

Summer 2011



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## Native Peoples Law Caucus

### Alison Ewing Retires from ASU

Alison Ewing retired from Arizona State University after serving as a Reference Law Librarian at the Ross-Blakely Law Library at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law. Her last day was June 26, 2011. I caught up with Allison via e-mail to ask her a few questions as she transitions to a new phase of her life.

- 1) How long have you worked at ASU? 18 years!
- 2) Did your interest in Natives and Indian law pre-date your time at ASU? If yes, what prompted your initial interest in Indian law? Yes it did. Before coming to ASU I worked for a law firm that was involved in the Navajo Hopi land dispute. One of my first assignments there in 1979 was to identify experts on the use of the disputed land in 1934.
- 3) What do you consider your major achievement during your time as Native law librarian? Well I suppose it would be the [Indian Law Portal](#) on the ASU Law Library's website. But I am sort of a late bloomer. One of my favorite things has been team teaching an Indian Legal Research class the last few years and also developing a CLE program on that topic.
- 4) What advice would you give to a new law librarian who has an interest in Indian law? Educate yourself on Native Indian history. It is fascinating and because so much of Indian law is based in historical documents, you will have a good background from which to launch just about any topic of research. Also, don't be shy, try to embed yourself in the work of the Indian lawyers in your organization. I've learned so much from them and they have been so willing to include me in the intellectual life of both the firm and the Law School. I have also learned a lot from our students and my colleagues in other law libraries. Networking is very important in this area.
- 5) What do you see as the most important issues facing Indian law in the future? Well as far as Indian legal research is concerned, although the availability of tribal materials has increased exponentially in the last few years, there is still a huge amount of work to be done in making tribal materials available and updated to everyone (not just those that can afford Westlaw)! I am hoping the AALL/LC Tribal Law inventory will be a huge step in this area.
- 6) What is your favorite Indian law resource? Wow, there are so many good ones but my top three are the National Indian Law Library, Turtle Talk and of course the ASU Indian Law Portal. The Cohen Handbook is indispensable.
- 7) What do you plan to do after you leave ASU? I for sure want to remain active in the Indian Law area and I hope to keep working, teaching and mentoring but maybe in a different arrangement. Of course my husband and I also have 7 grandkids scattered all over the country so I suspect we'll do some traveling to see them too!

# While in Philadelphia, Don't Miss the Penn Museum

**By Maria Protti**

A strong advantage of attending the AALL Annual Meeting is the opportunity to visit a close, local site that has a NPLC focus. Over the years in all regions of the country, NPLC members have visited all sorts of venues near our main meeting place. We have visited tribal libraries, historical sites, university exhibits, museums, and community centers -- sites that our members may not otherwise have an opportunity to visit in a lifetime.

In Philadelphia, one must-see venue is the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology. It was a model for the later day Heye Center (New York) and Smithsonian (Washington, D.C.) American Indian Museum Collections. This outstanding museum has been focusing on the culture of the people of Northern and Southern America since 1887 (Address: 3260 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; Hours: Monday closed, Tuesday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Wednesday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm; Thursday – Sunday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Admission: general \$10.00, seniors \$7.00; Phone 215/898-4045).

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An ongoing exhibit is the Southwest Collection at the North America Gallery emphasizing the cultural ties of the Apache, Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni peoples with connections to the sacred. Of the more than three hundred objects shown in the gallery, one should not miss the Apache tipi, the Navajo hogan, and a walk-in theater showing the Southwestern sky.

## Penn Museum (Protti) (cont'd)

The museum's associated archives include the most thorough documentation of the Tlingit culture anywhere. The Tlingit people ancestrally hail from the Pacific Northwest Coast, south of Anchorage and north of Seattle, and now number over 16,000 people. The archives house hundreds of pages of clan stories, crest objects, historic records, and linguistic terms collected by Louis Shotridge, a famous member of the Tlingit and museum staffer. Shotridge's work is noteworthy, but controversial because of the idea that he appropriated many inalienable objects for the museum. The archives are open from Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. It is best to make an appointment at least a day in advance of visiting. The phone number for the archives is 215/898-8304 (E-mail: [archives@pennmuseum.org](mailto:archives@pennmuseum.org)).

### A few useful links:

**Penn Museum:** <http://www.penn.museum/>

**Louis Shotridge Digital Archive (Tlingit Art, Culture and Heritage):**

<http://www.penn.museum/collections/shotridge/index.html>



## New FCIL Interest Group

By Maria Protti

The AALL Foreign Comparative and International Law Librarian SIS has a new interest group devoted to Indigenous Peoples Law. The subsection began in 2009, and is chaired by Joan Policastri (Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, University of Denver). Joan will attend our NPLC Business Meeting. Please extend Joan a warm welcome. Already many of us have enjoyed a program sponsored by the Indigenous Peoples Interest Group. We look forward to upcoming collaborative and mutual projects and discussion with the FCIL SIS.



# New and Notable Resources

## ONLINE RESOURCES

- Arizona Tribal Courts:**

<http://www.law.asu.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=t0EpffaNMD8%3d&tabid=1615>

- New Tribal Leaders Directory:**

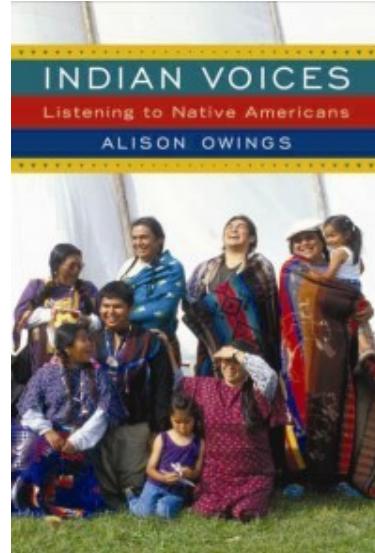
<http://www.bia.gov/idc/groups/xois/documents/text/idc002652.pdf>

## PRINT RESOURCES

### Indian Voices: Listening to Native Americans,

by Alison Owings

In composing this new title, Owings traveled around the country over a period of several years collecting interesting stories told by Natives/Indians in a variety of settings and situations. I must admit, initially I was skeptical, especially after reading the introduction in which Owings muses that she is not sure how to organize the information that she collected for this book. C'mon, I thought, Indians are not some other species—talk about them like the real people that they are. As I got into the book, I realized that that is exactly what Owings does and she does it well. Owings is a good writer and an even better listener. She manages to present the stories told by real-life Natives/Indians/Tribal People with attention to detail and as accurately as a person outside the culture probably could. She brings her own perspective to the stories and although these asides may make many Natives/Indians smile in all-too familiar recognition of encounters with non-Natives, they also help to illustrate the uniqueness of Native/Tribal culture. All in all, I highly recommend this title to any and all libraries, including law libraries—Owings includes a chapter entitled “Indians 101” - a primer on Indian Law—as presented by Elizabeth Homer, Esq. —along with other chapters that touch on topics that range from violence against Native women to Tribal Government to treaty rights. This book is an excellent addition to the ongoing conversation between Natives and non-Natives and it also enhances mutual understanding among the Peoples of this country.



# **University of Tulsa College of Law partners with Kaplan to offer an exclusively online Masters of Jurisprudence in Indian Law Degree beginning in August 2011**

The Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law (MJIL) is an online degree program for professionals who work in a variety of disciplines and positions which in some way require a solid knowledge of the field but who do not require a law degree. The program is offered by The University of Tulsa College of Law, a recognized leader in Indian law education, in association with Concord Law School, the nation's leading online law school.

To fill this gap, The University of Tulsa has partnered with Concord Law School of Kaplan University, the nation's premier online law school, to produce a new online master's degree program, focused on Indian Law, for those who need it the most.

The 30-credit-hour program is initially offered in a part-time format with students taking six credits during the Fall 2011 semester. The first class will start August 22, 2011. MJIL students enrolled on a part-time basis are generally expected to complete the program in five to six terms. In future terms, beginning Spring 2012 semester, it will be possible for students to enroll as full-time students to complete the degree in one school year. The goal of the online program is to make it possible for professionals all across Indian Country to pursue a graduate degree in Indian Law without the need to leave jobs, families and tribes behind in the process.

The TU College of Law's Native American Law Center is a leading research center for Native American law and history. Courses in the MJIL program are developed and taught by TU professors as well as other recognized experts in the field. MJIL candidates will successfully complete four required courses and a thesis or professional paper as well as their elective choices.

The MJIL program seeks applicants with a minimum of a bachelor's degree who have an interest in and commitment to gaining an in-depth knowledge of Indian law but may not wish to become lawyers. The program is also open to lawyers who wish to gain additional expertise or expand their practices in the area. (Please note that this degree will not enable non-lawyers to sit for a bar exam). The application deadline for the spring 2012 semester start is December 16, 2011.

## Program Description and Application

(<https://secureweb.utulsa.edu/law/application/mjil/mjilthanks.html>)



## Native Peoples Law Caucus



**Don't miss the NPLC Meeting :**

**When: Monday, July 25, 2011**

**Time: 12noon—1:15pm**

**Where: Marriott-Room 302**



Native Peoples Law Caucus Officers:

Chairperson – Sherri Nicole Thomas

Webmaster – Open

Newsletter – Faye Hadley

Treasurer – Open

TLC - David Selden

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**See you all next year in Boston!**

**Propose a program or workshop for Boston 2012**

**Proposals are due September 15!**

**AALL 2012**  
105th Annual Meeting & Conference  
Boston, MA | July 21-24

learn .....  
connect .....  
grow