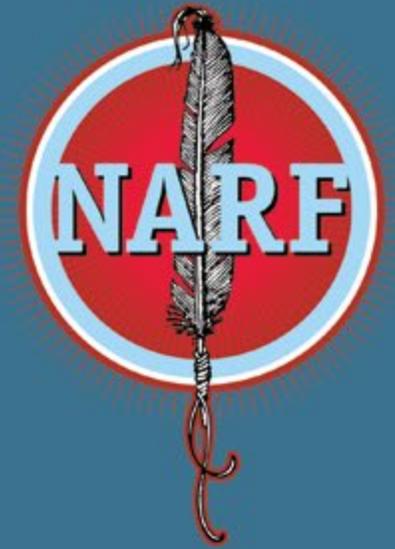


Resources at the National Indian Law Library

Anne Lucke
Library Director
www.narf.org/nill



Agenda

- Background on NARF & NILL
- Accessing Tribal Law
 - Barriers to Access
 - Available Sources
 - NILL's Tribal Law Gateway
- Additional NILL Resources
 - Online Catalog
 - Indian Law Bulletins
 - Research Guides
- How to Reach us at NILL
- Secondary Sources
- Questions?

NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND



- Tribal self-governance documents
- Legal pleadings from Indian law cases (1970s – 1990s)
- Indian law treatises
- NARF publications
- Basic collection of books on Native Americans



Definition of Federal Indian Law

The body of law dealing with the status of Indian tribes and their relationship to other tribes, the states, and the federal government. These complex relationships are defined by treaties, statutes, executive orders, court decisions, and administrative actions.



Definition of Tribal Law

The body of non-Federal law that governs lands and activities under the jurisdiction of a tribe, including ordinances or other enactments by the tribe, and tribal court rulings.

25 CFR § 162.003



Why Isn't Tribal Law More Accessible?

- Lack of staffing / staff turnover
- Lack of funding (attorneys, codification, publishing)
- Permissions challenges
- No perceived benefit / distrust



Why Isn't Tribal Law More Accessible?

- 575 federally recognized Tribes, each with their own government
- No centralized system for collecting and publishing laws





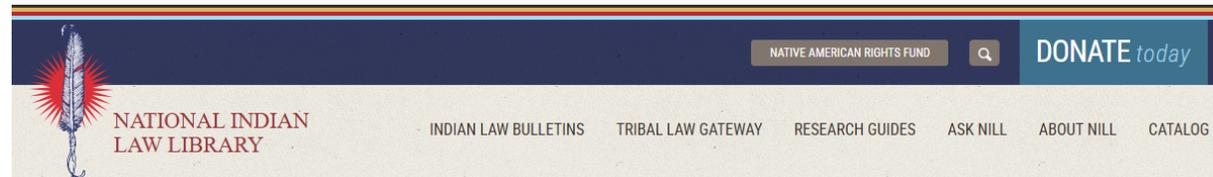
Sources of Tribal Law

(including codes, constitutions and court opinions)

- Tribe's website
- Legal publishers (free or fee-based)
- Nonprofit or bar association websites
- Government websites (state or federal)



NILL's Tribal Law Gateway



TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY

The mission of the National Indian Law Library's (NILL) Access to Tribal Law Project is to enhance the power of tribal courts and strengthen tribal sovereignty by providing tribal leaders, legal practitioners, and the public with convenient access to current and accurate copies of tribal codes and constitutions.

One aspect of tribal sovereignty is ensuring Tribal Nations remain in control of their own information and how that information is used. When a Tribal Nation grants permission to share their legal resources in NILL's collection, that permission does not serve as implied consent to use the materials in any other way. If legal materials are not shared on NILL's site, the Tribal Nation did not consent to adding their legal resources to NILL's electronic collection or any others. To use a Tribal Nation's legal materials in another database or collection, approval must be obtained through separate permission from the Tribal Nation itself, as NILL was not granted the authority to consent on their behalf.

NILL is able to provide access to a limited number of tribal legal materials per individual or group and will deny requests that appear to be frequent or systematic.

Find Tribal Law Materials by Tribe

A B C D E F G H I - K L M N O P Q R S T U V W - Z

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Accohannock Indian Tribe (state recognized)
- Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah (not recognized)
- Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, California
- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Akiachak Native Community
- Akiak Native Community
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Alatna Village
- Aleut Community of St. Paul Island (Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul & St. George Islands)
- Algaaciq Native Village (St. Mary's)
- Allakaket Village
- Alturas Indian Rancheria, California

SEARCH TRIBAL CODES AND CONSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN OUR COLLECTION

ENHANCED BY Google

[Basic Search Help](#)
[Operators and More Search Help](#)

HOW TO FIND TRIBAL...

- [Codes & Constitutions](#)
- [Court Opinions](#)
- [Court Rules](#)
- [Compacts & Agreements](#)
- [Treaties](#)
- [Legal Histories](#)

Article: [Researching American Indian Tribal Law](#) by David Selden, National Indian Law Library. (2014)

SELECTED ONLINE RESOURCES

[Tribal Law Links / Tribal Court Clearinghouse.](#)

[Tribal Government Links / USA.gov](#)

[Cumulative subject index for tribal court opinions in the *Indian Law Reporter*](#)



NATIONAL INDIAN
LAW LIBRARY

NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND



DONATE *today*

INDIAN LAW BULLETINS

TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY

RESEARCH GUIDES

ASK NILL

ABOUT NILL

CATALOG

TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY | PENOBSCOT NATION

Penobscot Nation



Formerly known as: Penobscot Tribe of Maine

TRIBAL CODE:

At NILL's website.

See NILL catalog records for the tribal code.

TRIBAL CONSTITUTION:

None Available.

TRIBAL COURT OPINIONS:

At court website. Court dockets, forms, etc.

At vLex (subscription required). Selected opinions of the Penobscot Nation Judicial System Appellate Division. 1983-2015.

CONTACT INFO

www.penobscotnation.org

12 Wabanaki Way
Indian Island, ME 04468
207-817-7349

Tribal Court:
[www.penobscotnation.org/
departments/tribal-court](http://www.penobscotnation.org/departments/tribal-court)

207-827-3415

RESEARCH TOOLS

United States Tribal Courts Directory. By
A. Schwartz and M.J.B. Hunter.



NATIONAL INDIAN
LAW LIBRARY

Get Indian Law news delivered to your inbox

EMAIL ADDRESS

SIGN ME UP

NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND



DONATE *today*

INDIAN LAW BULLETINS

TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY

RESEARCH GUIDES

ASK NILL

ABOUT NILL

CATALOG

[TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY](#) | [PENOBSCOT NATION](#) | [TRIBAL CODE](#)

PENOBSCOT NATION - LAWS AND ORDINANCES

Most Recent Update Received: June 2025

Disclaimer: Although every effort is made to present current and accurate information, if you need an official version of the tribe's laws, please contact the tribe.

Search the full-text of the Penobscot Nation's Laws and Ordinances:

ENHANCED BY Google



[Cover Page and Table of Contents](#)

[Chapter 1. Members Civil Rights \(Reserved\)](#)

[Chapter 2. General Meeting Law](#)

[Chapter 3. Elected Officials](#)

[Chapter 4. Tribal Election Law](#)

[Chapter 5. Census Maintenance](#)

[Chapter 6. Settlement Trust Fund \(Reserved\)](#)

[Chapter 7. Inland Fish and Game](#)

[Chapter 8. Penobscot Nation Judicial System](#)

[Chapter 9. Land and Residency Laws](#)



About 96 results (0.10 seconds)

RST Ordinance 2006-02 ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE CULTURAL ...

[narf.org](#) › [nill](#) › [codes](#) › [rosebudcode](#)

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat

a **Cultural Resource**. If it is determined that an activity may endanger a **Cultural Resource**, the THPO may seek up to an additional thirty (30) days comment ...

Title 21 – Archaeological and Cultural Resources - Chapter 1

[www.narf.org](#) › [nill](#) › [codes](#) › [swinomishcode](#)



File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat

issues and **cultural resource** management plans. 4. The names and addresses of the individuals proposed to be responsible for conducting the work ...

Tribal Code - Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck ...

[www.narf.org](#) › [nill](#) › [codes](#) › [assiniboine_sioux](#)

... **Cultural Resource** Protection Ordinance Chapter 1. General Provisions Chapter 2. Definitions Chapter 3. Cultural Preservation Officer Chapter 4. The Cultural ...

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon - Tribal Code

[www.narf.org](#) › [nill](#) › [codes](#) › [confederated_siletz](#)

3 CULTURAL PROTECTION CLEARANCE AND PERMITS: (Subpart A: Proposed Land Use Actions) Land Use Action-**Cultural Resource** Protection Permits; Application for ...

Chapter 73 - Native American Rights Fund

[narf.org](#) › [nill](#) › [codes](#) › [sisseton_wahpeton](#) › [Chapter73](#)

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat

disturbed **cultural resource** resulting from the etnetgency sitwLtion to the extent ... Enactment of **Cultural Resource** Protection Act. WHEREAS, The Sisseton ...

Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut - Code of Ordinances

[www.narf.org](#) › [nill](#) › [codes](#) › [mohegan](#)

Jan 19, 2024 ... - NHPA Section 106 Process for Undertakings on Tribal Lands. DIVISION 5. - CULTURAL RESOURCE REVIEW OF TRIBALLY PERMITTED OR REVIEWED PROJECTS

SEARCH TRIBAL CODES AND CONSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN OUR COLLECTION

ENHANCED BY Google



[Basic Search Help](#)
[Operators and More Search Help](#)



Treaties

www.narf.org/nill/triballaw/treaties.html

TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY | HOW TO FIND TREATIES

How to Find Treaties

Read about treaty research in [Basic Indian Law Research Tips -- Part I: Federal Indian Law](#).

[Indian Treaties: a Bibliography](#) - A bibliography describing sources for research into treaties between the U.S. government and Indian tribes, focusing on primary sources.

"American Indian law : Research and resources," *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (1984) - Contains sections on treaty texts, updating treaty research, and readings on treaties. See NILL catalog record.

ONLINE TOOLS:

[Ratified Indian Treaties, 1722-1869 \(National Archives. American Indian Treaties: Catalog Links\)](#) - Digitized treaties can be explored by date or by tribe.

[IDA Treaties Explorer](#) - This collection featuring 374 ratified Indian treaties from the U.S. National Archives' holdings is available through [The Indigenous Digital Archive](#).

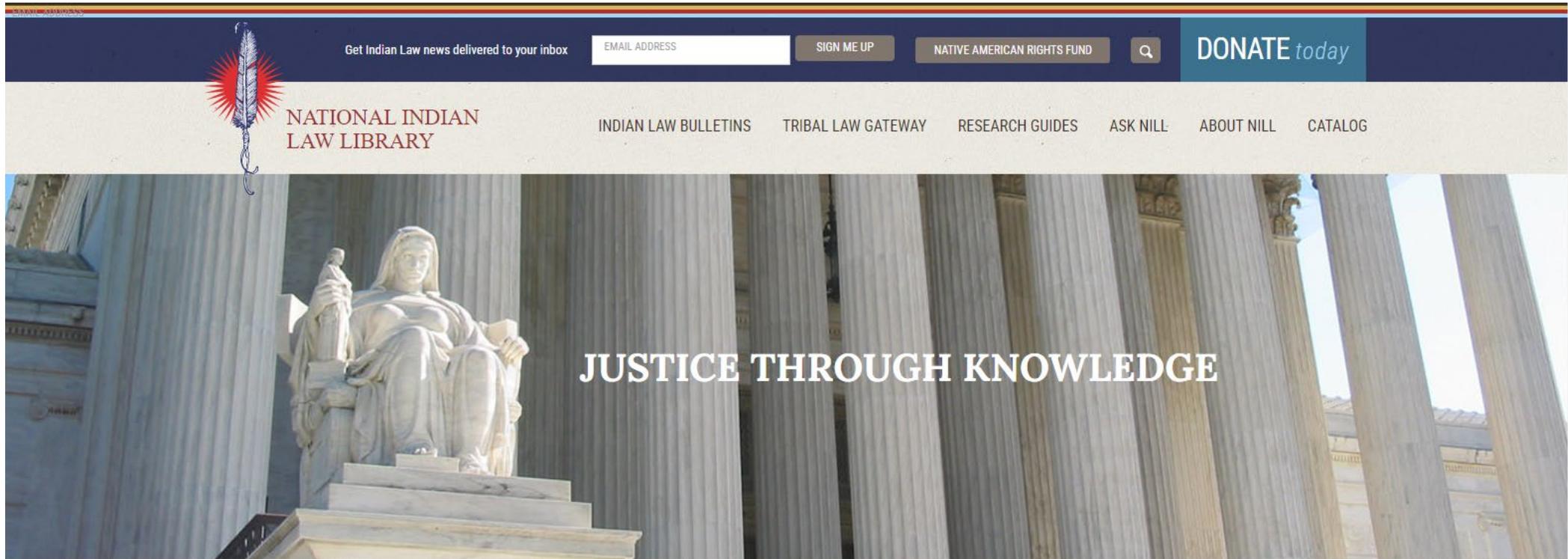
[Tribal Treaties Database](#) - Provides an easy-to-use portal to access treaties, agreements, and other historical documents that have shaped relationships between tribal nations and the United States. Created by Oklahoma State University Libraries with their partners, USDA, Department of the Interior and Department of Defense Legacy Program.

[Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties](#). - Compiled and Edited by Charles J. Kappler - (available online from Oklahoma State University) - The complete 7-volume set. Includes treaties and federal laws passed relating to Native Americans through January 13, 1971. Volume II is the treaties and executive orders volume. PDF copies of Vols. 1-7 are available through [GovInfo](#).

[Early Recognized Treaties With American Indian Nations](#) - (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) - Presents nine treaties that are not digitized as part of Charles J. Kappler's *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*.

[Jay Treaty of 1794 and Associated Documents](#) - (Yale University). Treaty between Canada and the U.S. dealing with American Indians residing in both Canada and U.S.

www.narf.org/nill



The screenshot shows the top portion of the NILL website. At the top left is the NARF logo, a feather with red and blue rays. To its right is a dark blue navigation bar containing the text "Get Indian Law news delivered to your inbox", an "EMAIL ADDRESS" input field, a "SIGN ME UP" button, a "NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND" button, a search icon, and a "DONATE today" button. Below this is a light beige navigation bar with the text "NATIONAL INDIAN LAW LIBRARY" and a list of menu items: "INDIAN LAW BULLETINS", "TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY", "RESEARCH GUIDES", "ASK NILL", "ABOUT NILL", and "CATALOG". The main banner features a photograph of a classical statue of Lady Justice seated on a pedestal in front of a row of tall columns. The text "JUSTICE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE" is overlaid in white capital letters on the right side of the image.





NILL's online catalog

Native American Rights Fund

NATIONAL INDIAN LAW LIBRARY
SEEKING JUSTICE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Basic search Advanced search Browse by...

Enter your search here 

[CATALOG HOME](#) [RESEARCH](#) [NARF](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND RESOURCES

INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION DECISIONS

Law and Economics in Indian Country

A PRACTICE GUIDE TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT

Decision Making Guide:
Options for Tribal Education: Departmental, State, and Tribal Education Programs

OBSTACLES AT EVERY TURN

A Brief Historical Survey of the Expropriation of American Indian Remains

EXTERNAL EVALUATION FINAL REPORT
ROSEBUD SIOUX
TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT & TRIBAL EDUCATION CODE

CONGRESS MUST PASS MEASURES TO PROTECT NATIVE VOTING RIGHTS!

PROTECT NATIVE CHILDREN. PROTECT ICWA.

ASKNILL

Contact us for a quick response

» Indian Law Bulletins » Tribal Law Gateway » Research Guides



Catalog record for a case file



♥ [More like this...](#)



Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Indians v. U.S. Dept. of Navy, 898 F.2d 1410 (1990). (1988-)



[Email](#) [Request](#) [Print/Save](#) [Get Permalink](#)

Other Titles: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Indians v. United States Department of Navy, et al.

Imprint: 1988-

Notes: OPINION: In action, brought by tribe against Department of Navy on grounds that department had violated fiduciary duty to conserve tribe's fishery by developing program for leasing buffer zone water rights to farmers that otherwise would flow into lake, the court held that outlease program did not violate Endangered Species Act or fiduciary duty to tribe.

COURT: United States. Court of Appeals (9th Circuit)

COURT-RECORD:

19881200 Brief for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Indians (63 pgs) Robert Pelcyger, Fredericks & Pelcyger

19890222 Brief for the Federal Appellees (61 pgs) Donald Carr, Fred Disheroon, Robert Klarquist, Elizabeth Peterson, U.S. Attorney General; Stephen Banks, General Counsel; Thomas Ledvina, Commander, Office Judge Advocate General

19890300 Reply Brief for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Indians (31 pgs) Robert Pelcyger, Fredericks & Pelcyger

19900319 Opinion (12 pgs)

DOCKET-NO: No. 88-1650

CITATION: 898 F.2d 1410 (1990), 20 Env'tl. L. Rep. 20,572

LOWER COURT INFORMATION (NILL collection does not include documents from the district court case, but information is provided for reference. Also, as of 6/21/2017 these records are no longer available from the district court as the case files have been disposed of.):

COURT: United States. District Court (Nevada)

COURT-RECORD:

Complaint and First Amended Complaint (March 1986)

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law (December 18, 1987)

Order entering Final Judgment for the Navy (December 29, 1987)

DOCKET-NO: CV-R-86-115-BRT, CV-N-86-0115-BRT

Subjects: [Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation, Nevada](#) (23); [Reserved water rights - Indian Country \(U.S.\)](#) (313); [Nevada](#) (70); [Fisheries - Protection](#) (27); [Water diversion](#) (11); [United States. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 - Cases](#) (35); [Trusts and trustees](#) (458); [United States - Claims vs](#) (92);



Indian Law Bulletins

INDIAN LAW BULLETINS

Indian Law Bulletins are a current awareness service of the National Indian Law Library. The purpose of the Indian Law Bulletins is to provide succinct and timely information about new developments in Indian Law. See the [About page](#) for more information.

Current & Archived Bulletins

<p>US SUPREME COURT</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>	<p>FEDERAL COURTS</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>	<p>TRIBAL COURTS</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>	<p>STATE COURTS</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>
<p>US LEGISLATION</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>	<p>US REGULATORY INFORMATION</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>	<p>LAW REVIEW / BAR JOURNAL ARTICLES</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>	<p>NEWS BULLETIN</p>  <p>CURRENT BULLETIN</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p>

NEED INDIAN LAW RESEARCH HELP?

You can submit questions about Indian law to the NILL staff:

[askNILL](#)

SEARCH INDIAN LAW BULLETINS

ENHANCED BY Google

[Basic Search Help](#)
[Operators and More Search Help](#)

SIGN UP FOR INDIAN LAW BULLETINS

Get the latest Indian Law bulletins delivered to your inbox.

Email

First

Last



Tribal Courts Bulletin

INDIAN LAW BULLETINS | TRIBAL COURTS

2025 Tribal Courts Cases

DECEMBER

Emery v. Sault Tribe Housing Authority
Materials via Turtle Talk
APP-2025-01
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court of Appeals
December 16, 2025
Legal Topics: Tribal law

NOVEMBER

Kayden Midas Lambert v. Fort Peck Tribes
--- Am. Tribal Law ---, 2025 WL 3216131 (Fort Peck C.A.)
CAUSE NO. AP # 900
Fort Peck Court of Appeals.
November 17, 2025
Legal Topics: Tribal Law

Fort Peck Tribes v. Longtree
--- Am. Tribal Law ---, 2025 WL 3143333 (Fort Peck C.A.)
CAUSE NO. AP # 891
Fort Peck Court of Appeals.
November 10, 2025
Legal Topics: Tribal Law

Tarabochia v. Quinault Indian Nation
Materials via Turtle Talk
Case No.: CV23-015
Quinault Tribal Court.
November 3, 2025
Legal Topics: Disenrollment; Tribal Membership

CASES ARE ORGANIZED BY MONTH:

January | February | March | April |
May | June | July | August |
September | October | November |
December

Visit the Archives for the Indian Law Bulletins to see cases from previous years.

Indian Law Bulletins are a current awareness service of the National Indian Law Library. The purpose of the Indian Law Bulletins is to provide succinct and timely information about new developments in Indian Law. See the About page for more information.

Search the Tribal Courts Indian Law Bulletins:

ENHANCED BY Google

[Basic Search Help](#)
[Operators and More Search Help](#)

The Tribal Court Bulletins are a collaboration of the National Indian Law Library and the American Indian Law Clinic at University of Colorado, Boulder.





Research Guides

INDIAN LAW RESEARCH GUIDES

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHING INDIAN LAW (ALL TOPICS)

Research tips from our librarians:

Part I: Federal Indian Law

Part II: Tribal Law

FIND TRIBAL LAW AT OUR [TRIBAL LAW GATEWAY](#)

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHING SPECIFIC INDIAN LAW TOPICS:

TRIBAL RECOGNITION

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

INDIAN TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

TRIBAL EDUCATION

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE (ICW)

REPATRIATION

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS
RIGHTS

INDIGENOUS PEACEMAKING

JURISDICTION IN INDIAN COUNTRY

CITIZENSHIP & BORDERS

PRISONER ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

WATER RIGHTS & INDIAN LAND

SACRED PLACES

CIVILIZATION POLICY

AskNILL -

www.narf.org/nill/asknill.html



Research and Information Request

[Ask new request](#)

[Comments](#)

[Home](#)



i Please complete the applicable fields and **Submit**
Note - the ✓ symbol indicates a required field.

Contact Details

Your email address ✓

Please confirm your email address

Your name

Your phone number

Your affiliation

[Select option] ▼

Request Details

Question text ✓

Please enter here the details of your research and information needs. If you know a specific title of a document that you are looking for, also provide that information.



Subject line

Last useful date

10/28/2023

04:30 PM

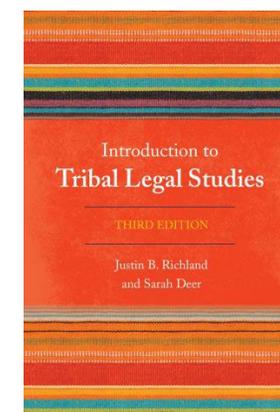
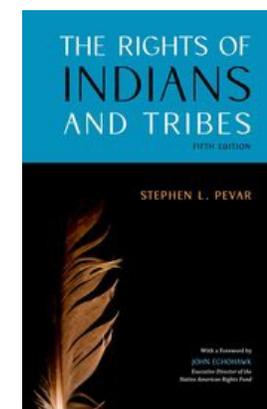
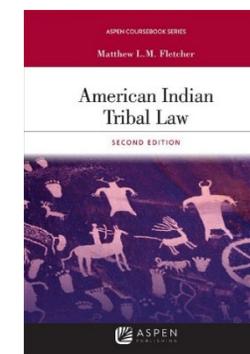
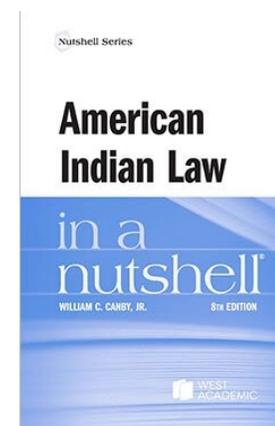
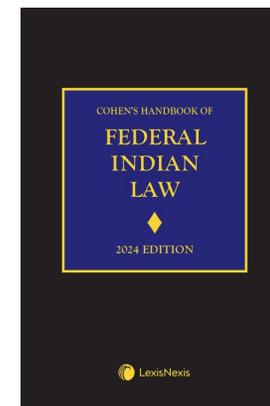
Add any attachments





Secondary Sources

- **Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law (2024)**
- **Canby's American Indian Law in a Nutshell (8th ed)**
- **American Indian Tribal Law (Third Edition)** by Matthew L.M. Fletcher
- **The Rights of Indians and Tribes (Fifth Edition)** by Stephen L. Pevar
- **Introduction to Tribal Legal Studies (Third Edition)** by Justin B. Richland and Sarah Deer





Resources at the National Indian Law Library

- See the Tribal Law Gateway, Online Catalog and Research Guides on our website
www.narf.org/nill
- Sign up for Indian Law Bulletins updates
www.narf.org/nill/bulletins/index.html
- Use the AskNill links on our website or call 720-647-9919 to request assistance from NILL librarians
www.narf.org/nill/asknill.html