

Tribal Lawyer Certificate

The Tribal Lawyer Certificate program is designed to ensure that law students aspiring to a career representing Indian nations have the skills necessary to appreciate and strengthen the unique nature of Indigenous tribal legal systems.

Effectively representing Indian nations and tribes requires an understanding of the laws, history and policies that affect them. For more than 200 years, the United States has pursued conflicting policies for dealing with the Indigenous peoples located within its borders. As a result, there exists an extremely complicated body of federal, state and tribal law that affects every aspect of Indigenous life.

The complexity of "Indian law," and the lack of specific programs designed to educate graduates as to the unique legal and cultural needs of Indian people, has created a situation in which lawyers representing Indian tribes place too great an emphasis on state law and federal law when dealing with Indian nations. As a result, these lawyers may unconsciously be contributing to the weakening of unique tribal legal and governance traditions by recommending the adoption of tribal laws and policies founded upon the Anglo-American legal and political traditions rather than the unique traditions of their tribal clients.

Effectively representing Indian nations and tribes requires an understanding of the extremely complicated body of federal, state, and tribal law that affects every aspect of indigenous societies. The Tribal Lawyer Certificate program ensures that law students who plan careers representing indigenous nations have the skills necessary to appreciate and strengthen the unique nature of tribal legal systems and governments. Among the program's requirements is an internship with a tribal legal department or a private or public interest law firm specializing in Indian law or participation in the Tribal Judicial Support Clinic.

Required Courses:

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 914	Federal Indian Law	3
LAW 998	Tribal Judicial Support Clinic (or approved internship)	3

Core Courses (three of the following):

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 850	Administrative Law	3
LAW 892	Business Organizations	3-4
LAW 964	National/International Moot Court Competitions: _____ (Native American)	1-2
LAW 966	Oil and Gas	2-3
LAW 995	Water Law	2-3

Elective Courses (three of the following):

Code	Title	Hours
LAW 860	Alternative Dispute Resolution	2-3
LAW 879	Comparative Law	3
LAW 881	Conflict of Laws	2-3
LAW 930	Corporate Finance	2-3
LAW 925	Employment Law	2-3
LAW 910	Federal Courts and the Federal System	3

LAW 913	Federal Income Taxation	3
LAW 939	Labor Law	3-5
LAW 954	Legislation and Statutory Interpretation	2-3
LAW 955	Legislative Simulation and Study	3
LAW 956	Local Government Law	2-3
LAW 974	Public International Law	3
LAW 928	Remedies	2-3
LAW 994	Special Topics: _____ (with approval of certificate director)	1-4