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2025

INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

*Analysis of New Developments
Affecting Tribal Rights, Resources and
Relationships in Minnesota and Beyond*

Featured Sessions

- The Trump Administration's Impact on Indian Country
- *The Indian Card* – The History, Implications and Importance of Native Identity

Featured Guest Speakers

- **Holly Cook Macarro**
The Angle
Washington, District of Columbia
- **Prof. Carrie Lowry Schuettpelz**
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
- **Mark Cruz**
Gallatin Public Affairs
Salem, Oregon
- **Prof. Kekek Jason Stark**
University of Montana
School of Law
Missoula, Montana

PLUS – Appearances by Prof. Sarah Deer, Hillary Hoffmann, and Prof. Ann Tweedy

Conference luncheon
honoring
**Judge Korey
Wahwassuck (ret.)**
Ninth Judicial District



ATTEND IN PERSON
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

Minnesota CLE Conference Center, Minneapolis

CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON?
View the online replay Tuesday, June 10, 2025

◆ PLANNING
COMMITTEE
MEMBER

NATIONAL
SPEAKER

ATTEND IN PERSON
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

2025 INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
CHECK-IN, BREAKFAST, “MEET & GREET”

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.
Prayer and Welcome

9:10 – 9:55 a.m.
2025 Case Law Update

An update of recent decisions and important cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and Minnesota state courts, and the implications these cases have for your clients and tribal nations.

– Professor Kekek Jason Stark

9:55 – 10:00 a.m. BREAK

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
The Trump Administration’s Impact on Indian Country

This panel will discuss the first 100 days of the second Trump Presidency and how it has impacted Indian country, along with the administration’s potential priorities over the next four years.

– Holly Cook Macarro
– Mark Cruz
– Wendy L. Helgemo, moderator

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
The Indian Card – A Discussion of the History, Implications, and Importance of Native Identity

This session, featuring Carrie Schuettpez, author of the *The Indian Card: Who Gets to be Native in America*, delves into the complex issue of Native American identity and how laws and policies around Native identity impact Native culture and society. Leveraging the scholarship of Professor’s Schuettpez book, this session will look at the historical context of tribal enrollment; unpack the practical implications of tribal membership relative to federal benefits, jurisdiction, and tribal sovereignty; and touch upon the debates surrounding blood quantum, lineal descent, and other issues of membership.

– Professor Jill Doerfler, Ph.D.
– Rachel J. Kraker
– Professor Carrie Lowry Schuettpez, Ph.D.
– Judge Sarah I. Wheelock, moderator



12:15 – 1:40 p.m.
LUNCH – Courtesy of Minnesota CLE

Honoring of Judge Korey Wahwassuck (ret.)
Ninth Judicial District



1:40 – 2:40 p.m.
Interjurisdictional Collaboration: From Transfer Agreements to Joint Jurisdiction Courts

Attendees will learn about a broad range of Tribal-State-Local interjurisdictional collaborations, and will receive tips for successfully launching new collaborative projects and reinvigorating existing ones.

– Jason Decker
– Hillary Hoffmann
– Judge Korey Wahwassuck

2:40 – 2:50 p.m. BREAK

2:50 – 3:35 p.m.
AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION

001
Practice Development – Researching Federal Indian Law and Tribal Law

Researching Federal Indian law and Tribal law can be a daunting task because it often requires the practitioner to locate historical resources, legislative history for statutes enacted more than a century ago, tribal customs, tribal court laws and opinions, and other sources that are not readily found on Westlaw/Lexis. This panel will provide you with practical guidance about how to find the sources you need to get the results your clients want.

– Professor Sarah Deer
– Sarah E. Larsen
– Judge Colette Routel

002
Preserving Tribal Sovereignty and Protecting the Rights of Indian Children and Families – The 2025 ICWA Update

Join experienced ICWA practitioners for an inside look at the issues being litigated before the Minnesota Supreme Court in *In the Matter of the Welfare of the Children of L.K. and A.S. Parents, No. A24-1296*, a case involving the application of ICWA and MIFPA in Minnesota, and *Tix v. Tix*, a Minnesota federal court case addressing the issue of whether a Tribal Court has authority to adjudicate a marriage dissolution proceeding when one of the parties is not a tribal member and neither party resides on tribal lands. The session includes a discussion of Tribal Court practices, ICWA, and MIFPA in Minnesota custody and child support cases.

– Jody M. Alholinna
– Gary A. Debele
– Veronica S. Newcomer

3:35 – 3:45 p.m. BREAK

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
Decolonizing Gender: How Tribes Can Protect Transgender, Two-Spirit, and Gender-Nonconforming Individuals through Tribal Law

1.0 elimination of bias applied for

This panel will discuss the current legal landscape affecting transgender, two-spirit, and other gender-nonconforming (GNC) individuals’ rights at the federal and state levels; provide a brief, non-exhaustive review of how Western colonization affected Indigenous communities’ traditional ideas about gender; and describe opportunities for Tribes to protect transgender, two-spirit, and other GNC individuals through Tribal law.

– Lenny Hayes
– Professor Ann Tweedy
– Ellen C. Currier, moderator

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.
ANNUAL RECEPTION

Spend time creating community and connecting with friends and colleagues.



Register online today at www.minncle.org

COURSE INFORMATION

LIVE IN PERSON
Friday, May 16, 2025
Minnesota CLE Conference Center
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 370
Third Floor City Center, Minneapolis

ONLINE REPLAY
Tuesday, June 10, 2025
View online at www.minncle.org
A moderator will be available to answer questions by e-mail.

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