Native Peoples Law Caucus
Annual Report 2013-2014

The Native Peoples Law Caucus (NPLC) continued to foster discussions and professional development in the area of Federal Indian and Tribal Law. This year the NPLC continued its tradition of having a strong showing at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The Caucus elected a new board, brainstormed ideas for future programming, member Bonnie Shucha published an article on Tribal Law, and member Eugenia Charles-Newton participated in a program on land grabbing.

The NPLC is proud to announce the new board members for 2014-2015: Eugenia Charles-Newton is the new Chair; Chris Pamboukes is the new Secretary; Bonnie Shucha is the new Webmaster; and Anne Lucke is the new Newsletter Editor. Outgoing Chair Cate Kellett offered to help all new board members during their transition over the next year.

At the Annual Business Meeting, caucus members brainstormed ideas for future programs at AALL. Proposals included: (1) A program on issues of electricity on tribal land. We could title it “The Power of Tribal Connection” as a play on words; (2) KIA-KIX reclassification of tribal legal materials; and (3) Publishing tribal law commercially while protecting the intellectual property of the tribe. We hope to submit at least one of these proposals for next year’s meeting in Philadelphia.

In June, Ms. Shucha published an article in Law Library Journal entitled “Whatever Tribal Precedent There May Be: The Unavailability of Tribal Law.” The article focused on the difficulties lawyers and scholars face in finding and researching tribal laws. Ms. Shucha included an annotated bibliography at the end of her article. Several members assisted her in editing the article.

In San Antonio, Ms. Charles-Newton presented at a Hot Topic panel on land grabbing in North America. The program described the history of land grabbing in the United States as well as government programs aimed at remedying the historical wrongs against Native American tribes. Panelists also listed resources available at the national and international level for researchers to use in their study of this topic.

The Native Peoples Law Caucus hopes to continue the tradition of partnering with other caucuses and SISs in the future to work together on programming and other projects that affect Federal Indian and Tribal Law issues.

Submitted by
Cate Kellett
NPLC Chair 2013-2014