



Navajo Supreme Court Justice Honored as Judge in Residence

TU College of Law proudly welcomed Justice Lorene Ferguson of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court as this year's Judge in Residence on March 20-21, 2006. TU's Judge in Residence Program is designed to bring noted jurists to campus to spend time with faculty and students. Justice Ferguson's visit marks the first time a tribal judge has been selected as Judge in Residence.

Justice Ferguson began her visit with a luncheon for NALSA members, LL.M. students, NALC Fellows and NALC Faculty. She spoke for a few minutes about developing Navajo common law, but spent most of the time answering questions from those attending the lunch. After lunch, Justice Ferguson spoke to Professor Royster's Native American Natural Resources class and attended a meeting of area tribal judges.

The College of Law rounded off the first day of her visit with a dinner in Justice Ferguson's honor. The dinner was attended by students, faculty, alumni, and judges from the federal, state, and tribal courts. After dinner, Justice Ferguson gave a fascinating talk describing how the Navajo Nation Supreme Court incorporated Navajo concepts into its decisions, tracing examples through contract law and through the process of interpreting a statute requiring the posting of a large bond as a prerequisite to appealing certain housing decisions.

Justice Ferguson began the second day of her visit by speaking to Professor Boudreau's Introduction to ADR class. She was the featured speaker at a luncheon colloquy for faculty, staff and students, where she discussed the need for judges to listen to litigants and give litigants an opportunity to tell their story. Justice Ferguson concluded her visit by speaking to Professor Rice's Native American and Indigenous Rights Course and Professor Taylor's first year Property class. Three speeches and talking to four classes in two days was a truly hectic schedule, and we appreciated Justice Ferguson's willingness to do it all. The school is still buzzing with the ideas she shared and we all enjoyed her visit tremendously!



Justice Ferguson (middle), with NALC Co-Directors Royster, Limas, Supernaw and Tatum

Unparalleled Contributions to a Landmark Treatise

In December 2005, LexisNexis released the long awaited 2005 edition of Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law. The University of Tulsa made unparalleled contributions to this landmark publication.

Five TU faculty members -- Vicki Limas, Valerie Phillips, G. William Rice, Judith Royster, and Melissa Tatum -- all served as contributing authors. In addition to her writing duties, Royster was a member of the seven person editorial board overseeing the entire project. Professor Kathleen Supernaw, formerly an attorney with the federal government, served as an expert reviewer.

Native American Law Resources Librarian M. Faye Hadley was singled out in the introduction for special thanks for her above and beyond the call research support.

In addition to the human capital, TU also provided invaluable logistical support by hosting the website for the authors, and the listservs for the authors and for the editorial board.

Center, Student and Alumni News

Alum Wins Award

Stacy Leeds (JD '97) was named this year's recipient of the Clyde Ferguson Award by the AALS Minority Law Section. The award was presented January 6, 2006, at a luncheon held in Washington, D.C. Leeds was introduced at the luncheon by NALC Co-Director, Melissa Tatum. The Clyde Ferguson Award is granted to an outstanding law teacher, who has achieved excellence in public service, teaching and scholarship. The award is particularly aimed at those who have provided support and mentoring to colleagues, students, and aspiring law teachers. Professor Leeds is now a member of the law faculty at the University of Kansas.

TU Connections Dominate CLE

In March 2006, Professors Judith V. Royster, Melissa L. Tatum, and G. William Rice along with TU Law Grads, Professor Stacy Leeds (J.D. '97); Professor Taiawagi Helton (J.D. '99) and Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma (J.D. '80), each spoke at Muscogee (Creek) Nation's 4th Annual Doing Business in Indian Country CLE. The conference was organized by TU alumni Judge Patrick Moore (LL.M. '02) and Professor Shelly Grunsted (LL.M. '04).

Mankiller Speaks at TU

Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation (1985-95), the first and only woman to hold the position, spoke at Sharp Chapel on the TU Campus March 7, 2006. After her exceptional talk, Ms. Mankiller was presented with a Pendleton blanket (an honor given to Ms. Mankiller from TU's Native American Law Center) by Vicki Limas and Kathleen Supernaw - both TU law professors and co-directors of the Native American Law Center.



Team Wins 3rd at Nationals

Candice Freeman, Leslie Dubois, Taylor Burke, and Gil Pilkington competed in the National NALSA Moot Court competition February 10 -11, 2006. Both teams were very well-prepared, thanks to the excellent coaching of Lori Guevara (LL.M. '03 and staff attorney at the Boesche Legal Clinic) and Brian Utsey (J.D. '05 and currently a student in the LL.M. program). The team of Leslie Dubois and Candice Freeman earned third place overall in the national competition!

Angel Tree

Once again TU's NALSA chapter sponsored an Angel Tree to benefit local Native children, most of whom are in tribal foster care. More than 40 children received Christmas presents through the program this year.

Alum Publishes Article

John L. Williams (J.D. '92), currently a student in the LL.M. program in American Indian and Indigenous Law, had his article *Paving the Way for the Future: Potential Structures for Tribal Economic Development*, published by the UCLA Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law Culture & Resistance. This marks Williams' second published article; his student note *The Effect of the EPA's Designation of Tribes as States on the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma*, was published by the Tulsa Law Journal in 1994. Williams' latest publication marks the seventh time in the past five years that a paper written for Professor Tatum's American Indian Law Seminar has been published and/or won a national award.



Alum Lands Position in D.C.

Dawn Sturdevant Baum (LL.M. '05), left her position as a staff attorney with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Indian Law Project to accept a position as an attorney with the EPA Appeals Board in Washington, D.C. We'll miss her, but we wish her well!



Alum Accepts Faculty Position

Angelique EagleWoman (LL.M. '04) accepted a position on the law faculty at Hamline University, to begin in the Fall 2006, and she published an article on Indian gaming in a recent issue of the OBA Journal. EagleWoman continues NALC's trend of educating educators, including Professor Michelle Grunsted (LL.M. '04) OU business faculty; Professor Stacy Leeds (J.D. '97) Kansas law faculty; Professor Tai Helton (J.D. '99) OU law faculty. Several alums are also serving as adjunct faculty at a variety of schools across the country, including Judge Patrick Moore (LL.M. '02); Traci Hobson (J.D. '97); and Justice Houston Shirley (LL.M. candidate).

Alum Wins Writing Competition

Anne Zimmerman (J.D. '05)'s winning entry for the Fourth Annual National NALSA Writing Competition was published in this year's Tulsa Law Review Indian Law Symposium. The article compares New Mexico and Oklahoma laws concerning taxation in Indian country.

INDN's List

Native American Resources Law Librarian, Faye Hadley, has been volunteering in the office of Kalyn Free's new organization INDN's List (Indigenous Democratic Network). Launched in February 2005, INDN's List is the only grassroots political organization devoted to recruiting and electing Native American candidates and mobilizing the Indian Vote throughout America on behalf of those candidates. INDN's List is dedicated to making a unified Indian voice heard at the local, state and national levels by helping Indians build and run effective campaign organizations and to win elected offices across America.

INDN's List is supporting a select group of Indian candidates for state and local offices across America in 2006. INDN's List will recommend Democratic Indian Candidates to our members for support. The Indigenous Democratic Network identifies Democratic Indian candidates running for state and local office and recommends them to our members. Members are kept informed of political events and news headlines via newsletters, e-mail alerts, direct mail, and our website.

Feel free to contact Faye (918-631-2457 or m-hadley@utulsa.edu) if you'd like more information, or visit INDN's List web site (<http://indnlist.org>). The University of Tulsa does not endorse any political candidate.

Two Students Earn Certificates

TU Law recent graduates, Katrina Jacuk and Scott Goode, both earned a certificate in Indian Law along with their J.D.s at the December 2005 hooding. Congratulations, Katrina and Scott!

Faculty News



Professor Melissa Tatum was a contributing author to Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law (LexisNexis 2005), the preeminent treatise in the field. She also

served as the co-editor of the *Mvskoke Law Reporter*, an eight volume set collecting, indexing and digesting the court decisions of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation from 1832-present. The Reporter was published in March 2006, and was co-edited with Michelle Grunsted (LL.M. 2004).

Tatum spoke on "Domestic Violence in Indian Country: State/Sovereign Accountability" and "The Need for Creative Solutions: Lessons from Indian Country" at the University of Denver's Conference on the *Castle Rock v. Gonzales* decision (March 2006); White Collar Crime and Jurisdiction at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's "Doing Business in Indian Country" CLE (March 2006); and on "Derogation of American Indians Through School and Sports Mascots" (February 2006 - co-presented with Angelique EagleWoman (LL.M. 2004)).

Outside the law school, Tatum is completing her year as President of the Board of Directors of TSHA, Inc. TSHA is a Tulsa Area United Way member agency serving the Deaf/deaf and hard of hearing in Oklahoma. She has also taken up the Highland bagpipes and joined the City of Tulsa Pipes and Drums. Finally, Tatum has published two science fiction short stories and has been a guest at several science fiction conventions.



Professor Judith Royster delivered the following presentations: "Tribal Rights to Groundwater" at the Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy's symposium: Does

Institutional Groundwater Management Work? on March 14; "Who Owns the Waterways?" at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's 4th Annual Doing Business in Indian Country on March 9; "Tribal Rights to Water in Riparian Jurisdictions" at the American Bar Association's 24th Annual Water Law Conference in San Diego on February 24; and "Justice Souter and 'Principles of Stare Decisis' in Indian Law" at the University of Connecticut School of Law's symposium on Indian Law at a Crossroads on October 28. Her article "Montana at the Crossroads" is forthcoming in the *University of Connecticut Law Review*. Her revised chapter on "Native American Law" is forthcoming in the 2d edition of *The Law of Environmental Justice*, published by the ABA Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources (SEER). In addition, she wrote a short piece on *Tribal Energy Resource Agreements under the Energy Policy Act of 2005* for the SEER publication Trends.



Associate Dean Vicki Limas will take over as Director of the LL.M. program in American Indian and Indigenous Law in June 2006, allowing Professor Tatum to resume her duties as a full time teacher and scholar.

The Native American Law Center oversees all aspects of Indian law at TU, including:

- Native American Law Certificate
- LL.M. in American Indian/Indigenous Law
- Indian Law Clinic
- Geneva Institute
- Library collection
- NALSA
- Moot Court
- NALC Fellows

For more information, see our website

www.law.utulsa.edu/indianlaw

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