

## **San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Awards \$1.3 Million Grant to UCLA School of Law to Advance Justice on Tribal Lands**

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has awarded a grant of more than \$1.3 million to UCLA School of Law to help strengthen legal institutions in California and across Indian country through the law school's Tribal Legal Development Clinic.

The five-year grant calls for the clinic to work on up to four legal projects each year to improve tribal courts and law enforcement practices, develop youth courts and peacemaker alternatives to litigation, and handle matters involving the Indian Child Welfare Act. An overarching goal is to develop model legal systems and practices that can be adopted by native nations.

"The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is committed to improving justice systems on native lands in California and beyond," said San Manuel Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena. "Partnering with UCLA School of Law, we can help native nations build legal institutions that are durable, just and responsive to the social and cultural needs of our communities."

The grant funds a new position at UCLA Law, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Legal Clinic Director, as well as staff for the Tribal Legal Development Clinic. UCLA Law has named Lauren van Schilfgaarde '12, an alumna who previously worked as the Tribal Law Specialist at the Tribal Law and Policy Institute and as a law clerk for the Native American Rights Fund, as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Legal Clinic Director.

The clinic director and students will work with different tribes on matters including youth justice, criminal justice and strengthening legal institutions, but will not take on work related to gaming, land use or federal recognition of tribes. Current projects include legal code development with the Yurok Tribe in Northern California, performing research and writing for the Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court in Wisconsin, and developing procedures related to cultural resource protection and ancestral remains repatriation in California.

"UCLA Law has a tradition of training law students to help build the foundations for robust, independent governance and legal systems in Indian country," said Angela Riley, a professor at UCLA Law and director of UCLA Law's Native Nations Law and Policy Center and UCLA's dual-degree program in Law and Native American Studies. "Through this generous gift, our law students will gain one-of-a-kind opportunities to work with Native Nations throughout California and beyond, travel to tribal lands and develop into legal leaders who will influence tribal justice for generations to come."

The collaboration continues a tradition of development of native leaders at UCLA. In 2004, a \$4 million grant from the San Manuel Band established the Tribal Learning Community and Educational Exchange at UCLA. TLCEE, which is housed within the school of law, is an interdisciplinary experiential education program that joins native peoples' knowledge and vision for the future with the academic world at UCLA. The program offers courses and workshops on campus, online and in native communities, for community members and UCLA students interested in American Indian Studies.

The TLCEE program and Tribal Legal Development Clinic were launched under the guidance of Carole Goldberg, Jonathan D. Varat Distinguished Professor of Law Emerita at UCLA and a nationally recognized leader in tribal law. Goldberg, who retired in 2018 after 46 years on the UCLA Law faculty, said, "This

new grant deepens on already powerful relationship between UCLA and Native Nations in California and from across the United States. We are proud to work with the San Manuel Band to strengthen the institutions that advance tribal sovereignty, protect tribes' cultural and natural resources, and ensure opportunity and fairness for everyone on tribal lands."

#### ABOUT THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located on the San Manuel Indian Reservation near Highland, California. San Manuel exercises its inherent sovereign right of self-governance and provides essential services for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. As descendants of the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, mountains and high deserts, the Serrano people of San Manuel have called this area home since time immemorial and are committed to remaining a productive partner in the San Bernardino region.

#### ABOUT UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

Founded in 1949 and celebrating its 70th year, UCLA School of Law is one of the top-ranked law schools in the country. Its faculty are among the most influential scholars in business law, constitutional law, critical race studies, environmental law, evidence, immigration, public interest law, tax and other fields. UCLA Law's 18,000-plus alumni work in nearly every state and more than 50 countries as leaders in government, industry, social justice and the legal profession. Committed to the University of California's mission of teaching, research and service, the school offers students a strong foundation in the law as well as practical training through a robust experiential education program.

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