

INDIAN LAW SECTION  
Board of Directors

2005 ANNUAL REPORT  
December 28, 2005  
Levon B. Henry, Chair

I. Activities Undertaken

The Indian Law Section held several meetings this past year under the leadership of Rosemary Maestas Swazo; however, due to personal reasons Rosemary stepped down as the Chair of the Section. The remaining Board members selected Levon Henry to serve as Chair and complete Rosemary's term. The Board members also selected Levon to serve as Chair-elect for 2006, again filling Rosemary's term for 2006.

Pam Ray, past-Chair, has made an invaluable contribution to the Section in terms of historical knowledge and the ILS Board members thanked her for her service at the latest Board meeting.

CLE – The ILS did not host a CLE this year for a number of reasons; however, the Board is looking forward to hosting a CLE program in 2006. The Board made this matter a priority for the upcoming year and with the addition of new members to the Board we hope the program will come together. Preliminary plans are being put in place at this time and the ILS is planning to have the CLE in the latter part of the year in conjunction with the kick off of the Scholarship Program.

Scholarship Program - Previously the ILS conducted a Student Writing Competition that was successful. The Board, on reflection of the competition, decided to focus the attention on providing assistance to law students in New Mexico who decided to practice in the state in the area of Indian law. An ILS Scholarship Committee is in place and chaired by Karl Johnson. The purpose of the Committee is to establish the standards for providing assistance to law students and to raise the necessary funds to provide that assistance.

Indian Law Publication – The ILS began an effort in 2004 to gather articles for publication of an insert to the Bar Bulletin in 2005. Thanks to the determined work of the Section lead by Larry Ruzow, Pam Ray and Aaron Frankland a number of articles relating to Indian law matters was presented as an insert to the Bar Bulletin this year. A number of notable practitioners and judges contributed to the insert that covered a variety of topics. The Board is discussing ways to build on this publication in an effort to bring informative Indian law articles to the general membership of the bar.

Nominating Committee – The ILS made a number of notable decisions this past year surrounding the leadership of the Section as noted earlier and the nominating committee

provided the Section with three new members to the Board who will take their official seats in 2006. The newest members include Cynthia Aragon, Lucy Fivekiller Beals and Melanie Patten Fritzsche.

The ILS Board and Section members discussed ways to provide quality service to the Section members. The plans for 2006 include improvements in communicating with members by way of periodic newsletters, bar bulletin columns and upgrades to the website, involving members in the planning of and participation in the CLE program(s), recruiting potential new members through the scholarship program and creating a law student section of the ILS.

The Board has set its goals for 2006 and with the leadership of the experienced Board members and the excitement of the latest additions I firmly believe the ILS will meet and exceed those goals. It must be noted that the ILS recognizes the valuable assistance of the State Bar, especially Christine Morganti and Tony Horvat. Without their continued involvement with the Section we would be hard pressed to continue in our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

*Levon B. Henry*

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Chair, Indian Law Section