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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

STACY L. LEEDS\*

In 1995, the North Dakota Law Review (NDLR) hosted an inaugural symposium on American Indian law.<sup>2</sup> During the planning stages, NDLR contacted the American Indian Law Center, Inc. (AILC) at the University of New Mexico to solicit ideas. Sam Deloria, the director of AILC, and his colleague, Professor Robert Laurence of the University of Arkansas, came to the rescue by suggesting a multitude of provocative Indian law issues.

The 1995 symposium resulted in a now legendary gathering of Indian law scholars, judges, and attorneys. The contents of the symposium issue were substantial to the field. Hosting the symposium was foundational to the establishment of the Indian law program at the University of North Dakota (UND) and the creation of the Northern Plains Indian Law Center.

One decade has brought a wealth of change to the University of North Dakota School of Law. Rather than approaching other Indian law centers and institutes for guidance on Indian law issues, UND has become one of the noted "Indian law" schools from which others seek advice. In 1995, the Northern Plains Indian Law Center was merely a plan in the infancy of implementation. After years of hard work by Professor Patti Alleva, Professor Jim Grijalva and others, and with the support of the UND faculty and the administrations of Dean Jeremy Davis and Interim Dean Candace Zierdt, the School of Law and the Northern Plains Indian Law Center is now a firmly entrenched leader in the field of American Indian law. In addition to legal educational opportunities and technical assistance services to tribal governments, UND has made a name for itself by providing a forum for Indian law scholarship through the symposium editions of the North Dakota Law Review. I am pleased to see Dean Paul LeBel forge a new era of leadership and continued support. Indian Country is taking note.

Despite the passing of a decade, this anniversary symposium hosts a number of repeat commentators and presenters: Frank Pommersheim of the University of South Dakota presented the keynote address. Professor Judith Royster of the University of Tulsa, Professor Bill Rice of the University of

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2. Proceedings published in 71 N.D. L. REV. 273 (1995).

Tulsa, and Professor Jim Grijalva of the University of North Dakota provided wisdom through their commentary.

In 1995, Symposium Reporter Bob Laurence noted that the symposium was blessed with well-known scholars, as well as a host of rising stars. Ten years later, those rising stars have become the mentors and elders who guide a growing number of new Indian law scholars. Among them include Professor Matthew Fletcher, who currently serves as Director of the Northern Plains Indian Law Center, Professor Wenona Singel, a recent addition to the North Dakota faculty, and Professor Donald E. "Del" Laverdure of Michigan State University. All provided insightful presentations and commentary.

Henry Buffalo, from the firm of Jacobson, Buffalo, Schoessler & Magnuson, along with Robert Miller from the Lewis and Clark Law School contributed insightful commentary on an article jointly authored by Kathryn R.L. Rand, Associate Dean of the UND School of Law, Dr. Steven A. Light, UND College of Business and Public Administration, and Dr. Alan P. Meister, Analysis Group, Inc., based in Los Angeles, California. Steven F. Olson of BlueDog, Olson & Small with G. William Rice of the University of Tulsa College of Law commented on Professor Singel's article dealing with labor relations and tribal self-governance. Professor Fletcher's article was discussed by Kirsten M. Carlson of the University of Minnesota Law School along with Del Laverdure. Kristen Carpenter from the University of Denver College of Law and Brad Myers from UND Law School added their analysis and commentary to my article. Tom Disselhorst from the United Tribes Technical College also presented at the conference.

The second day of the symposium included discussions on a myriad of subjects. Dean Suagee, once director of Vermont Law School's First Nations Environmental Law Program, now with Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, joined Jim Grijalva and Judith Royster to discuss tribal environmental law. Dr. Sebastian Braun from UND and Brian Upton, staff attorney for the Confederated Tribes of the Salish & Kootenai Reservation, introduced issues concerning tribal control of bison ranges.

Michael Petoskey, Chief Judge, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Tribal Court & Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians Tribal Court, who also serves as Appellate Judge, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court of Appeals & Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court of Appeals, moderated a discussion on tribal law and tribal culture. Sarah Deer of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute contributed greatly to that event.

The Indian Child Welfare Act received a thorough analysis lead by Mary Jo Brooks Hunter from Hamline University School of Law, along

with B.J. Jones of UND School of Law and Jill Tompkins from the University of Colorado School of Law. A panel on ethics included Elizabeth Kronk of Latham & Watkins as well as Michelle Rivard from the Spirit Lake Tribe & Tribal Justice Institute.

The basic structure of the previous symposium was replicated in this edition, with much success. Following each author's presentation, scholars provided commentary. Transcripts of the commentaries are included in this issue. With that introduction, we begin the 2005 Indian Law Symposium that explores the timely issue of economic development on tribal lands.

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