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Idaho Chapter, Federal Bar Association • 702 West Idaho, Suite 700 • Boise, Idaho 83701

## For Immediate Release

Date: October 3, 2011  
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Subject: Indian Law Conference: *Sovereignty and Modern Day Challenges*



Keely Duke, President of the Idaho Chapter of the Federal Bar Association announced the Chapter's first Indian Law Conference on Friday, October 28, 2011 at the Law and Justice Center in Fort Hall, Idaho beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m.

The Indian Law Conference, which is entitled *Sovereignty and Modern Day Challenges* will, host Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior; The Honorable William C. Canby, Jr., United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; Brandelle Whitworth, Chief Judge, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe; Lawrence Baca, Past-President of the National Native American Bar Association; and Jack Haycock and Michelle Mallard, Assistant United States Attorneys, Pocatello, Idaho.

The day-long conference will begin with Judge Canby. He will provide a brief overview of Indian law and describe the traditional approach of the courts and the federal authorities to tribal membership. He will also emphasize the general rule that the tribe is the absolute judge of its own membership, along with the present strains upon that traditional approach, as evidenced by some recent controversies involving Tribal membership.

Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk will discuss public safety with criminal law enforcement and recent initiatives of the Tribal Law and Order Act. He will also discuss Trust responsibility and what the BIA is doing to address safety issues in Indian country.

Chief Judge Whitworth will provide a historical review of the Tribal Court system and a description of the current structure and operation of the Tribal Court for practitioners. She will also provide practice tips for local practitioners.

Jack Haycock and Michelle Mallard will provide an overview of criminal jurisdiction and prosecution in Indian Country and outline state and federal laws governing jurisdiction and criminal prosecution on Indian Reservations.

Lawrence Baca will discuss racialized language in federal Indian law opinions, the need for diversity in the federal judiciary and the negative effects of non-Indian law school applicants (box-checkers) lying about their race. His provocative presentation is entitled *Box-Checkers, Faux Indians and the Need for Diversity on the Federal Bench*.

A panel discussion will be held at the end of the day with Judge Canby, Asst. Secretary Echo Hawk and Lawrence Baca with a time for questions and answers.

The cost is \$50 for Idaho Chapter, FBA Members; \$75.00 for non-members; and \$20 for students, government attorneys, and the general public. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Contact Susie Headlee, Executive Director, Idaho Chapter of the Federal Bar via email at [Susie\\_Boring-Headlee@id.uscourts.gov](mailto:Susie_Boring-Headlee@id.uscourts.gov) or by telephone at (208) 334-9067.