, she volunteered to advise two undergraduate students considering a career in law. She hopes to give back throughout her life and build a career rooted in community.

UCLA School of Law
Native Nations Law & Policy Center

Join us for a debrief of the U.S. Supreme Court's Opinion in **U.S. v Denezpi**

THURSDAY, JUNE 16
12:15 PM (PT)
VIA ZOOM



Jennifer Weddle
Co-Chair, American Indian Law Practice, GreenbergTraurig



Moderated by:
Angela R. Riley
Director, UCLA Native Nations Law & Policy Center




Gregory Ablavsky
Professor, Stanford Law School

RSVP:
<https://ucla.in/3tzr79Q>


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Native Nations Law & Policy Center

Castro-Huerta v. Oklahoma and the Attack on Tribal Sovereignty: Where Do We Go From Here?


WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
10:00 AM (PT)
VIA ZOOM



Riyaz Kanji,
Founding Member and
Directing Attorney,
Kanji & Katzen



Carole E. Goldberg,
Jonathan D. Varat
Distinguished Professor
of Law Emerita,
UCLA School of Law



Sara Hill,
Attorney General,
Cherokee Nation

Moderated by:
Angela R. Riley
Director, Native Nations
Law and Policy Center

<https://ucla.in/3AmdleU>

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NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Dobbs v. Jackson: The Impact on Native Reproductive Health

FRIDAY, JULY 1
10:00 AM (PT)
VIA ZOOM



Abigail Echo-Hawk,
Executive Vice
President, Seattle
Indian Health Board



Aila Hoss
Professor, Indiana
University McKinney
School of Law



Rachael Lorenzo
Co Founder,
Indigenous Women
Rising



Mary Kathryn Nagle
Legal Counsel,
National Indigenous
Women's Resource
Center

Introduction by:
Makalika Naholowa'a
Board Member, National
Native American Bar
Association

RSVP:
<https://ucla.in/3HZr7Gb>

Moderated by:
Lauren van Schilfgaarde
Director, UCLA Tribal Legal
Development Clinic

Speaker Series

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. All webinars were recorded and are freely available at the NNLPC webpage.

SUMMER 2022 SPEAKER SERIES

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER SPEAKERS SERIES AS WE ENGAGE INDIAN COUNTRY ON CUTTING EDGE ISSUES IN THE FIELD. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING!

Castro-Huerta v. Oklahoma and the Attack on Tribal Sovereignty: Where Do We Go From Here?

● ● ●

Dobbs v. Jackson: The Impact on Native Reproductive Health

● ● ●

Debrief of the U.S. Supreme Court's Opinion in U.S. v Denezpi

● ● ●

UCLA School of Law
Native Nations Law & Policy Center

Tribal Legal Development Clinic

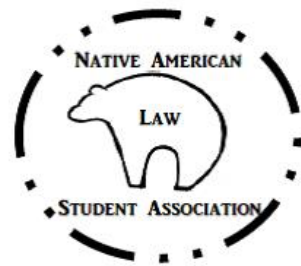


Featuring, from right to left, Brett Roberts, Tribal Legal Development Clinic Law (TLDC) Clerk; Alex Roider, TLDC Law Clerk; Kristen Stipanov, TLDC Law Clerk; Hon. Dean Stout, Chief Judge, Bishop Tribal Court; Kimberly Cluff, Legal Director, California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC); Linda Ruis, CTFC; Lauren van Schilfgaarde, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director, TLDC; Michelle Castagne, Staff Attorney, CTFC; Hon. Stephen M. Place, Inyo County Superior Court.

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 2021-2022, the Clinic was led by Lauren van Schilfgaarde, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director. In Fall 2021, the Clinic worked with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians of California, the Wiyot Tribe of California, the Yurok Tribe of California, and the Pueblo Action Alliance of New Mexico. Students drafted code, researched Tribal land conservancies, Tribal environmental authority for groundwater, and Tribal broadband networks. Notably, as a product of Clinic research, the Clinic partnered with the Yurok Tribe to publish “Tribal Broadband”, an introductory toolkit designed for Tribes regarding common wired and wireless internet technologies and legal considerations for Tribes seeking to create or increase their internet connectivity. The publication is freely available on the UCLA NNLPC website: <https://law.ucla.edu/academics/centers/native-nations-law-policy-center>.

In Spring 2022, the Clinic worked with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of California, the California Tribal Families Coalition, the Hualapai Tribe of Arizona, the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission of California, and the Red Lake Nation of Minnesota. Clinic students drafted more code, researched Tribal child welfare, cultural resource protection, food safety regulations and Tribal taxation, and clerked for a Tribal Appellate Court. The Clinic continued its rapid pace into Summer 2022. As a full-time Clinic, we hired three full-time law clerks. Over the summer, the Clinic worked with the Bishop Paiute Tribe of California, the California Tribal Families Coalition, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma, and the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians of California. Students additionally researched the protection of traditional knowledge under international law in anticipation of the World Intellectual Property Organization’s Intergovernmental Committee meeting in September 2022. Over the summer, Clinic students had the opportunity to visit both the Yurok Tribe of California and the Bishop Paiute Tribe of California (pictured above).

STUDENT LIFE



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.

2021-2022 NALSA BOARD

Alyssa Sanderson (Co-President), '23

Paton Moody (Co-President), '23

Chloë Freeman (Vice President), '23

Alex Sampson (Secretary), '23

Grace Carson (Recruitment Chair), '22

Jessica Govindu (Alumni Chair), '22

In February 2022, Alyssa Sanderson '23 and Grace Carson '22 competed on behalf of the UCLA School of Law at the National Native American Law Students Association Annual Moot Court Competition. Coached by Lauren van Schilfgaarde, Alyssa and Grace submitted an appellate brief, and then trained to deliver oral argument for both the petitioner and defendant. The National NALSA annual moot court competition offers an incomparable opportunity to engage in complex Indian law issues with the most prominent Indian law scholars and burgeoning students across the country. Hosted this year by the University of Colorado Law, the moot court problem concerned a fictional proposed lithium mine, whose construction would alleviate dependence on fossil fuels but simultaneously destroy a critical sacred space for a fictional tribe. The legal issues were complex. Alyssa and Grace gave their full commitment and did us proud!

Moot Court



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' JOURNAL OF LAW, CULTURE & RESISTANCE

2021 Editorial Board:

Editor-in-Chief:

Madhavi Narayanan, '22
Chloë Freeman, '23

Articles Editor:

Jessica Govindu, '22
Jenny Poretz, '23
Galyn Sumida-Ross, '23

Staff Editors:

Alex Sampson, '23
Cal Armijo, '23
Chloe Michaelidis, '23
Ben Hollander, '23
Rachel Hsu, '24
Shara Burwell, '24
Lior Krancer, '24
Patrick Nugent, '24
Alexandra Speed, '24
Erin Rubin, '23

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



Fed Bar Conference

The>NNLPC brought together current students, alumni, and honored affiliates for a long overdue in-person reception at the Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference in Albuquerque, NM in April, 2022. We honored Lauren van Schilfgaarde, recipient of the 2022>NNLPC Alumni of the Year award.



GRADUATION CELEBRATION



NNLPC hosted an outdoor graduation dinner for our UCLA School of Law 2022>NALSA graduates. Graduates and their guests listened to remarks from Professors Goldberg, Riley, and van Schilfgaarde, and our graduates were honored in a blanket ceremony orchestrated by UCLA>NALSA Co-Presidents Alyssa Sanderson and Paton Moody.

The 2022 graduates were Grace Carson, Jessica Govindu, and Marlin Gramajo.

FACULTY



Carole Goldberg, Lauren van Schilfgaarde, Angela Riley

Angela R. Riley

Angela R. Riley (Citizen Potawatomi Nation) is a jurist and scholar recognized internationally for her contributions to Indigenous Peoples' rights. She is Professor of Law and American Indian Studies at UCLA and is Director of the Native Nations Law and Policy Center. She was appointed in July 2022 as Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native American and Indigenous Affairs and also directs the J.D./M.A. joint degree program in Law and American Indian Studies. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Oklahoma and her law degree from Harvard Law School, after which she entered legal practice. In 2003 she became the youngest person and first woman to be elected as Justice of the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma. She has served as Chief Justice since 2010. Riley also currently sits as an Appellate Judge at the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Court of Appeals and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Court of Appeals. She is a member of the American Law Institute and a past Co-Chair of the United Nations - Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Policy Board. Her work – focusing on cultural property and Native governance – has been published in the Nation's leading legal journals.

Lauren van Schilfgaarde

Lauren van Schilfgaarde (Cochiti Pueblo) served as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic from 2019 to June 2022. Starting in July 2022, van Schilfgaarde will be a UCLA Research Fellow in preparation for her transition to a ladder faculty position as Assistant Professor in the law school and American Indian Studies Center in January 2023. Through her transition, the Native Nations Law and Policy Center will be able to increase its curricula offerings and Indian law scholarship. van Schilfgaarde's scholarship examines tribal sovereignty, tribal courts, and international Indigenous issues. Prior to teaching at UCLA Law, van Schilfgaarde served as Tribal Law Specialist with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute. van Schilfgaarde obtained her J.D. from UCLA School of Law and her B.A. from Colorado College.

Carole E. Goldberg

Carole E. Goldberg is the Jonathan D. Varat Distinguished Professor of Law Emerita. In keeping with her prolific career, Professor Goldberg's retirement has failed to slow her impactful contributions, including significant assistance in the administration of the Center, and in serving as a panelist in NNLPC Speaker Series. In 2007, Professor Goldberg was appointed as a Justice of the Hualapai Court of Appeals, which was a client of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic in Spring 2022. Professor Goldberg has written widely on the subject of federal Indian law and tribal law, including numerous articles, chapters, and books.

Looking Ahead

2022-2023

Lauren van Schilfgaarde to join Native Nations Law & Policy Center and American Indian Studies as a tenure-track faculty member

Lauren van Schilfgaarde (Cochiti Pueblo), currently the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Legal Development Clinic Director, will be joining UCLA School of Law and UCLA American Indian Studies as a new tenure-track faculty member next year.

Lauren brings a wealth of knowledge to this position, having spent years working with tribal communities as the Tribal Law Specialist at the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, teaching and mentoring students as the director of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic at UCLA School of Law, and passionately advocating on behalf of Native peoples in the national arena. She will be an incredible asset to UCLA.



GRATON SCHOLARS

2022-2023



Leila Bathke



Mary Cruz



Aine Lawlor



Kyler McVoy

NNLPC NEW HIRES

SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS DIRECTOR OF THE TRIBAL LEGAL DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

Mica Llerandi (Diné/Navajo) will be the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the UCLA Tribal Legal Development Clinic at UCLA School of Law starting in September 2022. The Clinic's work is made possible by a generous gift from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Llerandi 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 previously 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.



RICHARD M. MILANOVICH FELLOWSHIP IN LAW

Thanks to a generous, five year \$600,000 commitment from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Native Nations Law and Policy Center has established the Richard M. Milanovich Fellowship in Law. The Milanovich Fellowship is the first-of-its-kind post-graduate fellowship designed to foster new scholars in Native American law.

Alexandra Fay will be the inaugural Richard M. Milanovich Fellow, starting in September 2022. 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 first publication is forthcoming in the Yale Law & Policy Review.



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. We invite you to join us.

NNLPC DONATIONS

Donations to the NNLPC furthers our legal advocacy on behalf of Native Nations and allows us to offer invaluable training and support to students entering the profession of Native American law.

If you would like to contribute to the Native Nations Law & Policy Center:

[Donate here](#)

