



# Indian Law at Lewis & Clark

Lewis & Clark Law School offers students a robust selection of courses in Indian law. These courses provide our students with the training they need to provide Native communities with competent legal support for both traditional sovereignty concerns and contemporary issues such as gaming, economic development, natural resources, water rights, and child custody. A lack of Indian law courses and a dearth of training opportunities have created a shortage of lawyers who are qualified to serve the needs of tribal communities throughout the country. Lewis & Clark strives to train lawyers who can serve those needs.

## Why Indian Law?

Indian law touches on every aspect of law while retaining its own unique features. You are likely to encounter it sometime during your legal career. And, in the areas of environmental and natural resource law, family law, business law, and criminal law, to name a few, Indian law presents special challenges. There are numerous federal, state, and tribal jurisdictional issues to untangle.

Indian law practitioners work in many capacities. They may work directly for a tribe as counsel or judge, or they may work for an outside firm that specializes in Indian law. There are also jobs at all levels of government from tribal to state and federal. Many nonprofit and special interest organizations deal with Indian law.

## The Program

With rich course offerings taught by distinguished faculty, Lewis & Clark Law School provides a solid academic platform for advancement in the practice of Indian law and its diverse specialties. The law school's emphasis on environmental issues as well as business reflects the ongoing development issues that face many tribes across the country. Our comprehensive curriculum produces graduates prepared to successfully face the challenges at the forefront of Indian law practice.

### The Curriculum

Federal Indian Law  
Native Natural Resources Law  
Cultural Resources Protection Law Seminar  
Advanced Federal Indian Law Seminar

Courses taught in prior summer sessions include:

Gaming and Economic Development  
Criminal Law in Indian Country  
Contemporary Issues  
Alaska Native Corporations and the Law

## Indian Law Summer Program

Lewis & Clark offers a 10-week, multifaceted, intensive program that includes advanced courses in Indian law, a cultural field trip, and diverse internship opportunities with federal, tribal, and nonprofit organizations. Courses offered include a basic federal Indian law course and more advanced courses. In recent years Indian Jurisprudence, Contemporary Issues in Indian Law, and Criminal Law in Indian Country have been among the offerings. Taught by nationally recognized scholars and teachers in the field of Indian law, the summer program allows Lewis & Clark students and visitors from across the country to train in the complex issues that make up the field of Indian law.

## Faculty and Staff

The Indian Law Program draws on a panel of distinguished full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, visiting faculty, and staff. Beyond their excellent teaching credentials, the faculty and staff have substantial experience in a variety of Indian law practice areas, which adds depth and creative energy to our program. Such areas include jurisdiction, gaming and contracts, natural resource development, environmental law, criminal law, family law, cultural resources, tribe recognition, and more.

## **Beyond the Classroom**

While the program's curriculum provides students with a foundation for success in Indian law, much can and should be learned outside of the classroom. The law school supports numerous opportunities to explore Indian law interest in a variety of settings.

### *Externships in Indian Law*

Many of our students secure credit-based practical skills in the form of externships. Recent placements include:

Alaska Public Defender Agency, Fairbanks, AK  
Columbia Riverkeeper, Hood River, OR  
National Indian Gaming Commission, Washington, DC  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, OR  
US Attorney's Office, Portland, OR  
US Department of Interior, Solicitor's Office, Portland, OR  
US Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice, Washington, DC  
US Department of Justice, Environmental Natural Resources Division, Denver & San Francisco

### *Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)*

NALSA provides support for Indian as well as non-Indian students who are interested in pursuing careers in Indian law. NALSA also works with other law student organizations on campus to address issues important to minority students and to educate the larger community.

### *NALSA Moot Court*

During the fall, students research a problem in a specific area of Indian law. Students prepare appellate briefs and participate in oral arguments based on the problem. Students from the fall class are selected to represent the school in the national NALSA moot court competition held in the spring. In 2013, Lewis & Clark hosted the National NALSA Moot Court Competition.

## **Community Partners**

At Lewis & Clark, we believe there is great value in acquainting our students with the community that they serve. Our students take pride in supporting tribal communities and engage regularly in public service. Students and faculty in the Indian Law Program have worked with the following organizations to promote the well-being of tribal communities in our region.

Native American Program of Legal Aid Services of Oregon  
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
Native American Youth Association  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
Oregon Native American Business and Entrepreneurial Network  
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

## **Indian Law Program Coordinator**

Carma Corcoran, M.P.A. Portland State University, is the director of the Indian Law Summer Program and advisor to the Native American Law Student Association. Carma is an enrolled citizen of the Chippewa-Cree tribe.

To learn more about Lewis & Clark Law School or Indian law, please contact:

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### **Lewis & Clark Law School, Admissions**

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