Encouraging Native American Students to Attend Law School

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

Note: “IL” = Federal Indian Law and Tribal Indian Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABA-Acccredited Law School</th>
<th>More than One IL Course</th>
<th>One IL Course</th>
<th>More than One IL Faculty</th>
<th>One IL Faculty</th>
<th>NALSA Chapter</th>
<th>Certificate</th>
<th>Journal</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Hawaii at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law</td>
<td>•</td>
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