Who we are

We are an American Indian legal organization founded in 1978. We are lawyers and human rights experts who are working to protect the legal rights, cultures and environments of Indian nations and other indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Our mission statement

The Indian Law Resource Center provides legal assistance to indigenous peoples of the Americas to combat racism and oppression, to protect their lands and environment, to protect their cultures and ways of life, to achieve sustainable economic development and genuine self-government, and to realize their other human rights.

Our purposes and goals

The Center provides legal assistance to Indian nations and other indigenous peoples in the United States and throughout the Americas. All of our work is done at no cost to our clients.

Indian nations and tribes and other indigenous communities throughout the world are afflicted by poverty, poor health and discrimination. Many Native communities are subjected to grave human rights abuses. Indian land and natural resources are often expropriated or degraded. When indigenous peoples are deprived of their ways of life and their ties to the earth, they suffer. Many have disappeared completely. Profoundly aware that when any culture ceases to exist, the whole world is diminished irrevocably, the Indian Law Resource Center’s principal goal is the preservation and well-being of Indian and other Native nations and tribes.

The Indian Law Resource Center seeks to overcome the grave problems that threaten Native peoples by advancing the rule of law, by establishing national and international legal standards that preserve their human rights and dignity, and by challenging the governments of the world to accord justice and equality before the law to all indigenous peoples of the Americas.

The Center has an international Board of Directors, and it is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Indian Law Resource Center is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We are funded entirely by grants and contributions from Indian nations, foundations and individuals. The Center accepts no government support.
We are excited to be sending you this report and to be engaged in so many crucial legal battles for the futures of Indian and Alaska Native nations. The economic recession made 2009 a very hard year for us, as it was for so many other people and organizations. Indian and Alaska Native communities have been hard hit. We were forced to cut back our legal assistance, reduce our staff and reduce our pay. But we have remained healthy, thanks to all of the Indian nations, foundations and individuals who have contributed, helping us to remain active and financially sound in a tough economic environment.

We are especially grateful to The Ford Foundation for a special grant that enabled us to strengthen our work. Yet, we still face tremendous challenges to keep up the legal work that Native nations need so much.

The stock market woes forced many foundations to reduce grant-making. This means we must rely increasingly on individuals to join with us and support us in this work. We thank those who already have helped with contributions and hope others are able to aid us in our mission.

It never has been more urgent for us to carry on the legal battles to stop violence against Native women and to change unfair laws that disadvantage Native peoples and deprive them of their constitutional rights and their treaty rights. We are determined to continue providing the legal representation Native nations need to protect their land rights and their very existence as sovereign Indian and Alaska Native nations.

Our fights go beyond North America. We also must provide legal advice and assistance in Central and South America, where Indian peoples battle to save their homes and the ecosystems where they live. In Guatemala, for example, we will not relent in our legal work for the Maya Q’eqchi’ people, who are fighting to protect their land and resources and the environment from a planned nickel mine.

It’s not simply the environment that is being threatened. Lives are threatened as well. In Guatemala and in other countries, Indian leaders are being killed for simply asserting their rights. Indian leaders report that entire communities are being wiped out in Colombia. We can help them defend themselves.

But we need your help.

We already receive much-needed support from many wonderful people and organizations. For example, some aid us with donated legal work and other assistance. Indian nations such as the Onondaga Nation, the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and others have been very generous with financial support. The Ford Foundation, Lannan Foundation, Oak Foundation, Libra Foundation, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation have also provided major support and have been tremendous partners in our work. All of our financial contributors are listed in this report. We are endlessly grateful to all, because that generosity makes our work possible.

Robert T. Coulter
Human Rights

“We have made tremendous progress. We need to keep the momentum going.”

Rex Lee Jim, Navajo Nation

Winning Human Rights

For more than 30 years, we have worked to build a legal framework to help Indian and Alaska Native peoples win recognition of their human rights, including:

Right to exist as distinct peoples and cultures;

Right to be free from discrimination and forced assimilation;

Right of self-determination and other essential rights.

Much of our work has focused on the creation of international human rights standards for indigenous peoples through the United Nations and the Organization of American States. In the United Nations, we spent more than 30 years working for the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007.

The UN Declaration recognizes indigenous peoples as part of the world community and recognizes indigenous peoples’ rights of self-determination and rights to their land, resources, cultures and languages and many other human rights.

We are working toward a strong American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the Organization of American States. The American Declaration would affirm the right of self-determination, rights to education, health, self-government, culture, lands, territories and natural resources, and it would include provisions that address the particular situation of indigenous peoples in the Americas.

This work is more important than ever as global initiatives are threatening indigenous rights on a massive scale. The World Bank and United Nations have funded several projects designed to provide climate change solutions, but these projects could lead to violations of indigenous peoples’ land and natural-resources rights. The UN and American Declarations could be used to address these threats and establish a framework to protect indigenous rights from potential violations.

In partnership with the Navajo Nation, the Six Nations Confederacy and others, we are campaigning to win the United States’ support for the UN Declaration and the negotiation of the American Declaration.
The American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous leaders from 29 countries met in Washington, D.C., in December 2009, seeking consensus on a proposed legal framework to protect economic, cultural and political rights of indigenous peoples. This was the 12th meeting of the Working Group hosted by the Organization of American States (OAS) to negotiate an American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that can be supported by OAS-member countries and indigenous peoples.

The Working Group is made up of all OAS-member countries and indigenous representatives from throughout the Americas. Center staff participated in the sessions. Staff members were on hand to provide legal advice to the Indigenous Peoples Caucus and the Working Group. Consensus was reached on four of the articles and portions of two more articles of the draft Declaration. Participants agreed to continue the dialogue.

During the OAS negotiation session, the Center coordinated meetings between the Navajo Nation, the Six Nations Confederacy, the National Congress of American Indians, the Native American Rights Fund and the United States State Department. The meetings were to encourage the State Department to take an active role in the negotiations.

In 2009, we conducted three major training sessions and several smaller sessions to prepare Indian leaders to use human rights law. We also encouraged Indian leaders to participate in the United Nations and the Organization of American States human rights processes to defend their lands and other rights. We have had particular success working with and training Indian leaders from South and Central America. Several of those Indian leaders went on to testify at hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and also participated in meetings with United States government officials to discuss how United States policies affect indigenous peoples in Central and South America.

Human Rights Training

The Center provides training and legal information in order to expand the number of Indian leaders and community members who participate in international human rights procedures. We help indigenous leaders to promote and defend their human rights, to use human rights law to change domestic law and to use their political power to change the United States’ policies concerning international human rights law.

In 2009, we conducted three major training sessions and several smaller sessions to prepare Indian leaders to use human rights law. We also encouraged Indian leaders to participate in the United Nations and the Organization of American States human rights processes to defend their lands and other rights. We have had particular success working with and training Indian leaders from South and Central America. Several of those Indian leaders went on to testify at hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and also participated in meetings with United States government officials to discuss how United States policies affect indigenous peoples in Central and South America.
Safe Women, Strong Nations

Native women—more than any other population in the United States—are being denied one of the most basic human rights: the right to be safe from violence.

Native women are more than twice as likely as other women to be victims of sexual violence. One in three will be raped in her lifetime; more than three in five will be victims of violent assaults.

The Center is training and providing legal assistance to tribes and Native women’s advocates to help bring an end to the epidemic of violence against women. Our work is aimed at eliminating the legal barriers that obstruct the reporting, investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

We have already provided training on the basics of criminal jurisdiction in Indian country to domestic violence advocates from the Blackfeet Nation, the Fort Belknap Indian Community and a shelter in Great Falls, Montana.

The Center considers this an international human rights crisis and has, with that in mind, worked hard to raise awareness of this problem on that level. During the past year, we conducted trainings and consultations with Native women’s organizations and tribal government officials and employees, including the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women, Clan Star and the Montana Native Women’s Coalition.

We have launched a campaign to educate the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women at the Organization of American States on the epidemic of violence against Native women in the United States.

We have created a new website, indianlaw.org/en/safewomen, as a resource for information on how to use international human rights advocacy to prevent violence against Native women.

“We are honored to advocate for the safety of Native women in the international arena. These efforts enhance safety and promote tribal sovereignty at the local level.”

Terri Henry
Principal Director, Clan Star, Inc.
Tribal Councilwoman, Eastern Band of Cherokee
The interest we have at heart is the people at home. We want to re-empower them rather than imprison them.”

Harrison Tsosie, Navajo Nation

Native Land Law

Today federal law concerning Indian and Alaska Native land—and concerning Native nations generally—is terribly unjust and out of keeping with the Constitution and basic American values. Our Native Land Law project is focused on creating a fair and principled framework of law concerning the rights of Native Americans to their lands and resources—a framework of law consistent with the United States Constitution and Indian treaties, with American concepts of fairness and with modern principles of international human-rights law. Our long-term goal is to reform—through political, judicial and administrative processes—the present discriminatory laws affecting Native lands and resources in the United States.

We have drafted 17 General Legal Principles and supporting Commentaries, stating what we believe federal law really is or what it ought to be. These General Principles include principles on self-determination, the doctrine of discovery, aboriginal title, the power of the federal government to take Native lands, the plenary power doctrine and the taxation of tribally held lands. These draft principles form a consistent framework of legal rules that would overcome the truly unfair and discriminatory rules that now are applied to Native nations.

We wrote two versions of these Principles and Commentaries—a General Edition and a Lawyers Edition for those interested in detailed analysis of the law.

Over the past two years, with the collaboration and support of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, we have drawn together a distinguished group of more than 30 legal experts, Indian law scholars, and Indian leaders to join in creating this new framework of law. In July 2009, Indian government leaders from Isleta Pueblo, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, the San Manuel Band, the Navajo Nation, the Onondaga Nation, the Tonawanda Seneca Nation and the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin attended a meeting to review the Draft General Principles. Regional discussions are taking place to get comments, criticism and suggestions from leaders of Indian and Alaska Nation governments.

We hope that debate and discussion will in time lead to consensus among Native leaders about the changes they wish to seek in federal law.
A lawsuit we expect to file in 2010 could overturn the most discriminatory and unconstitutional legal doctrine affecting Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

We are working with the Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Council to file a federal lawsuit to challenge Congress' power to take Indian property and funds without compensation.

We believe this suit—which presents a historic legal challenge unlike any other case in federal Indian law—will be precedent-setting.

The suit will ask the federal court to invalidate an act of Congress that confiscates a fund belonging to the Tribe and to other Western Shoshone tribes. The case arises out of the astonishing injustices the federal government has meted out to the Western Shoshone tribes, including the Timbisha, in order to divest them of rights to their lands in Nevada and California. These tribes, nine of them, live on tiny remnants of their lands, while the federal government controls nearly all their homelands.

For more than a century, Congress has done practically whatever it wished with Indian property and Indian monies held by the federal government. Such congressional acts have almost never been challenged, never successfully.

A successful lawsuit could mean that Congress could not in the future freely take or control Indian property and funds. Tribes could have much greater ability to manage their affairs, if they could stop unjustified government control and confiscation of their property. We believe we can win such a case and rid federal law of a very harmful and unjustifiable legal doctrine that has deprived tribes of their rights for generations.
Mohawk and Onondaga Land Rights

Some of our most important legal work is to help Indian and Alaska Native nations protect—and sometimes regain—their homelands. Our work on behalf of the Mohawk and Onondaga Nations in their land-right cases has made some progress as we await decisions from the judges in each case. These two nations of the Haudenosaunee or Six Nations Confederacy have been fighting for many generations to recover a part of their homelands in New York state that was taken from them, in violation of federal law. We are representing them in separate federal suits. Our greatest challenge in these cases is to assure that the federal courts accord these Indian nations true equality before the law.

In both cases, our briefs have all been filed, and we are awaiting decisions from the federal District Court in New York. We expect appeals will follow in both cases regardless of the decisions, and those appeals could take from one to three years.

Nevertheless, the Onondaga lawsuit has provided a strong basis for the Nation leaders to participate in the planning for clean-up of Onondaga Lake and Onondaga Creek. In 2009, a federal judge gave the go-ahead for a new plan to use green technology to protect the creek and lake from sewage and other pollution. The plan calls for reducing sewage overflows by using trees, vegetated roofs, rain gardens and permeable pavement.

This has been a great success and is a first concrete achievement in the land-rights effort. It shows how Indian nations can use their political power and their legal rights to achieve important goals that benefit everyone in the region and protect the Earth itself.

We continue to press the federal government to file a supporting lawsuit in the Onondaga case, but have yet to receive a final decision.

The Mohawk Nation continues to collaborate with the other Mohawk governments in the hope that an agreed-upon resolution of the Mohawk claims can be achieved.
Environmental Protection

“The river is alive and it helps me to survive. I drink the water, and everything that is connected to the land is connected to the water.”

Annie Lou Williams, elder from Upper Kalskag in the Kuskokwim region of Alaska

Protecting Alaska’s Rivers

The Center has a long history of environmental advocacy in Alaska. Over the past year, we have focused much of our work on the Kuskokwim region. We have provided free legal assistance to the newly developed Kuskokwim River Watershed Council. The primary goal of our work on behalf of the Council is to enable the 29 Alaska Native villages of the Kuskokwim River watershed to protect the environmental integrity of the river and to maintain their traditional, subsistence fishing and hunting lifestyle.

The Kuskokwim is an enormous river drainage, roughly the size of the state of Washington. It is populated mostly by Native people who fish, hunt and gather to supply most of their food. Threats to the river also jeopardize the physical and cultural survival of these Native peoples.

We have helped the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council to draft organizational documents needed to achieve non-profit status. With the legal structure of the Council now in place, we will help expand the legal and technical capacity of the tribal governments to regulate and manage their traditional territories and resources. This year, we organized meetings with residents of the watershed to begin identifying shared concerns regarding their relationships with the river and surrounding lands.

We are developing a legal and communications strategy as a follow-up step to the meetings. We are working with the Council staff and a broad coalition of environmental organizations in Alaska to determine the best methods to get this information across. This work is crucial in building the capacity of the tribal governments of the Kuskokwim to better participate in the regulation of their traditional territories and resources in the face of future threats.

In addition to the Kuskokwim region, the Center has assisted the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, now consisting of more than 66 Alaska Native villages and First Nations. For the past decade, and continuing today, the Center has worked with the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council as it formulates plans and strategies to address clean-up and protection issues throughout the Yukon watershed.
Protecting the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation

For more than 15 years, the Center has provided legal representation to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in their fight for environmental justice and clean-up of the contamination caused by the Zortman-Landusky gold mines. The reclamation of the mines is ongoing, and we are seeing continued improvement in the water quality in King Creek, Alder Gulch and Swift Gulch. Even so, the pollution often continues to exceed state water-quality standards, particularly for cyanide. A Technical Working Group is monitoring the progress, and we continue to provide the Working Group with the legal advice needed to further its work. We are coordinating with the State of Montana to continue using the Technical Working Group for an additional two years, in the hope that water-quality standards will come into compliance.

Earlier this year the Center conducted a general environmental-training session for Tribal Council members and employees to help them gain a better understanding of the laws and legal tools they can draw on to protect their environment and their citizens. We also will provide additional training on environmental regulations regarding oil and gas development that is under way on and near the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

Handbook for Conservationists

The Indian Law Resource Center is writing a one-of-a-kind handbook that will help build collaboration between conservationists and Indian and Alaska Native nations. The goal of the Conservationists’ Handbook is to facilitate better alliances in order to improve the effectiveness of conservation efforts. Protection of the environment is enormously important among Native communities. Yet collaboration between Native peoples and conservation organizations often is impeded, because professional conservationists often lack information about Native nations and their resources. Today there is no ready resource to provide conservationists with practical information about Indian and Alaska Native peoples, their lands, histories, cultures and legal rights. Our Conservationists’ Handbook will expand understanding of Indian and Alaska Native tribes and will help foster positive relationships between conservationists and Native communities. The Handbook will be distributed widely among universities and conservation programs. We expect this resource to be a building block for powerful alliances that will protect the rights of Native peoples, while also protecting threatened lands and ecosystems throughout the United States.

“If unchecked, natural resource development on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation could undo decades of work the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes have invested in cleaning up lands and waters already damaged by mining. Still recovering from the environmental contamination of the Zortman-Landusky mines, the tribes are determined not to become victims of environmental assaults in the future. We are committed to working with the tribes not only to help clean up past contamination, but also to ensure their abilities to protect their lands from future contamination.”

Prof. Don Snow, Whitman College

Conservation thinkers and actors simply cannot afford ignorance where Native land, water, and resource issues are concerned.”
Protecting Sacred Sites

“The Quechan are a relentless people. We will not go away, and we will not lose this battle to protect the Quechan Indian Pass area.”

Mike Jackson, Sr., Quechan Nation President

Quechan

Indian peoples constantly are engaged in a battle to maintain and protect traditional and cultural beliefs. They must have access to sacred sites and be allowed to practice their spiritual beliefs in peace. These are not merely cultural and spiritual concerns, but human rights that are identified and protected by international law. The Indian Law Resource Center helps Indian peoples to protect these rights and these sacred sites.

In 2009, the counsel we provided to the Quechan Tribe and its legal team to help protect their sacred sites from gold mining claims yielded positive results. That June, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Tribunal released its long-awaited decision in the Glamis Gold dispute against the United States. The international tribunal recognized state and local government obligations to respect indigenous cultural rights. We hope this result will pave the way for increased participation by other indigenous peoples in international economic law disputes. We will continue to assist the Quechan Nation as needed.

We will continue efforts to provide communication training and assistance to Indian nations on protecting sacred sites. For example, we have been a part of the campaign to protect the sanctity of Bear Butte—a site near Sturgis, South Dakota that is held sacred by numerous tribes—from potential destruction that could be caused by the granting of hard liquor licenses and the development of huge outdoor amphitheaters. We will continue to support this effort as requested by Indian nations.
Central and South America

“The life and territory of indigenous peoples cannot be commercialized. Our plan is based on life; this life plan is to care for nature.”

Miguel Palacín Quispe, Coordinator
Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI)

Maya Q’eqchi’ Land and Resource Rights

The Maya Q’eqchi’ communities in Guatemala have been fighting for their lands and rights to subsurface resources for more than 40 years, and the Indian Law Resource Center is supporting their efforts.

Plans to reopen and expand a nickel-mining operation on traditional Maya lands have already forced some Q’eqchi’ from their homes and threaten to cause permanent damage to their environment. We are preparing to bring a major case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to protect the rights of the Maya Q’eqchi’ and shut down the nickel mine. Working with our local partner, Defensoría Q’eqchi’, we have completed a number of studies and legal analyses to prepare the case, and we have taken steps to exhaust domestic legal remedies. We have asked a Civil Court of Appeals in Guatemala for a remedy, but no decision has been made. We expect to file a case in the Inter-American Commission this year.

The creation of “protected areas” poses a second threat to the Maya Q’eqchi’s rights of self-determination and rights to their lands and natural resources. These protected areas—some proposed and some already established—transfer the control and management of lands from the Q’eqchi’ to private/public institutions. We presented this information at a hearing before the Inter-American Commission in March 2008. We have since developed legal arguments to support indigenous control of such protected areas, drawing upon environmental law and human rights law and, most importantly, maintaining an indigenous point of view. We continue to work with the indigenous leaders of these communities to monitor the situation and develop a plan of action.
Human Rights and Multilateral Development Banks

Indigenous communities, lands and environments often are affected adversely by projects financed by multilateral development banks (MDBs), such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. This is particularly true for Indian peoples in Mexico and Central and South America.

The Indian Law Resource Center is working to influence and create awareness among MDBs about their obligations to respect international law and human rights when funding development projects.

That’s why we continue to distribute our paper, *Principles of International Law for Multilateral Development Banks: the Obligation to Respect Human Rights*, composed in 2009. The paper calls for the creation of binding legal rules to compel MDBs to respect and promote human rights. The paper has been presented in several arenas, as well as directly to multilateral development bank officials.

We have encouraged engagement on this issue from all sectors—including civil society, states, and indigenous peoples’ organizations—in order to create constructive dialogue about the human rights obligations of MDBs. We hope this discourse will create further dialogue, strengthen grassroots communities’ struggles against unsustainable development practices and provide a seed from which a larger movement can grow around issues of MDB accountability, transparency and responsibility under the law.

We continue to provide legal assistance and training to Indian communities and organizations so they can protect their environments and communities from harmful MDB-funded projects.
Staff

Robert T. Coulter
Executive Director

Robert, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is an attorney with more than 30 years of experience in the field of Indian law. He founded the Center in 1978 with the goal of assisting Indian and Alaska Native nations in protecting their lands, resources and human rights. He is an author of many articles in the field of Indian law and human rights. He received his bachelor’s degree from Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., and a law degree from Columbia University.

Armstrong A. Wiggins
Director, Washington, D.C.

Armstrong is a Miskito Indian from Nicaragua and has been with the Center since 1981. He was a political prisoner during the Somoza and Sandinista regimes because of his leadership in promoting human rights in Nicaragua. He has more than 30 years experience working in the field of human rights. He directs much of the international human rights work of the Center, managing the Mexico and Central and South America Program.

Barbara Anthony
Director of Development

Barbara joined the staff in June of 2009. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri and of the College of William and Mary Planned Giving Institute. Her professional development work has been in the areas of higher education and social services.

Juanita Cabrera-Lopez
Program Assistant

Juanita is Maya Mam Indian from Guatemala. She joined the Center in June of 2009. She assists with administration, development, communications and project support. She received her B.A. in psychology from Beloit College.

Leonardo Crippa
Attorney

Leonardo, a Kolla Indian from Jujuy, Argentina, joined the Center’s Washington, D.C., office in April 2005. He received his law degree from Universidad Nacional de Tucumán in Argentina and a Master’s of Law degree from American University Washington College of Law in May 2008. He previously worked at the Center for Justice and International Law on human rights cases within the Inter-American system.

Kirsten Matoy Carlson
Attorney

Kirsten, of Cherokee descent, joined the Center’s Montana office in September 2007. She received her law degree in 2003 and her Ph.D. in Political Science in 2007. Prior to joining the Center, Kirsten taught law at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Philomena Kebec
Attorney

Philomena is a member of the Bad River Band of Chippewa Indians. She received her J.D. from the University of Minnesota in 2008 and served as the judicial law clerk to the Honorable Kathleen Mottl before joining the Center in April of 2010.

Curt Klotz
Director of Finance & Administration

Curt joined the Center in 1994. He is a Certified Public Accountant and is responsible for the Center’s administrative and financial matters. He also manages our computer network.
Marilyn Richardson
Assistant to the Director
Marilyn, a member of the Chippewa Nation, joined the Center in 1996. She works closely with the development staff, serves as the assistant to the Board of Directors and coordinates direct mail and special events.

Lucy Rain Simpson
Senior Attorney
Lucy, a member of the Navajo Nation, joined the Center’s Montana office in October 2004. She has previous experience working on behalf of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow tribes and the Navajo Nation. Lucy received her B.A. in Mass Communications from Oklahoma City University.

2009 Interns & Volunteers
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Melissa Dempsey
John D.B. Lewis Fellow
Erin Farris
Terrence A. Sidley Fellow
Ashley Fry
Maureen Kefler
Susie Kim
Autumn Knowlton
Rafael Medina
Maria Renshaw
Rosie Worthen

Lisa Myaya
Communications & Development Assistant
Lisa joined the Center’s Montana office in November of 2007. Lisa works on communications and development projects. She also assists with office administration. She has more than 15 years of experience in the non-profit sector, primarily with resource conservation, education and arts organizations.

Shayda Edwards Naficy
Human Rights & Policy Specialist
Shayda joined the Center’s Washington, D.C., office in February of 2006 after graduating from Rice University in 2005 with a B.S. in Geology. She has studied sustainable development in Ecuador. Shayda left the Center in 2009 to pursue a Master’s degree in political science at the University of Chicago.

Ginny Underwood
Director of Communications
Ginny, a member of the Comanche Nation, joined the Center in October of 2009. She has more than 15 years of experience in the field of communications and most recently served as Executive Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives for the communication arm of The United Methodist Church. She received her B.A. in Mass Communications from Oklahoma City University.

Valerie Taliman
Director of Communications
Valerie, a member of the Navajo Nation, is a widely published, award-winning journalist, editor, radio producer and publisher. Valerie resigned in 2009 after serving the Center for four years.

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Ira Kurzban
Hazel Landa  
in memory of Irving A. Landa
Richard M. Leventhal
Ronald & Judith Libertus
Jazelle C. Lieske
Kalen Lipe  
in honor of Mary Jane Fairbanks
Lucy Lippard
Renee Llanusa-Cestero
Inga Lourdes
Robert & Linda Low  
in honor of Tim Coulter & Samantha Sanchez
Thomas E. Luebben
Catharine MacKinnon
Beverly Magley
Karen L. Mallicoat-Rodriguez
Ken Margolis
Ruth McArdle
Cheryl McKay
Linda Jansen McWilliams  
in memory of Waldemar Jansen & Dorothy J. Burke
Geoffrey Menin
Rebecca Oyer Meyers  
in memory of John Oyer
Claudia Montagne
Montana Shares
Paul Moss & Craig Miller
Lynn Mostoller & Kathryn McKnight
Mark Munger & Katherine Bourne  
in memory of Petra Shattuck
Dolly Naranjo Neikrug
Network for Good
New York City Transit Authority
Alan & Nancy Nicholson
Austin Nunez in tribute to
the Timbisha Shoshone Project
Ontelaunee Powwow Committee
Hope Stevens
Douglas Payne
John & Eva Petoskey
Stephen & Annette Pickard
Steve & Roberta Pieczenik
Bernard Pomerance
Michael & Christine Pope
Alan Rabinowitz
Deborah Rand
Victor & Joan Reiman  
in memory of Charles Reiman
Angela Riley
Kirk Rosenbaum
David Rubinstein
Harry Sashce
Julia M. Saylor
Geraldine Schaf
James W. Schmitt
Sarah Scott
Victoria A. Serrano in honor of
the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
Ellen Shatter
John Shattuck  
in memory of Petra Shattuck
Leonard & Elaine Simon  
in honor of Navajo Code Talkers
Nancy Stearns
Doug Sternberg
Nancy Work  
in memory of Arthur W. Simon
Hope Stevens
David B. Stewart
Milton Takei
Rusty Taylor
Thomas Trauger  
in honor of Tim Coulter
Stephen Trimble  
in memory of Michael Kabotie
United Airlines Employee Giving
United Way of Central New York
United Way of New York City
United Way of Stanislaus County
Jana Walker
Matilda H. Walker
Anthony & Betty Wallace
David Weissbrodt & M. Patricia Schaffer
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
Tisa J. Wenger
P.C. Wheeler
Barry & Bonnie Willdor
Jane Wilson
Clifton & Doris Woest  
in honor of Navajo Code Talkers
Danielle Wolf
Margaret Woo
Shannon Work
Anonymous (8)
## Statement of Financial Position

as of December 31, 2009 and 2008

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
<td>529,472</td>
<td>296,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of deposit</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable (net)</td>
<td>483,776</td>
<td>457,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>6,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>7,968</td>
<td>8,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,181,816</strong></td>
<td><strong>824,993</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Property and Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net depreciable assets</td>
<td>44,120</td>
<td>15,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>452,251</strong></td>
<td><strong>431,156</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>11,842</td>
<td>17,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes payable</td>
<td>2,878</td>
<td>2,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>64,642</strong></td>
<td><strong>65,438</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>357,683</td>
<td>(23,466)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>1,207,623</td>
<td>1,184,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>48,299</td>
<td>45,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,613,545</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,206,468</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities &amp; net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,678,187</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,271,906</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each year the Center engages an independent accounting firm to audit its financial statements. The financial information presented here is an excerpt of the audited statements for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. To review the Independent Auditors' Report and full audited statements, please visit our website at www.indianlaw.org and follow the “About Us” link to “Financial Statements.” Alternatively, you may contact our Helena, Montana office to request that a print copy of the full statements be mailed to you.

## Statement of Activities 2009

for the year ended December 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>52,275</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>2,477</td>
<td>60,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>486,168</td>
<td>1,103,584</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,589,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests &amp; trusts</td>
<td>7,190</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract services</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>3,711</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7,440</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total support &amp; revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,645,039</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,451</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,477</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,670,967</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>862,622</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>862,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; general</td>
<td>177,182</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>177,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>224,086</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>224,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,263,890</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,263,890</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Statement of Activities 2008

for the year ended December 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support and Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>64,095</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>8,669</td>
<td>73,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>695,252</td>
<td>1,118,690</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,813,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests &amp; trusts</td>
<td>18,903</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract services</td>
<td>2,645</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>5,643</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,020</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total support &amp; revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,347,524</strong></td>
<td><strong>565,885</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,669</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,922,078</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>1,056,498</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,056,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; general</td>
<td>240,218</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>240,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>116,406</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>116,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,413,122</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,413,122</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Net assets at beginning of year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>357,683</td>
<td>1,184,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets at end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,678,187</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,271,906</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Our featured artist, Terrance Guardipee is an internationally acclaimed artist and is renowned for his authentic Blackfeet images that he originally translates into his own contemporary form of ledger art. He has evolved the ledger art form from the traditional single page style by incorporating other antique documents such as maps, war rations, checks, receipts and most notably, historical Blackfeet Nation papers. His art is featured in many permanent collections and museums locally and internationally from the C.M. Russell Museum, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, National Museum of the American Indian of the Smithsonian Institute and the Museum of Natural History in Hanover, Germany, in addition to many others.

Along with many awards and recognitions, Terrance’s most recent accomplishments include Best of Division at the Santa Fe Indian Art Market 2009 and first for ledger art in 2009 and being selected to design the poster image for the 2009 and 2010 American Indian Film Institute Festival in San Francisco.

Terrance was born on the Blackfeet Reservation in northern Montana and lived there until he was accepted into the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Presently, Terrance works out of his studio in the Seattle area. Contact Terrance or view more of his artwork at terranceguardipee.com.