



CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

Spring 2012 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; 45 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CALIFORNIA INDIANS

CILS is proud to announce that 2012 marks our 45th anniversary of service to California tribes and communities. Our 45th Anniversary Gala will be held at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento in conjunction with the NCAI Annual Convention on October 24, 2012.

Join us for this milestone event and celebrate with us the decades of achievements by CILS and those that made it all possible; from former to current staff and board, to key tribal leaders and community members. Over the years, CILS has adapted to the evolving needs of our California communities. We have had to maximize the shrinking resources available to Indian legal services programs.

Overall funding limitations mean that no cost individual legal services are not as readily available and must be more heavily reviewed. CILS has developed core project based practice groups and services to serve the broader community. Our project based services have provided education presentations and developed self-help materials to assist Indian people navigate complex Indian law and policies, in the areas of tribal governance, Indian child welfare, Indian fiscal and taxation, education, and trust assets and probate.

CILS continues to serve tribal governments and organizations on a contract basis on a variety of Indian law issues. As a non-profit these contract services allow CILS to put funds directly back into our no cost program services to low income tribal communities. CILS has had numerous victories, past and present. Check out our [Annual Reports](#) and [Tribal Alerts](#) to learn about last year's successes. Most recently CILS filed suit in Federal court on behalf of the Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee against the University of California alleging violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) over remains uncovered on the University of California, San Diego campus in 1976. These and other efforts could not be accomplished without the vital support we receive from our grant funders and generous community donors.

CILS is about to engage in a program-wide evaluation of the most pressing legal needs within California Indian country among tribal governments, organizations, and individuals. We look forward to sharing these results and using them to drive program priorities.

CILS Board and staff look forward to a fun and engaging time at the [45th Anniversary Gala](#) in October. We hope to see you all there so save the date—October 24, 2012.

Visit our [website](#) for event updates.

