The UND School of Law has a longstanding commitment to the legal issues facing American Indian tribes. Our Indian law curriculum is one of the richest in the country, and our faculty include the leading experts in tribal constitutions, tribal justice systems, tribal environmental law, and tribal gaming.

Through the congressionally funded Native Americans Into Law program, the UND School of Law recruits promising American Indian and Alaska Native students and trains them to be effective attorneys. Our educational program is distinctive in its commitment to providing a highly supportive and personalized setting with a faculty and staff invested in student success during law school and beyond. The NAIL program allows the UND School of Law to provide academic support and scholarships and stipends to American Indian and Alaska Native students.

The UND Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) is an active and award-winning student organization. On average, two UND teams compete at the National NALSA moot court competition. One of our students won the 2009 first-place “Best Oralist” award, and a team won the 2010 third-place “Best Advocates.” At UND, NALSA sponsors a number of speakers and events, and has been recognized for excellence in leadership development.

One feature truly unique to UND, and a primary reason for student success — the strength of our commitment to a SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY.

The School of Law is home to the Northern Plains Indian Law Center, which assists tribal governments in addressing legal issues affecting tribal lands and members. A variety of events, speakers, and extracurricular activities help our American Indian students explore their professional aspirations. Through the NAIL program, the School of Law has hosted live court sessions of the Northern Plains Intertribal Court of Appeals and the Turtle Mountain Tribal Court. Speakers have included tribal judges and attorneys, Indian law scholars, and community activists. The NAIL program also allows the School of Law to send American Indian students to national conferences and events.

The Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) received the Memorial Union’s 2009 Excellence in Leadership Development by a Student Organization Award in recognition of exceptional service, achievement, leadership, and innovative contributions to the University of North Dakota.

Joseph Morsette is currently the Northern Plains Indian Law Center (NPILC) Faculty Fellow and Director of the Native Americans Into Law (NAIL) Program at the University of North Dakota School of Law. He is an enrolled member of Rocky Boy’s Band of Chippewa-Cree Indians of Montana. Joseph is an alumnus of the UND School of Law and a graduate of the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law Master of Laws in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy (IPLP) Program. His primary responsibility is for recruitment and retention of American Indian students. Other duties will include professional development and contribution to the educational program, and assisting in the work of the Tribal Judicial Institute.
Training Tomorrow’s Leaders

Since the first “Indians Into Law” congressional funding in 2003-2004, UND School of Law has provided scholarships and stipends to 45 students from 25 tribes across the United States. Our American Indian and Alaska Native graduates include an attorney with the National Indian Health Board in Washington D.C., a member of the South Dakota Parole Board, an attorney with the Association of Village Council Presidents Tribal Justice Center in Alaska, the former director of UND’s Native Media Center, and a faculty member in the tribal paralegal program at Turtle Mountain Community College. Our graduates are tribal judges, tribal attorneys for tribal, state and federal agencies and organizations related to Indian Law, as well as attorneys practicing in the public and private sectors. Several of our graduates have gone on to pursue advanced law degrees. Many have returned to their tribal communities to work in tribal government or other leadership positions.

INDIAN LAW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AT UND

Required Courses
5 credits
- Federal Indian Law
- Tribal Law

Primary Courses
at least 7 credits needed but no more than 10 credits
- American Indians & American Law
- Tribal Environmental Law
- Tribal Environmental Law Project (TELP)
- Indian Gaming Law
- Tribal Economic Development
- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country

Special Project
2 credits
- Approved Special Project

NAIL web page
www.law.und.edu or 701-777-2104

From Tradition to Tomorrow

Native Americans Into Law Program

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