

INDIAN LAW SECTION
Board of Directors
2006 Annual Report
December 28, 2006
Levon B. Henry, Chair

I. Activities Undertaken Since Last Report

First I would like to note the Indian Law Section Board lost a valuable member this past year. Lucy Fivekiller Beals, a Board member who gave of her time and contributed greatly to the Indian Law Section, passed away suddenly earlier this year. It was a great loss to the Indian Law community. Our prayers continue to go out to her family.

The Indian Law Section has made great strides over the past year thanks to the Board members and Section members who gave graciously of their time. This past year the Board met on a regular basis which contributed to the accomplishments of the ILS. The support we received from the State Bar Center is appreciated and a special thanks goes to Christine Morganti and Tony Horvat for the assistance to the Indian Law Section.

CLE Committee - The efforts of the ILS Board members paid off this year as the ILS hosted a CLE seminar for Section members, tribal court advocates, tribal judges and tribal officials. The CLE seminar centered on the *Santa Clara Pueblo v. Martinez* case by giving participants updated information on Indian law issues related to the case. The ILS plans to work off the success of this year's CLE for a 2007 CLE.

Scholarship Committee – The ILS Board's success in providing two scholarships to UNM Law School students is another highlight for this past year. The Scholarship Committee of the Board and Board members committed much time and energy in making this inaugural ILS Scholarship a success. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide funds for UNM Law Students, who will be practicing in the Indian law field in New Mexico, for use toward bar examination and bar preparation course fees. Two UNM students were selected for this inaugural scholarship – Suzanne Martinez and Casey Douma.

Section Newsletter – The ILS Board planned to build on the success of the ILS law news insert to the State Bar Bulletin; however, time constraints proved to be the obstacle in getting a newsletter to Section members. Articles for a newsletter have been generated and the latest discussion is on the method of distribution to Section members and NM Bar members.

State Bar Convention – The ILS hosted an Indian Law panel at the State Bar Annual Convention in Taos. The topic of discussion was "Doing Business in Indian Country" and Geoff Tager, Judge, Tesuque Tribal Court and Jim Fitting, former Assistant Attorney General, Navajo Nation provided information on the topic. The ILS believes with the

increasing legal activity in Indian Country practitioners should be aware of local rules, tribal laws and most important tribal custom and tradition. The ILS looks forward to working with the State Bar in upcoming presentations of this nature.

II. Ongoing Activities

The Indian Law Section will continue to work toward raising funds for the 2007 Indian Law Section Scholarship. This past year six applicants submitted letters for the scholarship with two receiving the funds only due to limitations on available funds. The ILS found an increasing need for funds for bar exam fees and bar preparation course fees and the unavailability of such funds for law students. The ILS intends to fill this funding gap to assist those students who plan to work in the Indian Law field in New Mexico.

The ILS plans to host a second CLE program related to Indian law issues for the benefit of Section members and other interested persons. In addition, the ILS plans to keep members updated on the ILS activities by a regular newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Levon Henry

Levon B. Henry, Chair
Indian Law Section