



For Immediate Release

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FIRST 13 NATIVE AMERICAN ATTORNEYS TO ARGUE BEFORE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT UNITE AT LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

“The First Thirteen” Event Brings Together Native American Legal Pioneers to Share Their Collective Experiences in a First-of-its-Kind Interview

Albuquerque, NM – March 12, 2012 – Native American leaders who paved the path of Federal Indian Law before the U.S. Supreme Court will participate in an interview-style symposium at “The First Thirteen: Personal Reflections of the Argument” event on Friday, March 16th. The symposium will feature the first 13 Native attorneys who argued before the U.S. Supreme Court from 1980 to 2001.

Sponsored by the American Indian Law Center, Law & Indigenous Peoples Program at the University of New Mexico School of Law, Indian Legal Programs at Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and the New Mexico Indian Bar Association, the symposium will feature one-on-one interviews with some of the biggest influencers in Federal Indian Law.

- Rodney B. Lewis – (Gila River Indian Community) argued *Central Machinery v. Arizona State Tax Commission*
- Raymond Cross – (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation) argued *Three Affiliated Tribes v. Wold Engineering*
- Arlinda F. Locklear – (Lumbee Indian Tribe) argued *Solem v. Bartlett and County of Oneida v. Oneida Indian Nation*
- Jeanne S. Whiteing – (Blackfeet Nation) argued *Blackfeet Tribe v. Montana*
- Terry L. Pechota – (Rosebud Sioux Tribe) argued *U.S. v. Dion*
- Marilyn B. Miles – (Kickapoo Ancestry) argued *Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protection Association*
- Dale T. White – (Mohawk) argued *California v. U.S.*
- Susan M. Williams – (Sioux) argued *Wyoming v. U.S.*
- G. William Rice – (Keetoowah Cherokee) argued *Oklahoma Tax Commission v. Sac and Fox Nation*
- Martin E. Seneca, Jr. – (Seneca Nation) argued *Hagen v. Utah*

- Melody L. McCoy – (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) argued *Strate v. A-1 Contractors*
- Heather R. Kendall-Miller – (Athabaskan) argued *Alaska v. Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government*
- S. James Anaya – (Purepecha and Chiricahua Apache ancestry) argued *Nevada v. Hicks*

“The *First Thirteen* will be an incredible event, as it will allow today's legal professionals a first-hand perspective of some of the most transformative figures in Native law,” said Helen B. Padilla, Director of the American Indian Law Center. “We are honored to be part of a first-class team of sponsors to make this historic event a reality.”

The University of New Mexico School of Law located at 1117 Stanford Dr. NE in Albuquerque will host the event. All proceeds will benefit the Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives (PLSI).

PLSI is an intensive two-month program that prepares American Indian and Alaska Native individuals for the rigors of law school by essentially replicating the first semester of law school. Likened to boot camp by many former participants, the PLSI concentrates its content into eight weeks of instruction, research and study, teaching students the unique methods of law school research, analysis, and writing.

About the American Indian Law Center Inc.

Established in 1967, AILC is the oldest existing Indian-managed and Indian-operated legal and public policy organization in the country serving to strengthen, promote, and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education, training, and leadership. For more information please visit www.ailc-inc.org.

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