



# CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

Spring 2012 Newsletter

## CILS IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

CILS got its start in 1967 long before computers were a part of the legal profession, and even longer before the Internet became widely used in business and law. When the Internet first came into being it was not readily available in all communities. But today, more people than ever are busy on-line researching, sharing, and socializing. Like many others of the same generation, CILS began the slow journey to the age of social media with some trepidation, excitement, and in surprise of the vast opportunities and audiences.

At the close of the 1990's, former CILS Executive Director Michael Pfeffer and Technical Administrator Cynthia Pahl developed our first website. This early innovation secured CILS a home in the ever growing vastness of the Internet. Yet with little funding to support a web presence it was mostly a minor accessory to CILS's in-person outreach and community connections. Expanding availability in public libraries, tribal offices, and community centers translated into the younger generations becoming more adept and reliant on the quick and instant Internet search.

Today the [CILS web page](#) has more information and is easier to navigate than ever before. You can browse a library of CILS Tribal Alerts, get to know CILS staff and board, learn about CILS services and priorities, links to other tribal agencies, and download [legal education brochures](#) created just for the Indian community in California. You will also find the latest version of the CILS California Judges' Benchguide: Indian Child Welfare Act.

In 2002, CILS was the only California--based LSC funded legal aid awarded resources to create the statewide self-help and referral website, [www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org). Long time CILS advocate Sonia Montero directed this project that initially ran for two years. CILS was refunded for another grant cycle. At that time CILS partnered with One Justice, who eventually took over the project work and maintains the site today. Lawhelp.org websites are now available for every state and several territories. It allows the public to easily search for free legal aids in their community and find legal information and resources.

Recently, CILS increased its cyber reach by launching a CILS facebook page. Active since October 2011, it is already "Liked" by over 125 users. The page posts links to Indian legal news and community information. CILS Executive Director Devon Lomayesva is also known to add messages there from time to time. Come view our [page](#)! Don't forget to "Like" us.



# CILS IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Like many other legal service providers CILS continues to face the reality of reduced allocations. To help defray costs associated with postage and printing CILS has turned to electronic mail. CILS connects with community and partners alike on Indian legal issues, program announcements, and community news. Response has been overwhelmingly positive. You can join our mailing list by signing up through our web or Facebook page.

The social media activities of CILS are supported by staff who dedicate their time to engage the community in addition to their regular advocacy duties at CILS. CILS expects to grow our social media components well into the future.



## How can you join CILS in the social media?

Visit [www.calindian.org](http://www.calindian.org).



<http://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaIndianLegalServices>



**Donate** at <https://www.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=94-1676390>

**Register for events** at [www.calindian.org](http://www.calindian.org)

**Download Legal Education Brochures** at <http://www.calindian.org/self-help-community-ed>



**Join our mailing list** at [http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=0012GDvJ6YFjZuG32OoVt0gH22BkNn-eE-](http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=0012GDvJ6YFjZuG32OoVt0gH22BkNn-eE-b_bTr17h12wyeNw9vd824QIMGkxm4-MQJpB19639-29U%3D)

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