



Native Peoples Law Caucus Newsletter

Welcome from the NPLC Chair

Summer 2025

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Dear NPLC members, colleagues, and friends,

As we reflect on another meaningful year for the Native Peoples Law Caucus (NPLC), I want to share my gratitude for all that we have accomplished together and my excitement for what's ahead.

This time last year, I stepped into the role of Chair, following Anne Lucke. I want to express my deep thanks to Anne Lucke, Darla Jackson, and so many others who have led and supported the caucus over the years. Because of their vision and commitment, NPLC remains a vibrant, energetic, and friendly community.

I continue to be inspired by the great work of all our members: advancing causes we believe in, producing excellent scholarship, and supporting the law of our Tribal Nations through teaching, research, advocacy, and service. NPLC is proud to highlight and support that work at every opportunity.

This year brought a long-fought achievement: the 22nd Edition of The Bluebook now includes Rule 22, providing clear and standardized guidance for citing the law of Tribal Nations. Rule 22 is about much more than just citation practices. I truly believe that having Tribal law in our

mainstay source of authority and citation helps reflect the inherent dignity of Tribal Nations and respect for their legal systems. This new rule provides a lasting and concrete way to share this information with law students, practitioners, scholars, and members of the judiciary.

This is a change that so many of us have long wished and worked for, and we all celebrate this moment together. Rule 22 recognizes the sovereignty of Tribal Nations in our scholarship, teaching, and practice, and formally shares the values and information we know to be essential with our larger legal community.

The new Rule 22—divided into sections 22.1, 22.2, and 22.3—along with updated guidance in Rule 21.4 on citing treaties with Tribal Nations, and the creation of Table 1.5: Tribal Nations, marks an important and overdue step forward. *(continued on page 3)*





Get to know the Native Peoples Law Caucus

2024 Officers

Chair: Amber Madole

Secretary: open

Webmaster: R. Martin Witt

Newsletter Editor: Hannah Evans

Mission & Vision

The aim of the Native Peoples Law Caucus (NPLC) is to provide a forum in which Native law and other issues that impact Indigenous Peoples worldwide can be discussed, ideas shared, information exchanged, and education offered. The Caucus encourages and facilitates the analysis, cataloging, collection, dissemination, management, organization, and preservation of Native law in accordance with cultural tradition.

Join the NPLC



Are you interested in federal Indian and Tribal law? Please join the American Association of Law Libraries' Native Peoples Law Caucus! Already a member? Please invite your colleagues! AALL Members can join our community by going to bit.ly/aallnplc, signing in, and clicking on the "Join Community" button.

All AALL members are welcome!



Member updates

Amber Kennedy Madole, (University of Southern California, Gould School of Law), **Bonnie Shucha** (University of Wisconsin Law School), and **Rebecca Plevel** (University of Denver, Sturm College of Law) have received two AALL awards for their article "Integrating Tribal Law into the Legal Research and Writing Curriculum: Benefits, Challenges, and Strategies" *31 Perspectives* 4 (2024). The piece earned both the Paul Gatz Publication Award from RIPS-SIS and the Outstanding Article Award from ALL-SIS. The article addresses practical aspects of incorporating Tribal law into law school curricula. Part one offers concrete strategies for integration, drawing on examples from Wisconsin's program. Part two covers the importance of introducing law students to Tribal law research, while part three examines implementation challenges. The authors also included two appendices with curated resources for further exploration. The dual recognition reflects the article's contribution to discussions around expanding Tribal law education in legal curricula.

Amber Kennedy Madole was also awarded the Early Career Teaching/Public Service Award by the AALS Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples Section. From AALS: "This award recognizes extraordinary contributions to teaching and/or public service in the field of Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples. Your innovative work integrating Tribal law into legal research and writing curriculum and impact on the field have been remarkable." 🏆

Welcome *(continued from page 1)*

Table 1.5 lists all 574 federally recognized Tribal Nations along with other jurisdictions.

We celebrate not only this achievement but the Tribal judiciaries, Indian law advocates, and the many people who have long supported Tribal Nations and their values—including in areas like child welfare and juvenile justice. Their work strengthens our communities and carries forward the good ways set by those who came before.

We are honored to stand on their shoulders and to continue this important work. In particular, at this time of gratitude and celebration, I want to honor Lavina Mithlo and LaVera "Bibo" Mithlo, whose warmth and care for their communities and families continues to inspire me in this work.

This accomplishment was made possible because of a remarkable collaborative effort. I want to thank the librarians, scholars, and advocates who brought expertise, dedication, and persistence to this project. I am honored to have worked alongside so many of you.

In particular, I want to recognize:

- Rebecca Chapman (University of Buffalo School of Law)
- Shay Elbaum (Harvard Law School)
- Caitlin Hunter (UCLA School of Law)

- Darla Jackson (University of Oklahoma College of Law)
- Rachel Nelson (National Indian Law Library)
- Bonnie Shucha (University of Wisconsin Law School)
- Shania L. Kee (University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law)
- Sherri Nicole Thomas (University of New Mexico School of Law)

Looking forward, we will also have a strong NPLC presence at the AALL Annual Meeting in Portland. See page 6 for details.

I know many in our community cannot travel this year, and we want to also explore ways we can connect in various ways and support each other from wherever we are, virtually.

Thank you for making NPLC a place where ideas turn into action and where we can uplift each other's work. Together, we honor those who came before and aim to continue the work they began.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon, and as always, if you'd like to get involved, we'd love to have you. Please be in touch!

Warmly,
Amber Kennedy Madole
Chair, Native Peoples Law Caucus



Bluebook 22nd Edition updates: Citing the laws and treaties of Tribal Nations

The 22nd Edition of the Bluebook has arrived, and this update includes specific information on citing the laws of Tribal Nations. Drafted with the assistance and careful attention of many NPLC members, Rule 22 establishes clear guidance and standards for legal writing.

Rule 22 features 22.1: Tribal Nations with an Established Citation Format, 22.2: Tribal Nations Without an Established Citation Format, and 22.3: Short Citation Form. Rule 22.1 specifies to defer to a Tribal Nation's established citation format if one exists and advises writers to reach out to the Tribal Nation itself for any clarification if needed.

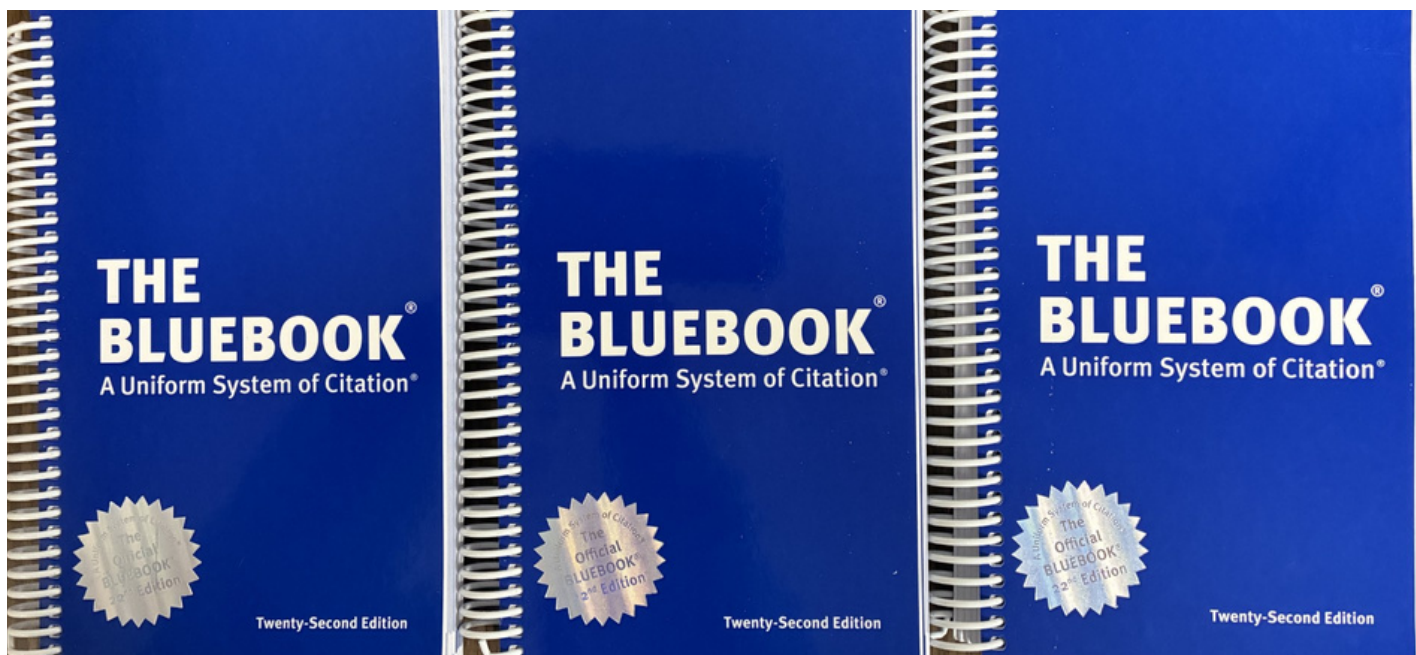
Rule 22.2 outlines citation formats for the law of Tribal Nations in circumstances where the cited nation does not already have an established standard. This rule is broken

down into standards for constitutions; codes; orders, ordinances, and resolutions; and cases; with a reference to Rule 21.4 for information on treaties.

Another important 22nd Edition update includes additions to Rule 21.4: Treaties and Other International Agreements. This rule now features multiple citation examples of treaties with Tribal Nations.

Additionally, a new table has been added under T1: United States Jurisdictions: T1.5: Tribal Nations. This table features all 574 federally recognized Tribal Nations.

These updates in the newest edition of the Bluebook are a long overdue and much appreciated step toward recognizing the sovereignty of Tribal Nations. 🌈





Recently published titles

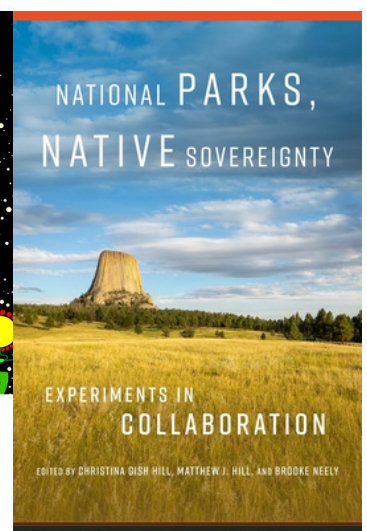
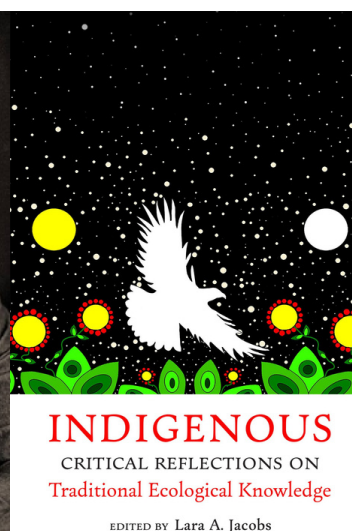
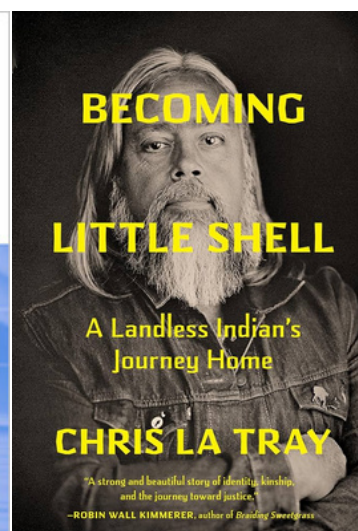
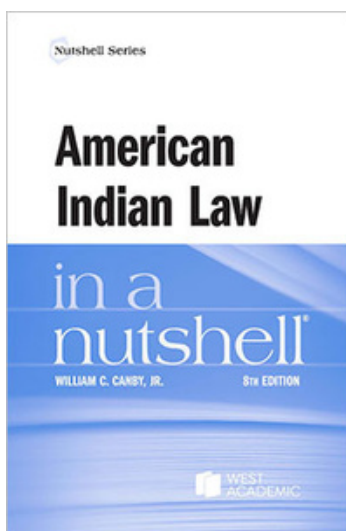
A number of titles relevant to the Indian law legal community were published in the past year. From updates to well-known sources to new perspectives on complicated issues, these are just a few of the works that came out recently.

Perhaps most notably, a new edition of **Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law** (2024, LexisNexis) as well as an update to **American Indian Law in a Nutshell** (2025, West Academic Publishing) both hit the shelves. Cohen's features a number of updates, including a chapter on administrative policymaking. The Nutshell includes coverage of numerous significant cases since the last edition, including *Haaland v. Brackeen*, *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, *Arizona v. Navajo Nation*, and more.

Stepping back from the release of larger reference texts, a variety of nonfiction titles have also come out in the past 12 months. Chris La Tray's **Becoming Little Shell: Returning Home to the Landless Indians of Montana** (2024, Milkweed Editions) chronicles the Montana poet laureate's experience seeking enrollment with the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians as the Tribe continues its longtime quest for federal recognition.

Featuring a diverse list of over 50 contributors that include storytellers, poets, and scholars from many backgrounds, **Indigenous Critical Reflections on Traditional Ecological Knowledge** (2025, Oregon State University Press) offers a wealth of perspectives on a decolonized approach to considering Indigenous knowledge categorized in three sections: relationships, reciprocity, and responsibility.

National Parks, Native Sovereignty: Experiments in Collaboration (2024), collects relevant case studies and interviews to inform this assessment and guide to collaboration between Tribal Nations and the National Park Service. Offering a path the authors refer to as strategic collaboration, participants are encouraged to work together on mutually beneficial policy solutions that respect Tribal sovereignty on national park land.





AALL Annual Meeting member events

Attending the American Association of Law Libraries' annual conference in Portland? Meet other NPLC members at the following events:

NPLC table at CONELL Marketplace

Date: Saturday, July 19

Time: 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Hyatt Regency A

NPLC will participate in the CONELL Marketplace, part of the Conference of Newer Law Librarians. This is a great opportunity to introduce our work to new AALL members and build connections. Email Amber Madole at amadole@law.usc.edu for more details.

NPLC meetup

Date: Sunday, July 20

Time: 12:45 - 1:45 pm

Location: Oregon Convention Center, room A107

Join NPLC members for a casual get together.

