



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2004 Mid-Year Conference Lincoln City, Oregon

RESOLUTION #04 - 65

"THE EXAMINATION OF INDIAN LAW ON STATE BAR EXAMINATIONS"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific Tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, Tribal economic development and the resulting increase in interaction of Indian nations and people, with non-Indian entities and individuals both on and off of the reservation, has given rise to an array of business transactions, regulatory issues and litigation matters between Tribal and non-tribal parties; and

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WHEREAS, the American public and their attorneys do not generally understand the legal import of our Indian nations' inherent sovereign rights; nor do they understand precisely how tribal self-governance and self-determination, and the laws and ways of Indian nations, affect and intersect Anglo-American legal principles; and

WHEREAS, if attorneys for the American public, particularly federal, state and local government, better understood the legal concepts of Tribal self-governance and Tribal jurisdiction, there would be fewer disputes and government-to-government dialogue would be greatly enhanced; and

WHEREAS, in February 2002 the State of New Mexico became the first state to test the topic of Indian law on its bar licensing exam, with a view towards educating public and private legal counsel and, in turn, the American public about the legal rights of sovereign Indian nations; and

WHEREAS, the majority of American states, which host large populations of Indian people and/or a significant presence of Tribal lands, including Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Maine, Connecticut, Louisiana and Florida, should likewise include the topic of Indian law on their bar licensing examinations; now

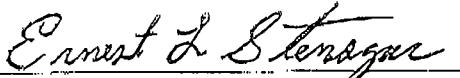
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby support the Association of Washington Tribes, and the Association's friends and colleagues in the Northwest Indian Bar Association, the Washington State Bar Association Indian Law Section and Idaho State Bar Indian Law Section, and the National Native American Bar Association, in their endeavor to have the topic of Indian law tested by state bar associations, so the American public can better understand the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations; and


THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby seek the assistance and collaboration of the American Bar Association, and the bar associations, boards of bar examiners and Supreme Courts in states such as Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Louisiana and Florida, to carry out the provisions of this Resolution; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution be immediately transmitted upon its effective date to the President and President-elect of the American Bar Association.

AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANSRESOLUTION # 04 - 65CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2004 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center in Lincoln City, Oregon on May 20, 2004 with a quorum present.


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Lodie, Secretary