



A Call to Action in Indian Country!

IMPLEMENTING
the United Nations
DECLARATION
on the **RIGHTS**
of **INDIGENOUS**
PEOPLES in the
UNITED STATES



MARCH 15-16, 2019
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LAW SCHOOL
BOULDER

Traditional territories of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute Nations

Introduction

In 2007, following decades of advocacy by indigenous peoples, the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, acknowledging indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination, equality, property, culture, and human rights. The United States, along with 148 nations worldwide now accept a set of agreed-upon norms for the just treatment of indigenous peoples.

The Declaration provides an impetus to redress historic wrongs committed against indigenous peoples and advance the arc of justice. The Declaration sets forth a remedial scheme to address the legacy of land dispossession, physical violence, cultural disruption, economic deprivation, and other harms experienced by indigenous peoples during the experiences of conquest, colonization, and settlement. However, it will take comprehensive law and policy reform, as well as structural and conceptual change, to begin the process of redress and reconciliation for indigenous peoples in domestic legal systems.

The University of Colorado Law School and Native American Rights Fund recently announced the "Project to Implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States." This Conference is the kick-off event for the Project.

Over the next two days, attorneys, scholars, tribal leaders, and advocates will discuss challenges in Federal Indian Law and the role of international human rights in advocacy efforts. Collectively, we will draft implementation plans in workshops addressing cultural rights, climate change and environmental advocacy, business and entrepreneurship, Indian child welfare, technology and communications, and the United Nation's 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Thank you for joining us at this transformative gathering of critical thinkers and advocates, working toward the true flourishing of indigenous peoples, healing, and justice for all.

Welcome to Colorado Law.

Schedule — March 15

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks

S. James Anaya, Dean, University of Colorado Law School
John Echohawk, Native American Rights Fund

8:45 – 10:00 a.m. Current Challenges in Federal Indian Law & the Promise of the Declaration

Moderator: Heather Whiteman Runs Him, NARF

Address: Walter Echo-Hawk, Lawyer, Author, Activist

Respondents:

- Dalee Sambo Dorough, Inuit Circumpolar Conference
- Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan
- Matthew Fletcher, Michigan State University Law School

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. The Role of International Law in U.S. Domestic Advocacy and Law Reform

Moderator: Kristen Carpenter, University of Colorado Law School

Address: James Anaya, University of Colorado Law School

Case Study on Indigenous Peoples & Religious Freedoms:

- Steven Moore, NARF
- Greg Johnson, University of Colorado, Religious Studies Dept.

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Keynote Address & Coen Lecture

Robert A. Williams, Jr., Regents Professor, University of Arizona
"Why Do We Need a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?"

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Luncheon & Fireside

Rebecca Tsosie, University of Arizona Law

Charles Wilkinson, University of Colorado Law School

"Inspired Action in Indian Country"

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Comparative Perspectives on Implementation

Moderator: Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council

Roundtable:

- Cristina Coc, Maya Leaders Alliance, Belize
- Wilton Littlechild, Grand Chief for Treaties 6, 7 and 8
- Tracey Whare, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Erika Yamada, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Schedule — March 15 *cont...*

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 – 4:45 p.m. Self-Determination & Human Rights in the U.S.

Moderator: Heather Whiteman Runs Him, NARF

Panelists:

- Greg Bigler, Muscogee Creek Nation
- Robert T. Coulter, Indian Law Resource Center
- Wenona Singel, Deputy Legal Counsel, Michigan Governor
Gretchen Whitmer
- Angela R. Riley, UCLA Law School

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. Reflections

Kunihiko Yoshida, Law Professor, Hokkaido University

Ryohko Tahara, President, Ainu Women's Association

Schedule — March 16

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. The UN's International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019 (and Beyond!)

Moderator: Andy Cowell, University of Colorado, Linguistics Dept.

Address: Alexey Tsykarev, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples & Young Karelia

Respondents:

- Rosalyn LaPier, Coalition of Native American Languages
- Shelly Lowe, Harvard University Native American Program
- Barbara Duncan, Museum of the Cherokee Indian
- John "Bullet" Standingdeer, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 – 12:15 p.m. Human Rights in Action Workshops

All conference participants are invited to select and attend one of the concurrent workshops. Topics and speakers in next page.

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon & Wrap-Up

Moderated by Kristen Carpenter & Heather Whiteman Runs Him
Schaden Commons, Wolf Law Building, 2nd floor.

Human Rights in Action

Workshops — 10:45 - 12:15p.m.

The concurrent workshops offer participants the opportunity to apply conference themes to particular subject matters and develop specific strategy for advancing indigenous peoples' rights in these areas. Strategic reflections and recommended activities may differ from topic to topic, ranging from a litigation strategy to interdisciplinary education.

We encourage participants to discuss short, medium, and long-range goals, and to commit to some action that advances the aims of the Declaration in each area. We will reconvene next year to assess progress on the goals set at each workshop.

Technology, Media & Communications — Room 304

Moderator: Edyael Casaperalta, University of Colorado Law School

- Theresa Halsey, KGNU Radio
- Traci Morris, American Indian Policy Institute
- Brian Howard, American Indian Policy Institute
- Renata Ryan Burchfield, University of Colorado, English Dept.
- Akilah Kinnison, University of Arizona (*video conference*)

Climate Change & Environmental Advocacy — Room 305

Moderator: Kim Gottschalk, NARF

- Sarah Krakoff, University of Colorado Law School
- William Boyd, UCLA Law School
- Colleen Lyons, Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force
- Amy Cordalis, Yurok Tribe
- Daniel Cordalis, Yurok Tribe
- Heidi McCann, Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Pablo Mis, Maya Leaders Alliance

Cultural Rights — Room 307

Moderator: Sue Noe, NARF

- Ben Barnes, Shawnee Tribe
- Greg Johnson, University of Colorado, Religious Studies Dept.
- Honor Keeler, Utah Diné Bikéyah & NAGPRA Review Committee
- Michael McNally, Carleton College Dept. of Religion
- Yoney Spencer, Euchee Tribe Language Program
- Melody McCoy, NARF
- Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan
- Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council

Workshops *cont...*

Possible breakout discussion on Language Rights Wittemyer Courtroom

Indian Child Welfare — Room 306

Moderator: Dan Lewerenz, NARF

- Matthew Fletcher, Michigan State University Law School
- Lorie Graham, Suffolk University Law School
- Wenona Singel, Deputy Legal Counsel, Michigan Governor Witmer
- Angel Smith, Law Office of Angel Smith

Business and Human Rights — Room 480

Moderator: Carla Fredericks, University of Colorado

- Zoe Osterman, First Peoples Investment Engagement Program
- Ben Sherman, World Indigenous Tourism Alliance
- Mark Meany, Center for Social Responsibility, Colorado University Leeds School of Business

2019 Coen Lecture



Now in its 62nd year, the Coen lectureship brings a prominent and distinguished lawyer, jurist, or scholar of law to deliver an annual lecture to Colorado Law's students, faculty, and alumni on a legal subject of interest and benefit to the profession, preferably with some public or political aspect. This year's Coen Lecture is presented in partnership with the "Implementing the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States" conference.

Professor Robert A. Williams, drawing on historical and contemporary sources and legal texts, and utilizing the tools of critical race theory/practice and Native storytelling traditions, will answer the insistent question he has heard in talking with both Native and non-Native audiences around the world: Why do we need a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.

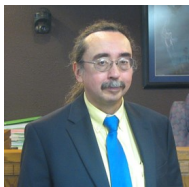
S. James Anaya

Dean of the University of Colorado Law School. Has taught and written extensively on international human rights and issues concerning indigenous peoples.



Ben Barnes

Second Chief of the Shawnee Tribe in Oklahoma.



Gregory H. Bigler

Euchee, enrolled with Muscogee Creek Nation. District court judge for the Muscogee Creek Nation. He is a private practitioner of Indian Law solely representing Native American tribes.

William Boyd

Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law and Professor at the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA.



Andrea Carmen

Yaqui Indian Nation. Has been a staff member of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) since 1983 and IITC's Executive Director since 1992.

Kristen Carpenter

Council Tree Professor of Law and Director of the American Indian Law Program at the University of Colorado Law School. She is a member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Cristina Coc

Q'eqchi Mayan community leader in Southern Belize. She has served as co-spokesperson for the Maya Leadership Alliance and is the founder and executive director of the advocacy organization, the Julian Cho Society.

Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.

Amy Cordalis

General Counsel for the Yurok Tribe. She comes from a long line of Yurok Indians from the village of Requa at the mouth of the Klamath River, who have fought for Yurok rights.



Daniel Cordalis

Member of the Navajo Nation and practicing attorney in natural resources and Indian law.

Robert T. Coulter

Executive Director of the Indian Law Resource Center, which has used U.S. and international law to champion the interests of indigenous peoples in the Americas.



Andrew Cowell

Professor at the Department of Linguistics of the University of Colorado. He is also the Director of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies at CU-Boulder.

Dalee Sambo Dorough

Expert Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Alaska Member of the Inuit Circumpolar Council Advisory Committee on UN Issues; and Member of the International Law Association Committee on Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Barbara Reimensnyder Duncan

Adjunct Instructor of Cherokee at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. She works as Education Director at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, North Carolina.

Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.

Walter Echo-Hawk

Native American attorney, tribal judge, author, and law professor who represents Indian tribes on important legal issues, such as treaty rights, water rights, religious freedom, prisoner rights, and repatriation issues.



John Echohawk

Pawnee. He is the Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund, the national Indian legal defense fund.

Frank Ettawageshik

Traditional storyteller and potter. He is the Executive Director of the United Tribes of Michigan, Chairman of the United League of Indigenous Nations Governing Board, and Co-chair of the National Congress of American Indians Federal Recognition Task Force.

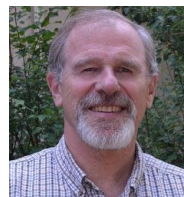


Matthew Fletcher

Professor of Law at Michigan State University College of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center.

Carla Fredericks

Director of the American Indian Law Clinic at the University of Colorado Law School, and Director of the First Peoples Investment Engagement Program, a program with the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business.



Kim Gottschalk

Staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund where he primarily works on recognition, land claim cases and international indigenous rights.

Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.



Lorie Graham

Professor and the Co-director of the International Law Concentration at Suffolk University Law School; and Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School.

Theresa Halsey

Hunkpapa Lakota tribal member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribes from North and South Dakota, from the Wakpala community. Producer of Indian Voices on KGNU Community Radio in Colorado.

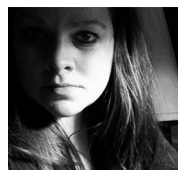


Greg Johnson

Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado. His research focuses on contemporary indigenous religious traditions.

Honor Keeler

Assistant Director for Utah Diné Bikéyah, and Member of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee.



Akilah Kinnison

Assistant Professor of Law and Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Graduate Advisor at Arizona Law School.

Sarah Krakoff

Moses Lasky Professor of Law at the University of Colorado. Her areas of expertise include American Indian law, natural resources and public land law, and environmental justice.



Rosalyn LaPier

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Montana, and Steering Committee Member of the Coalition of Native American Language Schools and Programs. She is an award winning Indigenous writer and ethnobotanist.

Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.



Dan Lewerenz

Staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund.
Member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

Wilton Littlechild

Cree chief, residential school survivor, and lawyer who has worked nationally and internationally including with the United Nations to advance Indigenous rights and treaties.

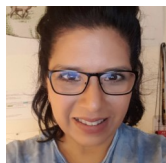


Shelly C. Lowe

Enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She is Bilagaana, born for Náneesht'ézhí Tách'inií. She is the Executive Director of Harvard University's Native American Program.

Colleen Scanlan-Lyons

Currently serves as the Project Director for the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force and the co-Director of the LEEP Innovation Lab.



Heidi McCann

Associate scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center where she is the knowledge exchange coordinator on the Exchange for Local Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic Project.

Melody McCoy

Staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund where she primarily works in the areas of jurisdiction in Indian country, tribal rights in education, tribal intellectual property rights, and tribal trust funds.



Michael McNally

Teaches courses in American religion and culture and Native American religious traditions at Carleton College.

Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.

Mark Meaney

Executive Director of the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business.



Pablo Mis

Program Director at the Maya Leaders Alliance in Punta Gorda, Belize.

Steven C. Moore

Staff attorney at NARF where he has represented Indian tribes in water rights, protection of sacred lands, repatriation of human remains, religious freedom, federal trust responsibility, and reindeer herder rights.



Traci Morris

Director of the American Indian Policy Institute at Arizona State University, and member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Sue Noe

Senior staff attorney in NARF's Boulder office. She represents Klamath Tribes on river basin issues, and other Native American tribes in international negotiations within the United Nations system.

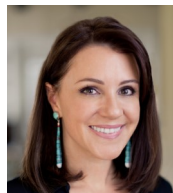


Zoe Osterman

Program Manager for the First Peoples Investment Engagement Program.

Angela R. Riley

Professor at UCLA School of Law and Director of its Native Nations Law and Policy Center. She directs the J.D./M.A. joint degree program in Law and American Indian Studies, and is the campus representative on repatriation issues under NAGPRA.



Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.

Ben Sherman

Chairman of the World Indigenous Tourism Alliance Leadership Council, and member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Nation, from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

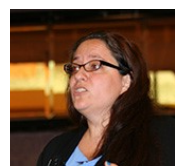


Wenona T. Singel

Deputy Legal Counsel for Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and the first American Indian to hold this position. Enrolled member for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Angel Smith

Attorney in private practice focusing on ICWA who works across the world advocating the rights of Indian and First Nation children.

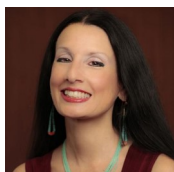


Yoney Spencer

Euchee language apprentice and children's teacher. Euchee Tribe Language Program.

John "Bullet" Standingdeer

Enrolled member and Cultural Ambassador of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Dances with the Warriors of AniKituhwa, and lectures about Cherokee history and culture.



Rebecca Tsosie

Regents' Professor at the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona and also serves as Special Advisor to the Provost for Diversity and Inclusion.

Alexey Tsykarev

Member of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and member of the Indigenous Peoples Council under the head of the Republic of Karelia.



Speaker Biographies

For full biographies, please see our Conference Website.

Tracey Whare

Lecturer at the University of Auckland where she teaches Tiriti issues, indigenous peoples' rights and international law, and legal research and writing.

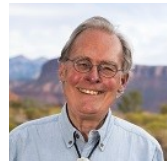


Heather Whiteman Runs Him

Staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado, where she focuses on tribal water rights and natural resource issues.

Charles Wilkinson

Moses Lasky Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Colorado. He has taught at the Oregon and Colorado law schools since 1975.

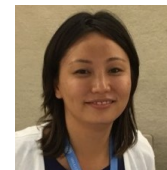


Robert A. Williams

Regents' Professor, E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law and Faculty Co-Chair of the University of Arizona Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program.

Erika Yamada

Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean on the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Kunihiro Yoshida

Law Professor at Hokkaido University. Expert on reparations regarding the Ainu people, the indigenous people in Hokkaido.

Ryohko Tahara

President of the Ainu Women's Association, and Vice President of the Sapporo Ainu Association.

Conference Coordinators

Renata Ryan Burchfield

Ph.D. Student of English at the University of Colorado,
Research Assistant for the Center for Native American
and Indigenous Studies.

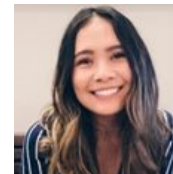


Edyael Casaperalta

Fellow for the American Indian Law Program at the
University of Colorado Law School.

Wei-Joan Udden

Faculty Events Assistant at the University of Colorado
Law School.



Support the American Indian Law Program

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