

National Native American Bar Association

Resolution No. 2004-2

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 reservations has given rise to an array of business transactions, regulatory issues and litigation matters between tribal and non-tribal parties;

WHEREAS, the American public, including attorneys, generally lack understanding as to the legal importance of our Indian nations' inherent sovereign rights, how tribal self-governance and self-determination works, the laws and ways of Indian nations in general, and how federal Indian law affects and intersects with other non-Indian legal principles;

WHEREAS, the National Native American Bar Association believes that if attorneys licensed to practice in the United States, particularly those that work for federal, state and local governments, better understood the legal concepts of tribal sovereignty and tribal self-governance there would be fewer disputes and greater government-to-government dialogue between Indian tribes and federal, state, and local governments;

WHEREAS, in February 2002 the State of New Mexico became the first state in the union 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;

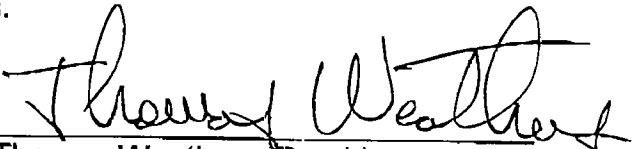
WHEREAS, the National Native American Bar Association believes that if states with a large Indian population tested Indian law on their bar licensing exams that would greatly improve knowledge and understanding about tribal sovereignty and tribal self-governance and lead to a decrease in disputes and litigation between Indian tribes and federal, state, and local governments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Native American Bar Association requests that Indian law be tested on bar licensing exams in states with large Indian populations and that the National Native American Bar Association will work with other bar associations, including the American Bar Association, to achieve this goal.

CERTIFICATION

I, Thomas Weathers, the duly-elected President of the National Native American Bar Association, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was enacted by a vote of 12 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining, at a duly-noticed meeting of the Board of Directors.

Date: 5/4/04


Thomas Weathers, President