Ideas to Discuss at Our Next Meeting

You’ll notice that this letterhead looks like the beginning of a brand new newsletter. Actually, our caucus has not decided on a newsletter. I’m afraid that I haven’t been able to send out more than one general information letter during the past year. Perhaps someone would like to act as an editor.

Also, should we have officers? Last year there was a decision to have just a coordinator, but more hands make the workload lighter. What about a steering committee? A purpose and policy statement? Or should we keep our caucus informal and associational? The future of the caucus is grand but the direction is up for grabs. —Maria Protti, Caucus Coordinator

SECOND ANNUAL
AALL NATIVE PEOPLES LAW CAUCUS MEETING

Monday, July 20
5:00-7:00 pm

Location: Hilton Hotel
San Francisco
(See your registration materials for the exact room)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Aho!

The AALL Native Peoples Law Caucus is a caucus of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Please address comments concerning the caucus to:
University of Oklahoma
Law Library
300 Timberdell Rd.
Norman, OK 73019
United Nation Materials

Margaret Aycock tracked down international documents for other caucus members. Margaret, our colleague and reference librarian for internation and foreign law at the Harvard Law School library wrote that: "At our caucus meeting, I mentioned U.N. documents concerning indigenous peoples and promised to find out more information. When I returned to Harvard, after a not very successful search in UNDOC: CURRENT Index, I contacted the U.N. Centre for Human Rights for more information. The group is the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Working Group on Indigenous Populations. I enclose the information that the Centre sent me concerning thee current activities of the working group."

A copy of the information Margaret uncovered will be at our next meeting. The work includes detailed and interesting discussions on discrimination against indigenous peoples, the significance of treaties and agreements, the environment and self-development by indigenous peoples, the international year for indigenous rights, a voluntary fund for indigenous populations, and a group studying contemporary forms of slavery.

Free Newsletter

To receive a free bimonthly newsletter that reports on Smithsonian activities, events and programs of interest to Native Americans, write to: Smithsonian Runner, Office of Public Affairs, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, or call 202/357-2627.
Thank you to the Information Broadcasting Company!

Jo Ebert, a representative of that company, has donated an ongoing subscription of Native Peoples Law Citations to the AALL Native Peoples Law Caucus. Selected portion of those citations are included in this report and the entire run, thus received, will be available for photocopying for our members at the next meeting in San Francisco. The Information Broadcasting Company has many newsletters devoted to legal subjects that show citations of legal articles complete with descriptors and often with abstracts. The phone number of the Information Broadcasting Company is 703/276-8600. You can order complete articles of the listed citations from that company.

Our First Program!

Our caucus is co-sponsoring a program on Monday, July 20, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. The program is entitled "The Word Passed Down, 1492-1992: The Developing Law of Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The program will cover new evolving legal concepts which will have profound effects on the relations between native peoples around the world. Kirke Kickingbird, the Director of the Native American Legal Resource Center, is one of the speakers. Kirke is the brother of our own caucus member law librarian Robin Kickingbird. Thanks to Jim Milles, for coordinating the program.

Another interesting offering is the program entitles "International Protection of Cultural Property with Special Emphasis on Native American Art and Artifacts." That program will take place on Tuesday, July 21 from 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Do you have a program idea for next year's meeting in Boston? Let's discuss your ideas at our next meeting. Deanna Harragarra Waters envisions a program on the subject of how Native Americans influenced the concept of democracy which is embedded in the early papers of the United States. Margaret Aycock suggests Ben Nighthorse Campbell as a possible speaker on a future panel. Representative Campbell, from Colorado, is the only Native American currently serving in Congress. A New York Times article noted that Campbell often travels out of his district to speak to school and groups such as ours.

Conference Tracker Needed

During the past year there were many conferences that dealt with Native American Law that caucus members didn’t know about. For example, the Law School Admissions Council held a Native Peoples Conference in March, and the U.S. Capitol Historical Society held a symposium on Native Americans and the Early Republic. Would anyone be interested in keeping a running list of upcoming conferences on Native Peoples Law just for us law librarians?
"Congressional reports, hearings and committee prints do not just provide legal background material. The military and civil reports, petitions from Indian tribes and individuals, witness testimony and other documents that appear with them present essential information to assess the Indians' political, social, economic and health conditions throughout the nation's history. Many of these issues often do, nevertheless, coalesce into lawsuits involving Indian tribes, and the [Library of Congress] Law Library has one of the critical tools for monitoring such litigation since 1973, the multivolume Native American Rights Fund National Indian Law Library Catalog: An Index to Indian Legal Materials and Resources." (From the November 18, 1992 issue of the LC Information Bulletin, page 435.)

Sources of Tribal Government and Court Addresses

The American Indian Law Students Association, Inc. publish the Directory of Legal Employers. The directory lists the addresses of tribal courts, Native American Legal Services, and lawyers who represent tribes. You can write to the association at: AILSA, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617/495-4702.

Native American Research Information Service

The NARIS database (approximately 12,000 published and unpublished Native American articles dating from 1960 to 1991) is housed at the American Indian Institute at the University of Oklahoma. NARIS is the only database of its kind, providing a systemized, and interpreted catalogue which focuses on the human and economic/community development of Native Americans. A single search can provide all the related available research on any given topic, because NARIS is so comprehensive in scope.

Although NARIS originally sought to provide Native American groups with a research database specifically to aid in tribal and community planning efforts, it has proven vital to government agencies, the academic community and the private sector. Governmental advisors and planners at the federal, state, and local levels have utilized NARIS data to aid them in guiding the planning and implementation of policies, screening and sponsoring additional research, and utilizing data prior to seeking funding allocations for specific projects.

A flat rate of ten cents per abstract and five cents per bibliographic citation will be charged and payment may be made by check or money order. To request a search, you can call 1-405-325-4127. If you wish to FAX your request, the FAX number is 1-405-325-7757. Mailed requests can be sent to: NARIS, American Institute, Continuing Education and Public Service, University of Oklahoma, 555 Constitution Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73027-0005.