

INDIAN LAW SECTION

Board of Directors

2007 Annual Report

December 22, 2007

I. Activities Undertaken Since Last Report

The Indian Law Section has made great strides over the past year thanks to the directors and many Section members who gave generously of their time. Again this year, the Board met on a regular bi-monthly basis, with four active committees, composed of both directors and Section members, implementing the Board's decisions between meetings. A summary of each committee's activities follows.

CLE Committee. The CLE Committee, co-chaired by directors Melanie Fritzsche and Helen Padilla, planned and presented two highly successfully CLE seminars during 2007. The first was a session at the State Bar annual meeting in Mescalero in July dealing with Pueblo criminal jurisdiction and presented by Section member Richard Hughes. The second was a half-day presentation at the State Bar Center in November preceding the Section's annual membership luncheon and meeting, exploring issues surrounding economic development in Indian Country. Presenters were Section members Wayne Bladh, Cheryl Fairbanks, Pam Kushmaul, Mekko Miller, Sarita Nair and Christina West; Section director Ms. Fritzsche; and business relations manager for the Native American section of Wells Fargo Bank, Ray Tafoya.

Media Committee. The Media Committee, co-chaired by directors Aaron Frankland and Cynthia Aragon Stanaland, oversees both the Section's webpage and the publication of its spring and fall newsletters. A great deal of progress was made this year in developing the webpage into an informative and useful tool for the state's Indian Law practitioners. The newsletters, which are posted on the webpage and distributed by email to Section members, contain both Section news and articles submitted by Section members dealing with current topics in Indian Law.

Outreach Committee. New this year, the Outreach Committee was created to build Section membership and involve the members more actively in the work of the Section. Chaired by director Georgene Louis, the Committee hosted two Section mixers during the year, each of which attracted more than 30 attendees. The Committee also conducted an active outreach effort to University of New Mexico law students, and in cooperation with the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division, began work on the "Choose Law" program, an ABA YLD-sponsored effort to encourage minority high school students to consider careers in law.

Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee, chaired by YLD Section liaison Mark Baker, conducted the second year of the Section's Bar Preparation Scholarship program, which helps defray the costs of bar examination application fees and preparation courses for third-year UNM law students who intend to take the New Mexico Bar and practice Indian Law. The Committee led a successful

Board fund raising effort, solicited applications, and selected as this year's recipient Nellisa Kennedy, currently chair of the UNM Native American Law Students Association.

II. Ongoing Activities

For 2008, the Section's Board of Directors is committed to building upon this year's successes. The Board plans to:

- Continue its bi-monthly Board meetings and active committee work between meetings;
- Conduct CLE seminars at the State Bar annual meeting and in conjunction with the Section's annual luncheon and membership meeting;
- Publish spring and fall newsletters, and continue to improve the Section's webpage;
- Expand the number of Section mixers to four, continue the outreach effort to UNM law students, and implement the "Choose Law" program for minority high school students; and,
- Implement the third year of the Section's Bar Preparation Scholarship program, with particular attention to solidifying its fund raising base and attracting more scholarship applicants.

Finally, the Section's Board of Directors wants to extend its appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the support it has received from the State Bar staff, and especially to Christine Morganti and Tony Horvat for their invaluable assistance to the Indian Law Section.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Johnson, Chair
Indian Law Section