

Newsletter



As we enter 2023, the Indigenous Law & Policy Center (ILPC) would like to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments and achievements of its community, staff, faculty, students and alumni.

Within the contents of this newsletter, you'll find information on events the ILPC hosted, matters the ILPC cares about and how the ILPC helped support their students and community.

CONTACT US

<https://turtletalk.blog/>
indigenous@law.msu.edu

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Welcome Reception
September 29, 2022

ILPC Director, Wenona Singel, hosted the annual ILPC welcome reception at her house in late September.

ILPC staff, faculty, friends, alumni and students at University of Michigan Law School and Michigan State University College of Law were invited to join in on the fun.

Native American Arts and Crafts Council Directors, Eva and Robin Menefee, served Indian tacos, wild rice soup, strawberry shortcake and beverages.

Students spent the evening laughing, conversing and getting to know fellow students, alumni and practitioners.



Students and alumni enjoying dinner together.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS & COMMUNITIES

Little Traverse Bay Bands Visit *August 13, 2022*

Eric Hemenway, Director of the Little Traverse Bay Bands' Department of Repatriation, Archives and Records led a conversation on Indian Boarding Schools with Prof. Singel's Indian Law students.



Managing Stress & Preparing for Success *October 18, 2022*

Dr. Tawa Sina, Assistant Director of MSU Counseling Services and member of Huron-Wendat presented on how to manage stress and prepare for success.



Grand Traverse Band Visit *November 4, 2022*

Prof. Singel's Indian Law students from MSU College of Law and UM Law School went on a site visit to the Tribal office of the Grand Traverse Band in Peshawbestown, MI to talk with Tribal Chairman David Arroyo, Tribal Treasurer Donna Swallows, General Counsel John Petoskey, Assistant General Counsel Sean Cahill, Chief Judge Kenneth Akini, Appellate Judge JoAnne Cook and Tribal Prosecutor Bill Brott.



Indian Law Students Visiting Grand Traverse Band on November 4, 2022.

HAALAND V. BRACKEEN OPENING ARGUMENT DISCUSSION

19TH ANNUAL INDIGENOUS LAW CONFERENCE



Arianna Morseau with panelists Matthew Fletcher and April Youpee-Roll.



Wenona Singel with MSU Law alum Sharon Avery.



Left to right: April Youpee-Roll, Wenona Singel and Matthew Fletcher

On November 9, ILPC staff and faculty attended the *Haaland v. Brackeen* oral argument at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C. That evening, the ILPC hosted a Zoom webinar for a discussion on the case. Wenona Singel moderated a conversation between Matthew Fletcher, April Youpee-Roll and Dan Lewerenz. The discussion was well-attended, with 922 individual registrations for the live oral argument recap and analysis.

Matthew Fletcher is the Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law at Michigan Law, Chief Justice of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and a member of the Grand Traverse Band.

April Youpee-Roll is an attorney at Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles and an enrolled member of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

Dan Lewerenz is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Dakota School of Law and a member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

The Indigenous Law & Policy Center and the Tribal In-House Counsel Association hosted the 19th Annual Indigenous Law Conference on November 17 & 18, 2022. This event brought together Indian Law attorneys from around the country to share their experiences and connect with others.



Panelists and attendees included experienced practitioners of Indian Law, attorneys, alumni and current law students.



Panel topics included:

- Brackeen and the Oral Arguments
- Labor & Employment
- Fiduciary Governance and Best Practices for Tribal Investment Stewards
- Basics of Engaging with Tribal Clients
- Tribal Consultation and Environmental Justice
- Partnering with Utilities on Critical Energy Infrastructure Projects
- National Tribal Opioid Litigation
- Impostor Syndrome, Elimination of Bias, and Tribal In-House Practice



Peter Ortego, long-standing General Counsel and the Department of Justice Director at Ute Mountain Ute Tribe delivered this year's keynote address. Ortego's address tied into the theme, 10 Years of TICA, as he shared his favorite moments over the years and gave helpful advice to new in-house counsel members.

Student Spotlight



Sadie Harris

*Member of the Saponi-Catawba Nation of Ohio
NALSA Vice-President*

Over the summer, Sadie Harris worked at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus under the RISE team (Reentry, Income Security, and Education) as a clerk. The Legal Aid Society of Columbus does a lot of work for marginalized groups in the Central Ohio area. Sadie says “It helped with legal writing and gave me some experience with clients before I participated in the Indian Law Clinic this semester.”

Rory Wheeler

*Citizen of the Seneca Nation (Turtle Clan) and a descendant of the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation
NALSA Secretary*

In addition to being the Secretary of NALSA, Rory is a Dean’s Fellow and a recently elected At-Large Representative for the Student Bar Association. Prior to attending MSU, he participated in the Pre-Law Summer Institute offered by the American Indian Law Center, Inc. at the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Before this, he served in the Seneca Nation government’s Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, their gaming operations, and in law enforcement, emergency medical services, and with their Fire Department. He was also the Vice President of United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY), the youth commission co-president for the National Congress of American Indians, and vice chairman of the Center for Native American youth advisory board. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Association on American Indian Affairs and is a community advisory board Member for the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute and their Center for Indigenous Cancer Research in Buffalo, New York.



Faculty & Staff Accomplishments



Wenona Singel

singel@law.msu.edu

Wenona Singel is the Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center & Associate Professor of Law at the Michigan State University College of Law. She is also a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

In July, Wenona became the Director of the ILPC.

Since then she published *Lawyering the Indian Child Welfare Act*, 120 MICH. L.REV. 1755 (2022) (with Matthew L.M. Fletcher) and received an appointment as a Visiting Professor at Michigan Law School. She also joined David Getches’ leading casebook on Federal Indian law, *Cases and Materials on Federal Indian Law*, as a co-author. She chairs the College of Law Strategic Planning Committee, serves on the College of Law Appointments Committee, and she joined the National Council of the World Wildlife Fund. She is an active member of the MSU Native Issues Advisory Committee and MSU’s American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program and she serves on the MSU Faculty Senate and University Council.

Wenona gave several invited presentations during the fall semester, including:

- The History and Future of the Indian Child Welfare Act, Penn Carey Law of the University of Pennsylvania and The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research
- Indigenizing the Legal Profession: Opportunities in Indian Law and Advice for Aspiring Lawyers, Central Michigan University
- Post-Brackeen Oral Argument Discussion, Michigan State University College of Law Indigenous Law & Policy Center
- The Disenfranchisement of the Native Vote: Challenges and Remedies, University of Michigan Law School Native American Law Students Association
- Boarding Schools and ICWA, National Association of Women Judges 44th Annual Conference
- Overview of Haaland v. Brackeen, National Congress of American Indians Protect ICWA Rally
- Overview of Haaland v. Brackeen for the National Supreme Court Preview 2022-2023, American Constitution Society

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments



Zeke Fletcher

zfletcher@fletcherlawpllc.com

Zeke Fletcher is an adjunct professor at the Michigan State University College of Law and the founder of Fletcher Law, PLLC. He is also an enrolled citizen of the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe).

Zeke is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin Law School. He is licensed to practice in the state courts of Michigan and Wisconsin, federal courts in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma, and many other tribal court jurisdictions.

This will be the first academic year where Zeke will teach a class in each semester for MSU Law and the Indigenous Law & Policy Center (Gaming Law and Tribal Law). He is looking forward to another great semester.

As the General Counsel for the Gun Lake Tribal Gaming Authority, Special Counsel to the Gun Lake Tribal Government, and the Chairman of the Tonkawa Tribal Gaming Commission, there is an abundance of real life situations that can be brought/taught to each of his classes.

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments



Kate Fort

fort@law.msu.edu

Kathryn (Kate) E. Fort is the Director of Clinics at Michigan State University College of Law and runs the Indian Law Clinic, where she teaches the Clinic class and American Indian Children & the Law.

Last semester Kate worked closely with her co-counsel at Jenner & Block to prepare for the oral argument in *Brackeen v. Haaland*. In recognition of this work, Ian Gershengorn gave her one of the quills Supreme Court practitioners receive after an argument.

Kate also worked closely with our PR firm to ensure accurate press coverage. The list of articles where she was quoted is available [here](#).

She spoke at many conferences across the country about ICWA and *Brackeen*, as well as presented oral arguments in the Ohio Court of Appeals on behalf of the Suquamish Tribe.

In the springtime, Kate will have two articles published. These articles are:

- *Beyond Brackeen: Funding Tribal Child Protection Systems* in the Family Law Quarterly
- *The Indian Child Welfare Act During the Brackeen Years* in the Juvenile and Family Court Journal.



Faculty & Staff Accomplishments



Cassandra Church

cassandra.church@law.msu.edu

Cassandra Church is the Legal Counselor for the Indigenous Law & Policy Center at the Michigan State University College of Law. She is also an enrolled citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

In mid-October, Cassandra attended the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) Conference and the Junior Faculty Development Workshop. She also served as a guest lecturer in an Indian Law class at the University of Idaho College of Law (via Zoom). In October, she was also elected as the Secretary of MSU's Indigenous faculty and staff organization, EAGLE (Educating Anishinaabe: Giving, Learning, Empowering).

Cassandra was also instrumental in the 19th Annual Indigenous Law



Faculty & Staff Accomplishments



Arianna Morseau

morseaua@law.msu.edu

Arianna Morseau is the Communications Coordinator of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center at the Michigan State University College of Law. She is also an enrolled citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

The ILPC welcomed new hire, Arianna Morseau, to the team in early August.

Since then, she has attended the American Indian Science and Engineering Society national conference and the Haaland v. Brackeen oral argument, and has assisted in preparation for the Indigenous Law Conference hosted by TICA and the ILPC. She handles Turtle Talk Friday Job Announcements, weekly ILPC student email updates, events, and other communications for the ILPC.

Arianna graduated with a B.S. in Advertising and Public Relations from Grand Valley State University in December 2022, and is planning to earn a Digital Media Graduate Certificate from Michigan State University by the end of 2023.



What's Next?

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg–Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.

In the Spring of 2023, the Indigenous Law & Policy Center plans to further its mission of educating the next generation of leaders in Indian law and serving Indian country through scholarship and engagement with the following events and developments:

- Hosting an Indian Boarding School Symposium with Indian boarding school survivors and a presentation by Prof. Singel on April 6
- Hosting a presentation by Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (MSU COL '07) on April 14
- Participation at the Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference on April 17-18, with a breakfast for MSU ILPC faculty, staff, students and alumni on April 18, a keynote address by Prof. Singel, and a presentation by Clinic Director Kate Fort
- Hosting the annual ILPC Graduation Celebration on May 11

If you haven't already, check out the Turtle Talk Blog to stay up to date on current events in Indian Law, ILPC events and job opportunities.



ATTENTION ALUMNI

If you would like to stay up to date about all things alumni or join the alumni committee, please send an email to morseaua@law.msu.edu.