UNM School of Law
Law & Indigenous Peoples Program

State Bar of New Mexico
Indian Law Section

Call for Proposals

Indian Law Institute Continuing Legal Education Conference

The University of New Mexico School of Law's Law and Indigenous Peoples Program and the Indian Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico invites proposals from attorneys, scholars, judges, and professionals with expertise in Indian law and related fields to volunteer to present at the 2026 Indian Law Institute (CLE) Conference. This annual event brings together practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders to explore emerging issues and developments affecting Indian Country in New Mexico and beyond.

Conference Overview

- **Date:** Friday, October 9, 2026
- **Location:** University of New Mexico School of Law
- **Format:** In-person with potential hybrid participation
- **CLE Credit:** 4.0 General Hours, 1.0 Ethics, 1.0 EIJ (pending approval)
- The conference will feature six one-hour speaker blocks, each addressing a key area of current relevance to Indian law practitioners.

Speaker Topics

1. Indian Gaming and Emerging Prediction Markets (1.0 General)

- **Focus:** Examination of prediction markets, online gaming trends, and their potential effects on Indian gaming operations and regulatory frameworks.
- **Preferred Speaker:** Legal scholar, tribal gaming regulator, or attorney specializing in Indian gaming law.

2. Pathways to the Judiciary for Native Attorneys (1.0 EIJ)

- **Format:** Panel of 2–3 speakers
- **Focus:** Exploration of judicial career pathways for Native attorneys, including insights into the New Mexico Judicial Nominating Commission process, mentorship opportunities, and systemic barriers to representation.
- **Preferred Speakers:** Sitting or retired judges, members of the Judicial Nominating Commission, and Native attorneys with judicial experience.

3. ICWA vs. IFPA in New Mexico (1.0 General)

- **Focus:** Comparative discussion of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the New Mexico Indian Family Protection Act (IFPA), highlighting key differences, legislative intent, and practical implications for practitioners and tribal communities.
- **Preferred Speaker(s):** Child welfare attorneys, tribal court judges, or policy experts.

4. Legislative Developments Affecting Indian Country (1.0 General)

- **Focus:** Overview of current state and federal legislative efforts impacting Indian Country, including land, sovereignty, environmental, and jurisdictional issues.
- **Preferred Speaker:** Legislative analyst, policy advisor, or attorney engaged in tribal-state-federal relations.

5. Federal and State Grants and Executive Leadership Impacts (1.0 General)

- **Focus:** Analysis of how federal and state grant programs serving tribal communities have been influenced—or remain unaffected—by shifts in state and national executive leadership.
- **Preferred Speaker:** Tribal grant administrator, federal program officer, or attorney specializing in federal Indian law and funding mechanisms.

6. Alternative Licensure and Ethical Considerations in Indian Country (1.0 Ethics)

- **Format:** Panel discussion
- **Focus:** Examination of proposed alternative licensure pathways for attorneys, their potential impacts on tribal legal systems, and ethical issues arising from differing licensing regimes within Indian Country.
- **Preferred Speakers:** Ethics counsel, tribal court practitioners, members of alternative licensure subcommittee of NM Supreme Court, and representatives from related state bar committees.

Submission Requirements:

- Speaker or panel title and topic
- Abstract (250–500 words)
- Speaker(s) biography (150 words per speaker)
- Contact information (email, phone, and affiliation)
- Preferred presentation format (individual or panel)

Selection Criteria:
Proposals will be evaluated based on relevance, originality, expertise, and contribution to the advancement of Indian law practice in New Mexico.

Submission and Contact Information:

Please submit proposals electronically to:
Indian Law Section Board of Directors, State Bar of New Mexico
Email: ilsboard@sbnm.org
Subject Line: **CLE Conference Speaker Proposal – [Your Name or Topic]**

For questions regarding the call for proposals or conference logistics, contact Robert Waldroup, the Indian Law Section Chair at rwaldroup@pojoaque.org.

PLEASE SUBMIT PROPOSALS BY FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026 (COB)

About the UNMSOL Law and Indigenous Peoples Program:

The Program is centered on academic and professional success for Indigenous students and their allies. Priorities include strengthening curriculum, expanding mentorship, deepening partnerships with alumni, Tribal communities, and supporting LIPP's core pillars: the Tribal Law Journal (TLJ), the Southwest Indian Law Clinic (SILC), and the UNMSOL Chapter of the Native American Law Students Association (NALSA).

About the Indian Law Section:

The Indian Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico promotes the study and understanding of Indian law, fosters professional development among practitioners, and supports collaboration between tribal, state, and federal legal communities.

Join in shaping the dialogue on the future of Indian law in New Mexico. Submit a proposal and share expertise with colleagues dedicated to advancing justice in Indian Country.