We start this edition with a prayer to welcome the new year and honor those that have passed. May our work this year build upon the positive legacies of our ancestors and contribute to a better future for all people. We also ask that the Creator bless us with strength and protection in these incredibly difficult and important times.
Highlights

Congrats, we did it! We made it out of 2020 and, while the road ahead will no doubt be bumpy, the future is ours. We have a real opportunity to center Indigenous thought and governance models. We are proud of our NALSA members - Michelle Pennington (1L) and Susan Filan (L.L.M.) - who are doing just that and were recently announced as two of the four finalists in the Richard Grand Legal Writing Competition. Congratulations to you both!

Our newly redesigned t-shirts have been ordered and we think you’ll love them! We are strongly encouraging ALL members (Native and non-Native) interested in running for ‘21-’22 NALSA executive positions to reach out to us. We’re working on an information session for those interested in learning about how NALSA elections will be administered and what each position has meant for us so keep your eyes peeled!

Please also reach out to Daniel at dhartmanstrawn@email.arizona.edu if you’d like to request access to our google calendar so that you can get automated reminders for all of our events (including the silent auction!!).

IPLP Announcement

IPLP Welcomes United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Not All Superheros Wear Capes!

"IPLP's mission is to promote and protect the human rights of indigenous peoples. No better way to do that than support the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur by hosting his mandate here... Hosting provides our IPLP students with the unique opportunity offered nowhere else in the world to work on critical indigenous human rights issues at the highest levels of the UN and the international human rights system under the direct supervision, guidance and mentoring of the Special Rapporteur." – Robert Williams Jr.
In 2001, the Commission on Human Rights appointed a Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("Special Rapporteur"). The human rights mandate held by the Special Rapporteur is part of the system of special procedures responsible for promoting human rights across the globe. The Special Rapporteur’s specific mandate calls for promoting good practices and facilitating constructive engagement between indigenous peoples and nation-states. In their capacity, the Special Rapporteur mandate holder is charged with making recommendations to prevent and remedy violations of the indigenous peoples' rights. Essential to the mandate, the Special Rapporteur reports the current human rights situations for the world’s wide-ranging and distinct indigenous peoples.

The current mandate holder is Francisco (Pancho) Cali Tzay. Mr. Cali Tzay was appointed as Special Rapporteur in March of 2020. A member of the Mayan Cakchiquel community in Guatemala, Mr. Cali Tzay has a long history of representing indigenous peoples at the United Nations. Before he was appointed Special Rapporteur, Mr. Cali Tzay was the Guatemalan ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. He served four consecutive terms as the elected President of the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination within the United Nations system. Mr. Cali Tzay is the perfect independent human rights expert to promote and protect indigenous peoples' human rights – he is a human rights superhero.

The University of Arizona’s Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program (IPLP) is a world leader in academic programs for training, sponsoring, and researching indigenous peoples' law. Further, IPLP is delighted to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Special Rapporteur by welcoming Mr. Cali Tzay to our community. We are honored for the opportunity to work so closely with Mr. Cali Tzay and are excited about this great partnership.

The academic residency of Mr. Cali Tzay as the Special Rapporteur in the IPLP program provides a unique learning circumstance in which Arizona Law students can participate in
international human rights law at the very highest level. This experience does not exist at any other law school in the world. In-kind, the IPLP community supports the Special Rapporteur’s mandate with remarkable professional and student legal talent. Mr. Cali Tzay's academic partnership and residency will bolster the legal scholarship and practice of the students' experience in IPLP while simultaneously enhancing the international law communities' capacity to advocate for indigenous peoples' human rights.

International human rights law has developed to offer a challenge to state legal hegemony. Three progressive generations of human rights law have expanded on the ideals of dignity and self-determination. Many international human rights bodies have formed and developed many critical legal instruments that protect human rights worldwide. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“The Declaration”) was completed in 2007 and has radically changed the indigenous international law landscape. The Declaration is the most advanced international law mechanism to address the uniqueness of indigenous peoples' rights.

The Declaration encompasses a comprehensive list of political, cultural, and economic human rights in a retrospective and prospective manner. Moreover, The Declaration acknowledges indigenous peoples' human rights are inherent dating to a time immemorial while simultaneously recognizing the right to progressive cultural resource development. The Declaration places obligations on states and multinational organizations to protect and promote indigenous peoples' rights. The Declaration has near-universal international support and serves as the primary moral and legal framework for Mr. Cali Tzay's advocacy as Special Rapporteur.

Mr. Cali Tzay will participate in and co-lead many James E. Rogers Law School clinics. He will provide precious firsthand knowledge to students involved in clinic advocacy. Working with the current United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous peoples is an
incredible opportunity that you won't want to miss. The clinics work on cutting-edge law as international law has evolved to represent human diversity's greater dignity.

IPLP is excited to welcome Mr. Cali Tzay to our community to share his wisdom, passion, and dedication for indigenous human rights. We are confident that our combined passions will help safeguard and expand indigenous people's human rights under international law. We hope you'll join us in celebrating both the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Special Rapporteur and the arrival of a true human rights superhero to our community. Welcome to the University of Arizona College of Law, Pancho!

Executive Leadership Reports

President

Amber Morning Star Byars (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) enjoyed a short but sweet winter vacation. Over the break, Amber was hired as a research assistant by Professor Robert Hershey to work on an amicus brief. Outside of her work on the brief, Amber also finished three audiobooks, and did a ton of hiking, yoga, and cooking.

Vice President

Dillon Dobson (Cowlitz) was blessed to enjoy a break full of love. He and his wife, Tania, took their 2 year old son, Leo, on his first snow trip. Dillon happily encouraged Leo's budding love of RC cars and soccer and also worked toward finally finishing the first episode of his forthcoming podcast tentatively titled “The Native Justice Podcast.”

Treasurer

Edward Ornstein (Poarch Creek Descendant) was happy to have more time to spend with his wife and dogs. They got to see their parents over the break (while socially distanced)
and then drove up to see the Grand Canyon for the first time and camp by the rim. Once home, Edward got back into the swing of things with summer job applications.

**Secretary**

Daniel Hartman-Strawn (Ally) has been living in Boise, Idaho this year given that school is online, so he spent as much time as possible over the break snowboarding. Daniel celebrated New Year’s Eve with his partner Bri by watching the legendary Idaho Potato Drop! A strange conclusion to an even stranger year.

**Public Relations**

Stephanie Monroe (Diné) tried to be as relaxed as possible while still social distancing. She spent time with family, baking lots of cookies, doing some leisure reading and catching up on lots of crime shows. Now, she is focused on the upcoming semester and also applying for summer internships.

**Events**

Hannah Goins (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina) was fortunate to relax over the break for a couple weeks before January in Tucson started. Hannah spent most of her time binge watching Criminal Minds and sleeping in. Hannah feels well rested and ready for the new semester, but wonders if you can really rest in law school. At any rate, she’s excited to get through another semester and to see all her fellow NALSA members again, if only virtually.

**Spotlights**

**Student Spotlight**

Michelle Pennington proudly represents the Cherokee and Cree Nations. Michelle holds a BA in Sociology from the University of Washington. She was born among the Redwoods near the sea in Eureka, CA. At age seven, she moved to rural Oregon. She is very
proud of her working-class roots even though her love for books has often created distance between her and her family and friends. As an adult, she became a single parent of two beautiful daughters. Michelle prides herself on being a hard worker and not being picky about work. After all, all work has merit. Michelle has worked in many blue-collar jobs to support her family, including a factory, cannery, catering, food service, and retail management. She transitioned to other fields relevant to the legal area, including a year-long internship at the Seattle Municipal court probation department and Ombudsman at the King County Behavioral Health Ombudsman. Her professional goals center on serving underserved legal populations.

Faculty Spotlight

Tory Fodder is Taos Pueblo with Comanche, Kiowa, and Cherokee descent. Tory holds a BA in Government and Religion from Dartmouth and a JD and SJD from the University of Arizona College of Law. He grew up on Oklahoma's dusty southwestern plains on his family's original allotment. As a kid, his family often had conversations about their ancestors, the land, and its resources before he ever understood to think about such concepts using those terms. This sense of home and the need to preserve our land for future generations drove his interest in law school.

While an Arizona Law student, Tory sought to learn about Indian lands and resource management. He was fascinated by the idea of property rights and liberty and was equally puzzled by how these rights had been denied to Indigenous peoples through the law itself. Under our faculty's guidance, Tory pursued writing, scholarship, and research, ultimately entering the SJD program right after finishing his JD. As an SJD student, Tory was taken by the idea of preparing the next generation of Indigenous advocates. In the academic career that followed, Tory has sought opportunities to do exactly this in New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Wyoming, and even the steppes of Inner Mongolia, China.
A career in academia turned out to be more rewarding than he had ever imagined. Now, Tory is privileged to work with many students whose passion and intellect he admires - right here at my alma mater. Tory teaches Native American Natural Resources in-person in the Fall and online in the Spring each year. He also oversees the Indigenous Governance Program, a partnership between the Native Nations Institute and the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program.

Lately, when not on Zoom, Tory enjoys gaming with his Nephews (we mostly play Call of Duty, Fortnite, and Monster Legends), spending time at the shooting range, working on his reading goals for the year, and hanging out with his son during the summer.

**NALSA Statement**

**1/8/21 Capitol Hill Statement**

Dear UArizona Law Community,

The events that unfolded this past Wednesday at Capitol Hill sent shock waves around the world. We are faced with an unprecedented executive crisis unlike anything in American history, as the sitting President baselessly challenges election results and incites deadly riots. These events have also upended the peaceful transition of power that has been a foundational democratic norm of this country. As law students who are working diligently towards a career of upholding the constitutional values of our country, we are disturbed to see such blatant disregard for these values.

Further, the racial double standard displayed by Capitol Police is a prime example of the unfair duality felt by People of Color in America. The passive police response to the siege on the Capitol building not only resulted in unnecessary death, injury, and international embarrassment, but was also in stark contrast with the violent militarized police responses that we have seen directed at water protectors, Black Lives Matter protestors, and
immigration rights activists. Our protests to protect our land and lives are met with brutal, deadly force and mass incarceration. White supremacist marches and protests, on the other hand, are met with selfies and open gates.

NALSA and ACS condemn the continued resurgence of white supremacy and homegrown hate being peddled by President Trump. Over the past four years we have seen children ripped from the arms of their parents and locked in cages, havoc wreaked on our natural environment, blatant racism encouraged, and now a violent attack on our American Democracy. Right-wing extremism cannot be allowed to grow unchecked. Enough is enough. We implore Vice President Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove President Trump from office. We also call for the disbarment of Senator Hawley, and Senator Cruz. Further, we call for prosecution of all involved rioters and for a full investigation into the Capitol Police planning and response.

The UArizona chapter of the American Constitution Society is circulating a petition to disbar Senators Cruz and Hawley. Please click here to sign on to that petition.

Sincerely,

Executive Board, UArizona Native American Law Students Association
Executive Board, American Constitution Society UArizona Chapter

Events

Please see the calendar and events below and note that they are being continually updated and are, therefore, subject to change. Additionally, please reach out to Daniel at dhartmanstrawn@email.arizona.edu if you are interested in signing up for the NALSA-student listserv or getting access to our google calendar so that you can get automatic reminders for all of our events. Please send any IPLP event-related questions that you might have to Justin Boro at justinboro1986@arizona.edu.
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**Notes:**
- 5: NALSA Executive Board Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 5: IFLP Doctoral Student Presentation 12:00 - 1:00
- 13: NALSA Executive Meeting 19:00 - 21:00
- 19: NALSA Executive Meeting 19:00 - 21:00
- 22: NALSA/BLSA/LR Reparations Panel 12:00 - 1:00
- 23: NALSA General Meeting 12:00 - 1:00
- 24: Reading Day
- 26: NALSA Executive Board Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 26: IFLP Doctoral Student Presentation 12:00 - 1:00

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**Notes:**
- 3: IFLP Speaker Series Hillary Thompkins 12:00 - 1:00
- 5: NALSA Executive Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 12: NALSA Executive Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 19: NALSA Executive Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 26: NALSA Executive Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 29: NALSA General Meeting 12:00 - 1:00

**February 2021**
- 14: NALSA Executive Board Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 26: NALSA Executive Board Meeting 10:00 - 11:00

**April 2021**
- 14: NALSA Executive Board Meeting 10:00 - 11:00
- 26: NALSA Executive Board Meeting 10:00 - 11:00

**Notes:**
NALSA Jeopardy Social

Join us for a team battle royale that will determine who secures a place in the history books as the ‘20-’21 NALSA Jeopardy Champions. Each of the categories will be designed by one of our executive board members.

**Saturday, January 30th from 7 pm - 8 pm.**

Link: [https://arizona.zoom.us/j/85408027974](https://arizona.zoom.us/j/85408027974) Password: **Jeopardy21**

Black History Month Special Topic: Reparations Theories & Possible Models

Join NALSA, Black Law Student Association (BLSA), and Arizona Law Review (ALR) for a star studded panel discussion on reparations. We will be joined by our very own Rebecca Tsosie (University of Arizona College of Law), Jody Armour (University of Southern California Law), and Katherine Franke (Columbia Law). **Monday, February 22nd from 12pm - 1pm.**

Register [here](https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86369266526) in advance to receive your personal link.

Administrative Law and Indian Country Panel Discussion

We are currently organizing a panel discussion on the importance of Administrative Law in Indian Country as we look at the recent EPA decision regarding tribal land in Oklahoma. **Speakers and date TBA.**

Link: [https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86369266526](https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86369266526)

Password: **NdnAdmin**
Silent Auction

Get your pocketbooks and mobile banking enabled smart devices ready!! We are gearing up for an incredible silent auction that you won’t want to miss! You’ll have a chance to bid on amazing indigenous art, items from awesome indigenous-owned businesses, and a ton of other cool offerings. Details TBA.

NALSA 5K

The greatest virtual athletic fundraiser of all time. NALSA will donate half of proceeds to a local Native organization. Registration fee starts at $10 per person. If you would like to help with planning, please email Stephanie at monroes@email.arizona.edu. Date and Details TBA.

Community Outreach

Last semester a Holiday Elder Card activity was completed. This semester, NALSA would like to participate in a similar activity for the elders. Any ideas or if you interested in planning, please email Stephanie at monroes@email.arizona.edu.

General Meetings

Please join us the last Tuesday of each month from 12pm - 1pm for our monthly general body meetings! General meetings will take place on January 26th, February 23rd, March 30th, and April 27th.

Link: https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87800848592
Until the Next Edition

We wish you the best in these unprecedented times and hope that you enjoyed this edition of the NALSA newsletter. If you’d like to submit an article or piece to the NALSA Newsletter, please contact Dillon Dobson at d dobson@email.arizona.edu. Finally, we want to thank our very generous supporters and we encourage anyone interested in donating to do so via Venmo @Edward-R-Ornstein.

With love,
Your UArizona NALSA Executive Board

Amber Morning Star Byars, President, ambermbyars@email.arizona.edu
Dillon Dobson, Vice President, d dobson@email.arizona.edu
Edward Ornstein, Treasurer, edwardornstein@email.arizona.edu
Daniel Hartman-Strawn, Secretary, dhartmanstrawn@email.arizona.edu
Hannah Goins, Social Chair, hannahgoins@email.arizona.edu
Stephanie Monroe, Public Relations Chair, monroes@email.arizona.edu