



“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”

Executive Officers

Joseph Morsette, *President*; Diane Wehrman, *Vice-President*; Jennifer Cross, *Secretary*;
Wendy Ellis-O’Konek, *Treasurer*; Tim Lemon, *Sergeant at Arms*; Anne Smith, *3L Representative*; Charlotte Skar, *2L Representative*; Nelson Locklear, *1L Representative*;
and Mario Alcon, *Undergraduate Representative*.
Keith Richotte Jr., *Faculty Advisor/Assistant Professor of Law*.

The University of North Dakota School of Law Native American Law Students Association 2008-2009 End of Year Chapter Report

Who were the members of the UND NALSA Chapter this year?

Joseph Morsette, Diane Wehrman, Jennifer Cross, Wendy Ellis-O’Konek, Tim Lemon, Anne Smith, Charlotte Skar, Nelson Locklear, Mario Alcon, Nicole Klein, Ruth Hopkins, Rhiannon Gorham, Belete Shiferaw, Elizabeth Ebert, Woosug Choi, Thomas Reep, David Welling, Marty Breaker, Marie Miller, and Holly Annis.

What are the main goals/purposes of the UND NALSA Chapter?

To provide an organization for Native Americans and other law students which will promote unity and cooperation; to provide a basis for which work can be done for the advancement of Native Americans; to provide better communication between and among Native American and other law students and the Native American people, Native American lawyers, and the general public; to provide support and assistance to Native American law students, including tutorial programs, research projects, and scholarship development for law students whose goal is to practice law regarding Native American legal issues; to assist recruitment of Native Americans into the University of North Dakota School of Law; to assist Native Americans and other undergraduate students interested in Indian issues in their preparation and application to law school; to advance a more comprehensive Native American law program at the University of North Dakota School of Law; and to provide a forum for the discussion of legal problems relating to law affecting Native Americans.

How did the UND NALSA Chapter fulfill the requirements of its own goals/purposes?

One example was that we provided the American Indian Student Services Program Coordinator/Recruiter, Kristy Parisien with a NALSA Display Board, a Fall and a Spring Brochure outlining our *Calendar of Events*. A second example was that we advertised via E-mail for the Student Bar Association President, Grant Harrison every time there was an LSAT preparation session held at the UND School of Law. A third example was that the current NALSA President took the time to call prospective and interested students who wish to attend UND School of Law this coming fall.



“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”

What types of regular activities did UND NALSA Chapter conduct this year?

Executive and General Meetings:

The President called/conducted one Executive Meeting and one General Meeting during the months of August, September, October, November, and February. The President also called/conducted one General Meeting in March, and called/conducted an Executive Transitional Meeting in April.

Social Events:

Fall Bowling in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

The Northern Plains Indian Law Center Speaker Series:

Fall 2008 marked the first year the Northern Plains Indian Law Center partnered with NALSA to host speakers and events throughout the year. The NPILC’s purposes are to assist tribal governments in addressing legal issues affecting tribal lands and members, and to promote diversity within the legal profession by increasing recruitment and retention of American Indian law students. The Speaker Series focused on incorporating tribal law and federal Indian law into the law school curriculum and increasing awareness of Indian law issues. The Series consisted of the following lectures:

- **“Why Take Indian Law Courses?”** - September 3, 2008

Presented by Keith Richotte Jr. , *Assistant Professor of Law and Associate Justice of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Court of Appeals*

- **“20 Years Of Tribal Gaming Under the Indian Gaming Regulation Act (IGRA)”** - September 24, 2008

Presented by Kathryn Rand, *Acting Dean, Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy, a component of the Northern Plains Indian Law Center*

- **“Environmental Justice In Indian Country”** - November 12, 2008

Presented by James Grijalva, *Professor of Law, Director of the Tribal Environmental Law Project and Fulbright Scholar for Aboriginal Legal and Resource Rights at the University of Alberta in 2009*

- **“Tribal Court Civil Jurisdiction: Clear As Mud”** - February 3, 2009

Presented by B.J. Jones, *Chief Justice of the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court of Appeals, a Special Magistrate of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court and an alternate judge of the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Court; Adjunct Professor of Law and Director of the Tribal Judicial Institute*



“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”

The Indian Issues Infusion (3I) Speaker Series:

The 3I Speaker Series was brought to reality from last year’s NALSA Chapter and aimed to bring attention to American Indian Issues both to the law school community and to increase awareness of the issues to the entire UND community. The Series consisted of the following lectures:

- **“Incorporating Indian Law Into Legal Writing”** - October 22, 2008

Presented by Tonya Kowalski, *Associate Professor of Law - Washburn University School of Law; Co-Sponsored with the Law School Faculty Exchange Program with Washburn University*

- **“We Have To Re-Educate Them: The Impact Of Ignorance & Stereotypes On Legal & Inter-governmental Relations”** - January 28, 2009

Presented by Greg Gagnon , Ph.D., *Associate Professor of Indian Studies*

- **“Public Law 280”** - February 25, 2009

Presented by Anita Fineday, *Chief Judge White Earth Tribal Nation*

- **“Fighting Sioux: A Discussion Of The Nickname, NCAA Settlement, UND’s Current Efforts, And Future Of The Logo”** - April 1, 2009

Presented by Grant Shaft, *Chair of NDUS Committee on the Logo*

What University of North Dakota Indian Association’s (UNDIA) Annual Events did UND NALSA Chapter participate/attend this year?

Every UND student currently enrolled at the University is a member of UNDIA.

The NALSA President and Vice-President assisted in the setting up and breaking down of tables and chairs for the Annual UNDIA Fall picnic. The NALSA President sang with the River’s Edge Drum Group during the Annual UNDIA Halloween Carnival.

What National Native American Law Students Association’s (NNALSA) Annual Events did UND NALSA Chapter participate/attend this year?

The UND NALSA Chapter paid the Annual Chapter dues of \$50; and all of the General and the Associate Members each paid their own Annual Member dues of \$10.

NOTE: Please feel free to attach your own photos.

- THE ANNUAL NNALSA WRITING COMPETITION - NOVEMBER 15, 2008 - *Hosted by the University of Arizona School of Law*

*Participants included Anne Smith, who wrote about “Disturbed Indian Graves: A discussion on some of the issues from the question of returning the bones for reburial or retaining the bones for scientific study.” and Joseph Morsette, who wrote about “Examining Obstacles To Tribal Governments Adopting The Exclusionary Rule As Implied By The Indian Civil Rights Act Of 1968: United States Constitutional Guarantees Versus American Indian Sovereignty.”



“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”

- THE 17TH ANNUAL NNALSA MOOT COURT COMPETITION - FEBRUARY 27-28, 2009 -
*Co-hosted by the University of Colorado School of Law at Boulder and Denver
University School of Law*

*Two teams were sent, composing of (1) Anne Smith and Charlotte Skar; (2) Wendy Ellis-O’Konek and Diane Wehrman. Of the forty-two teams competing, UND NALSA’s team consisting of Diane Wehrman and Wendy Ellis-O’Konek moved on to the second day of competition, to compete in the “Sweet Sixteen” elimination round. Diane Wehrman was named Best Oralist of the Competition.





“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”

- THE 34TH ANNUAL FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING AND INDIAN LAW

CONFERENCE - APRIL 2-3, 2009 - *Hosted by the Pueblo of Pojoaque at their own Buffalo Thunder Casino and Resort located in Santa Fe, New Mexico*

*Participants included Joseph Morsette, Wendy Ellis-O’Konek, Anne Smith, Jennifer Cross, Nicole Klein and Lynnette Morin (from the Tribal Judicial Institute at UND), along with Chapter Advisor, Keith Richotte. UND NALSA also participated in the Exposition, with an informational booth to include our Chapter display board, quilt, and brochures (with information about TJI, NALSA, CRC-Restorative Justice Symposium) for all visitors and participants.





“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”



How has UND NALSA Chapter gave back to our community?

UND NALSA is planning on collaborating with other UND Organizations to conduct a community service week between April 13-18, 2009.

How has UND NALSA Chapter furthered the mission and goals of NNALSA?

The Mission and Goals of NNALSA are: The NNALSA was founded in 1970 to promote the study of Federal Indian Law, Tribal Law and traditional forms of governance, and to support Native Americans in law school. We strive to reach out to Native communities and encourage Native People to pursue legal education. We also strive to educate the legal community about Native issues.

The UND NALSA Chapter went above and beyond the minimum expectations and standards set forth by the NNALSA. Our Chapter is open to any person enrolled at the University of North Dakota with an interest in American Indian Issues and the study of law. Membership includes students of any race or ethnic origin. Our Chapter promotes



“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”

raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students, to include providing opportunities for communication about the field of American Indian law and jurisdictional issues in tribal, state, and federal law.

What are some of the visible accomplishments by the Chapter this year?

The UND NALSA Chapter created a local Website, a Fall Brochure, a Spring Brochure, a Display Board, and a Display Quilt.

Recognitions and Awards?

- The UND NALSA Chapter received the Memorial Union’s 2009 Excellence in Leadership Development by a Student Organization Award in recognition for exceptional service, achievement, leadership, and innovative contributions to the University of North Dakota.
- The UND NALSA President, Joseph Morsette received the 2009 Memorial Union Outstanding Student Leader Award in recognition of Outstanding Service, Achievement, and Commitment to the University of North Dakota.





“Raising awareness on issues related to Indian law and how they affect American Indians from all tribes as well as working on recruitment and retention of American Indian law students.”

What is UND NALSA Chapter planning for the coming year?

- To continue recruitment efforts of American Indian Law Students by meeting potential students in person, or by phone, to include possible trips to tribal colleges and local schools, and coordinating our presence with on-campus activities for undergraduate students with our undergraduate/graduate Executive Representative, and with the American Indian Student Services Program Coordinator/Recruiter, Kristy Parisien.
- To attend and actively participate in the Annual UNDIA’s September Fall Picnic, the October Halloween Carnival, and the December Christmas Social.
- To continue the tradition of hosting a guest lecture who has experience in the field of Indian Law and can benefit the Law School and UND community to include invites to the following presenters: Rjay Brunkow, Council Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Phil Hogen, Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission; and Professor Wendy Whitecloud, of the University of Manitoba; and the UND NALSA Chapter would like to host the Turtle Mountain Court of Appeals.
- To continue active participation in the National NALSA activities (Job/Recruitment Fair, Writing Competition, Moot Court, and Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference).