



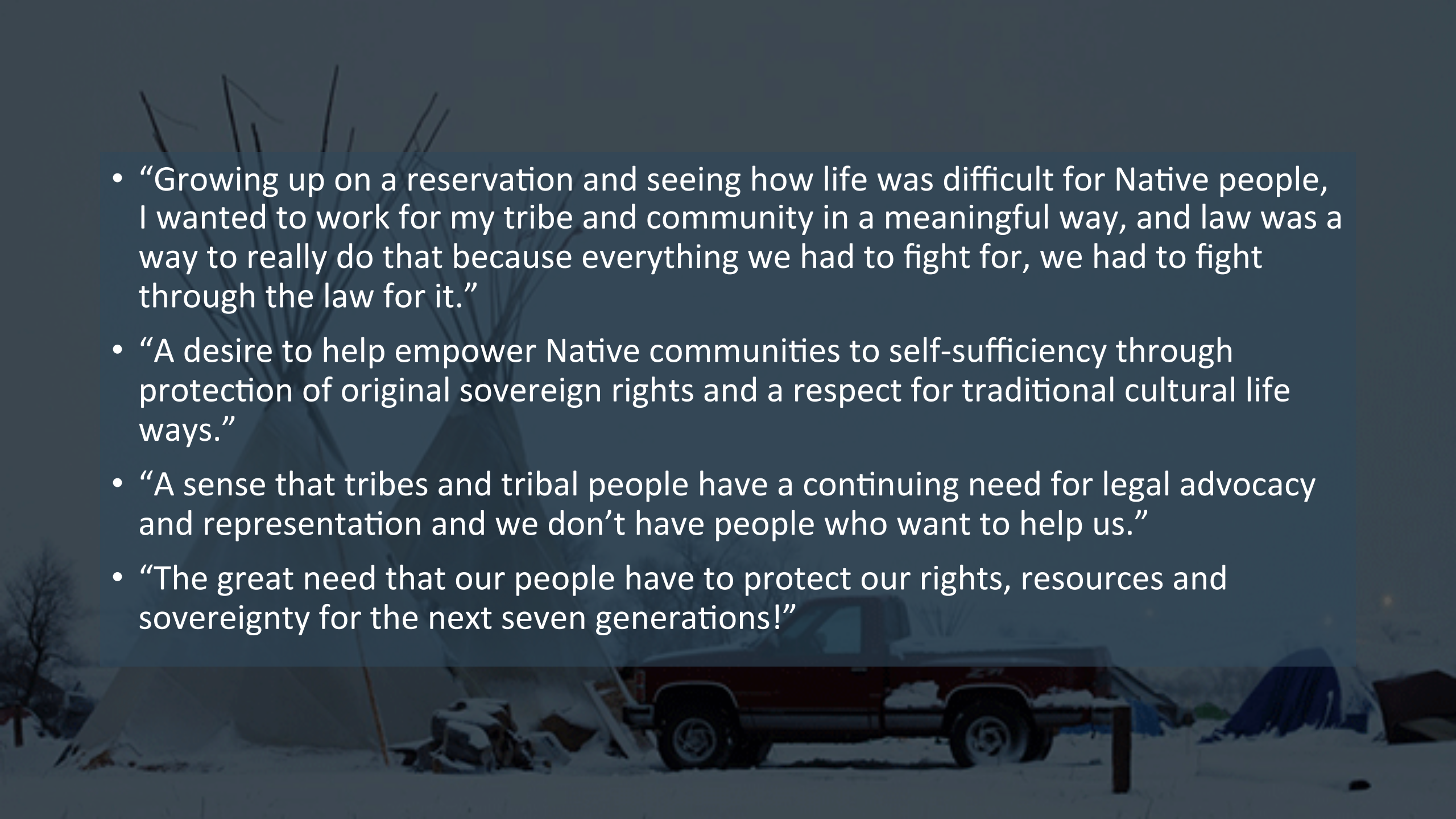
# Encouraging Native American Students to Attend Law School

Lauren van Schilfgaarde  
Tribal Law and Policy Institute



- “I am not enrolled, but I am 3/16 Native American. I’m an Indian, sort of.”
- “I identify as Indian to non-Indians, but with Indians, I identify myself in connection with my tribe.”
- “I was taken at a young age and adopted out into a non-Indian home. I think I’m eligible [for tribal enrollment], but I’m not sure.”
- “My grandfather’s records were lost, and we can’t prove his blood quantum.”
- “I identify, but the federal government doesn’t recognize my tribe so I’m Indian, but not.”
- “My siblings are enrolled but I can’t because I was born after blood quantum requirements changed.”
- “I have to live in a particular place in order to enroll in my tribe, and when I moved, I lost that, and I don’t plan to move back.”

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Number of Law Schools</b>	<b>1st Year J.D. Enrollment</b>	<b>2nd Year J.D. Enrollment</b>	<b>3rd Year J.D. Enrollment</b>	<b>4th Year J.D. Enrollment</b>	<b>Total Enrollment</b>
1979-1989	169	171	110	100	11	392
1989-1990	175	175	147	143	17	527
1999-2000	182	342	294	312	30	978
2009-2010	200	451	410	383	29	1,273

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- “Growing up on a reservation and seeing how life was difficult for Native people, I wanted to work for my tribe and community in a meaningful way, and law was a way to really do that because everything we had to fight for, we had to fight through the law for it.”
  - “A desire to help empower Native communities to self-sufficiency through protection of original sovereign rights and a respect for traditional cultural life ways.”
  - “A sense that tribes and tribal people have a continuing need for legal advocacy and representation and we don’t have people who want to help us.”
  - “The great need that our people have to protect our rights, resources and sovereignty for the next seven generations!”





# Barriers to attending or succeeding in law school

- Financial (application costs, LSAT preparation costs, tuition costs and room/board costs)
- Making informed decisions about the best law schools to attend (this related to status and cost of law school)
- Navigating the application process
- Knowing how to prepare to be successful in law school
- Creating the social networks in law school necessary for getting the information and resources to be successful



NATIONAL  
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*Young Lawyers Committee*

[www.NativeAmericanBar.org](http://www.NativeAmericanBar.org)

## Hawaii

*Note:* "IL" = Federal Indian Law and Tribal Indian Law

ABA-Accredited Law School	More than One IL Course	One IL Course	More than One IL Faculty	One IL Faculty	NALSA Chapter	Certificate	Journal
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law	•	•	•	•	•	•	