

INTRODUCTORY LETTER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARDS

Hello and welcome to the Second Edition of Volume Forty-Six of the *American Indian Law Review* (AILR). Usually, this publication serves as a nationwide scholarly forum for analysis of development in legal issues pertaining to Native Americans and Indigenous People worldwide. This particular publication is dedicated to two giants that served in the Federal Indian Law sphere and have passed on: Professor C. Steven Hager and Professor Rennard Strickland.

When the 2021–2022 *American Indian Law Review* Editorial Board was first presented with the idea of turning issue 46-2 into a dedication issue, it seemed like a very honorable endeavor. While the incoming and outgoing EICs were both entirely unfamiliar with Professor Strickland and Professor Hager, we were both quickly informed of just how monumental the work of both scholars was, is, and will continue to be, to the field of Federal Indian Law. Through oral accounts, readings, and this compilation of testimonials, the incoming and outgoing EICs met and became acquainted with their stories, their work, and their visions for the future.

We are positive that this issue is merely a small peek into the lives and passions of Professor Strickland and Professor Hager. Through the process of researching the lives and teachings of Professor Hager and Professor Strickland, our eyes have been opened to the great lengths not only that these experts went to but also the development and expansion of Federal Indian Law as a whole. It was through this window that we began to realize just how far Federal Indian Law has come in recent decades. Through these testimonials, we were privileged to greet the minds and initiatives that brought us here. And we are now privy, as are you, to some of the stories upon which modern-day Federal Indian Law was built: the political environment surrounding the re-drafting of Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law; the ways in which art and culture are interwoven into this unique area of law; the reality that one professor can influence the way an entire institution approaches teaching; and the fact that, in many respects, the reshaping of Federal Indian Law was a fight for the very humanity of Native peoples. These men deeply touched the lives of those they came across in a variety of subtle and not-so-subtle ways including in the stories they told; the passions they followed (or dreamt of following); the art and movies they shared; the ways they taught about advocacy and human rights; the decisions they made; and the lives they led.

Based on the readings compiled in this publication, we are positive that these narratives only touch the surface. However, we are equally as

confident that, if you take the time to read these words and reflect upon these professors' lives, you too will be inspired by how Federal Indian Law has evolved and how it will impact lives for years to come.

The very idea that these incredible men, as well as other famous men and women, walked the hallowed halls of the University of Oklahoma College of Law, brings history alive for us and our fellow classmates. We are so incredibly pleased to bring you these stories and testimonials of our dearly revered professors and hope that we can share the same inspiration that has impacted and been instilled in us.

Best wishes,
Ashley D. Murphy and Samantha A. Tamura
Editors-in-Chief of AILR