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## College of Law Committed to Native Law Program

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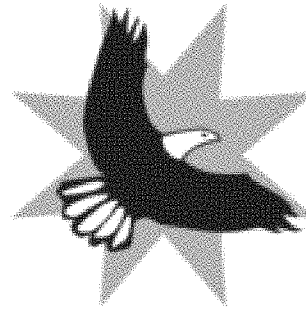
# College of Law Committed to Native Law Program

Mark Adams

**A**s dean of the University of Idaho College of Law, I believe the Native American Law program is a key part of our college's future and aligns with our steadfast belief that a law school should stand for serving the public and increasing access to justice. Our program is focused on providing law students with a foundation in tribal law, federal Indian law, and how it intersects with state law.

We provide students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the law. At UI, law students have the chance to serve in externships with Idaho and regional tribes, complete skills training in a Tribal Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, participate in an annual Native American Law conference, and interact with practitioners in the field through guest lectures at the college. Many of our graduates, Native American and non-Native, have successfully pursued careers in this area after completing the course of study at the college.

We understand that our relationship with the tribes is a vital part of the native law program. In order to strengthen existing relationships and to provide meaningful legal training to UI law students, the Native American Law advisory board was created in the spring of 2014. The advisory board includes tribal representatives from the six Idaho tribes: Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe, the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. The purpose of the advisory board is to provide regular communication between the dean of the college, faculty involved with the program, the Native American Student Center



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director, and the Idaho area Tribal Nations.

UI's Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) continues to play a strong role in our native law program. NALSA has been active since 2008 in organizing events with nationally recognized speakers, assisting with the Native Law Conference that regularly brings experts to the college to discuss and analyze critical and challenging legal issues, and representing the college at the NALSA Moot Court competition. The college and the educational experience for all students is enriched by regular forums with Tribal Judges, and the annual service projects organized by the students have benefitted members of our community who are in need.

For this academic year, we are very pleased to welcome the Honorable Cynthia Jordan as a visiting professor of law to teach Native American Law in the fall semester and Native American Natural Resources Law in the spring semester. Professor Jordan has extensive experience in this field, including serving as Chief Judge of the Colville Confederated Tribes Tribal Court, Associate Tribal Court Judge for the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Court, and Chief Judge of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Having received

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her J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law, she has also served in a variety of positions as a public defender.

Professor Angelique EagleWoman provided extraordinary service and leadership in guiding the native law program. While professor EagleWoman's departure to become dean of the Bora Laskin faculty of Law at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario is a loss for the college and university, it gives us an opportunity to examine ways to strengthen and expand upon university, tribal, and state-wide connections in order to provide greater services and fulfill our strategic goals.

In order to take full advantage of opportunities to identify a new faculty member to guide the future of

the program, the faculty will engage in a search process through the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) utilized by all law schools in the normal course which provides advertising and a central hiring forum in Washington, D.C. scheduled in October. Notices of the opening are also being placed in a wide-range of publications to encourage a broad and diverse applicant pool. The future is very bright for the college and the Native American Law Program, and we eagerly look forward to bringing a new faculty member to the college to lead the program in its next chapter and build upon the strong foundation provided by Professor EagleWoman and the many individuals who have been involved with and been supportive of college initiatives. Many thanks to them for their guidance and continuing support of the college and the native law program.

We eagerly look forward to bringing a new faculty member to the college to lead the program in its next chapter and build upon the strong foundation provided by Professor EagleWoman.

*Mark L. Adams is Dean at the University of Idaho College of Law. Prior to joining the College in 2014, he served in administrative positions at Valparaiso University School of Law and taught Contracts, Labor Law, Employment Law, Legal Writing, and Labor Arbitration, and he has extensive experience as a labor arbitrator.*



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