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INDIAN LAW FOR TRIBAL OFFICIALS SEMINAR ANNOUNCED

Odawi Law experts to present two-day seminar

Jimersontown, Seneca Nation (NY), Oct. 12, 2017 – Odawi Law PLLC, a premier law firm specializing in American Indian law will hold a seminar for Native leaders Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The seminar is intended for tribal government officials interested in learning more about fundamental concepts of American Indian law and policy to assist them in performing their governing responsibilities. The event will be of particular benefit to those officials who are newly elected or appointed to office.

“Tribal leaders will have an opportunity to learn more about sovereignty and its origins, the importance of treaties and intergovernmental compacts, federal Indian law fundamentals, tribal jurisdiction and land use regulation, federal Indian policy reform and federal lobbying. There are few opportunities like this for tribal officials to gain this knowledge in a classroom of their peers. I believe it will be a great learning opportunity,” said Robert Odawi Porter, Esq., the Firm’s managing partner.

Seminar presenters have a variety of experiences in tribal law, governance, and business, as well as federal government advocacy, and will rely upon both traditional legal materials and their actual experiences to illustrate relevant concepts, said Porter, a former president of the Seneca Nation of Indians in Western New York.

The keynote speaker will be Geoffrey Standing Bear, Principal Chief of the Osage Nation, who previously worked as an attorney representing tribal governments and their officials. Said Chief Standing Bear: *“The colonial power of the USA is in an always changing relationship with the power of self-determination of Native people. How law and politics defines the relationship is directly determined by the strength of Native American culture, language and territorial integrity at any given time. I am honored to be able to participate in this important event.”*

The seminar faculty includes: Kimberlee Dunlop, Esq. (Seneca), Russell Brien, Esq. (Iowa), Todd Bertosen, and Ken Bellmard, Esq. (Kaw).

The cost of the seminar is \$750, which includes opening reception, continental breakfast, lunch, and materials. Attendees can register for “Indian Law for Tribal Officials” at Eventbrite at: indian-law-for-tribal-officials.eventbrite.com

A hotel rate of \$149 per night has been secured for workshop attendees at the seminar site, the Sheraton Suites Country Club Plaza, 770 W. 47th St., Kansas City, MO 64112 by calling 816.931.4400 or online at: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1710117649&key=307B2381>

For more information, please contact Steve Watt at steve.watt@odawilaw.com. A draft agenda and faculty biographies are attached.

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ABOUT ODAWI LAW PLLC

Odawi Law PLLC provides premium professional legal and government relations services to sovereign American Indian nations and tribes, Indian-owned businesses, and companies doing business in Indian Country. The Firm is owned and led by Robert Odawi Porter, an innovative attorney, scholar and tribal advocate who has devoted his 25-year professional career to advancing the rights of sovereign American Indian nations and tribes in the United States.

A citizen of the Seneca Nation of Indians, Rob was raised in the Nation’s Allegany Territory and earned his education from Syracuse University and Harvard Law School. He served two terms as Seneca chief legal counsel, as founding chairman of Seneca Holdings LLC, and, in 2010, was elected as the Seneca Nation’s 67th President. He has served as a tenured law professor at the University of Kansas, the University of Iowa, and Syracuse University.

A proven advocate, Rob has served a lead role in major conflicts with the U.S. federal and state governments to protect tribal sovereignty and treaty rights, including efforts to stop New York State from taxing Seneca commerce and lobbying for the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014, which ended the practice of IRS auditing of Indians for benefits received from their tribal governments.

In addition to representing Indian nations, tribes and Indian-owned companies on legal matters, Rob also represents several Indian nations, tribes, and an Alaska Native Corporation as a registered federal government relations advocate. He works in collaboration with attorneys and lobbyists throughout the United States to provide services specially designed for client needs. Rob has been named by Best Lawyers to its list for Native American law for 2018.