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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "26th annual Kyi-Yo Powwow features Indian law and policy conference" (1994). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 13267.

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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Missoula, MT 59812
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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

April 22, 1994

26TH ANNUAL KYI-YO POWWOW FEATURES INDIAN LAW AND POLICY CONFERENCE

MISSOULA--

A two-day Native American law and policy conference featuring lectures by Indian law scholars will be the hallmark of The University of Montana's 26th Annual Kyi-Yo Conference and Powwow, to be held April 26-30.

For more than a quarter of a century, the annual Kyi-Yo Conference and Powwow has provided a meeting ground for native cultural leaders, tribal college presidents and Native Americans from throughout the West who gather amid a medley of free public events celebrating Native American culture.

The law and policy conference, "Emerging Issues: Critical Implications for Tribal Governments," will be a highlight of UM's Cultural Awareness Week.

Bonnie Craig, director of UM Native American Studies Program, said the conference "will address issues affecting tribes nationwide while providing a neutral forum for state and tribal representatives."

Conference sessions will be held in the University Center and will cover topics including gambling, environment, restructuring tribal government and state-tribal relations. The conference begins Thursday, April 28, at 8:30 a.m., with opening remarks by UM law Professor Emeritus Margery H. Brown.

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The sessions are free and open to students and the public. However, those wishing to receive a conference packet and attend the full conference, including a luncheon and reception, must register. The fee for the full conference, payable at the door, is \$50 for attorneys and \$35 for state, tribal or professional employees. Continuing Legal Education credit is available.

The law and policy conference is the first in a biennial series and is expected to attract tribal representatives, state officials and lawyers from seven Western states, Craig said. The event is sponsored by UM's Native American Studies Program, Environmental Studies Program, School of Law Indian Law Clinic and Bolle Center for People and Forests, and by the Montana Committee for the Humanities, the Salish Kootenai College and the Indian Law Section of the State Bar of Montana.

Cultural Awareness Week will begin with the Montana Indian Education Association Conference, which runs Sunday, April 24, through Wednesday, April 27. Public events begin Wednesday afternoon with a panel discussion, "Recognition of Indian Women in the United States - A Historical Perspective."

As in previous years, the week's events also include a two-day powwow and a traditional feed of buffalo meat and fry bread, both free and open to the public.

Craft vendors are invited to set up at the powwow for \$100 per night. Those who register by Thursday, April 28, may pay \$175 for both nights. For more information, call 243-2703.

Scheduled events for the week include:

Wednesday, April 27

3:10 p.m. Panel Discussion: "Recognition of Indian Women in the United States - A

Historical Perspective," with Deborah Wetsit, UM assistant professor in educational leadership and counseling; Rhonda Lankford, Flathead Nation attorney; and Iris Heavy Runner, director of Robert Woods Johnson Foundation Center for healthy Families, Minneapolis, Minn., University Center Mount Sentinel Rooms.

6-10 p.m. 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, UM Recreation Annex; \$25 per team, for information call Jesse Jannsen.

Thursday, April 28

Law and Policy Conference

8:30 a.m. American Indian Law and Policy Conference opens.

9 a.m. "Sovereignty, Racism and Human Rights: Indian Self-Determination in the Modern World Legal System," University of Arizona law Professor Robert Williams.

10:15 a.m. Panel discussion, "The Future of State-Tribal Relations," with Kathleen Fleury, Montana's coordinator of Indian affairs.

Noon Conference luncheon with Joseph P. Meyers, executive director of the National Indian Justice Center, speaking on the Indian Tribal Justice Act and its implications for tribal courts.

1:30 p.m. Panel discussion, "Tribal Regulation of the Reservation Environment," moderated by Tom Acevedo, Esq., Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

3:15 p.m. "Breaking New Ground, The Role of Mediation in Tribal-State Disputes,"

Northern Lights Institute's director of the Common Ground Project, Eileen Shore.

3:30 p.m. Mediation Discussion with Judy Paynter, Montana Department of Revenue and Jeanne Bear Crane, attorney at law.

4:30 p.m. Directed group discussion of mediation.

Other events

6-10 p.m. 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Recreation Annex.

Friday, April 29

Law and Policy Conference

8:30 a.m. Panel discussion, "Indian Gaming: The New Buffalo?"

10:15 a.m. Panel discussion, "Reconceptualizing the Mission and Goals of Tribal Governments."

2 p.m. "The Future of Indian Law and Sovereignty - the Next 500 Years," University of Oklahoma law Professor Rennard Strickland. Strickland is president of the American Association of Law Schools.

Other events

Noon Bonnie Craig Tipi Race, north of Harry Adams Field House.

5:30 p.m. Drum Roll Call.

6-midnight Kyi-Yo Powwow, Field House.

Grand entrance, 6 p.m.

6-10 p.m. 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Recreation Annex.

Native94.rl -- 5

Saturday, April 30

Law and Policy Conference

10 a.m. Panel discussion, "Incarceration, Rehabilitation and Education of Native American Inmates," with inmates from the Montana State Prison as panelists.

Other Events

8 a.m. Registration for Kyi-Yo Run for Sobriety, front of Field House.

9 a.m. Softball Tournaments, UM Clover and River Bowls.

9:30 a.m. Kyi-Yo Run for Sobriety, Kim Williams Trail.

Noon Powwow, Grand entrance, Field House.

4-6 p.m. Traditional Feed, Jacob's Island.

5:30 p.m. Drum Roll Call, Field House.

6-midnight Powwow, Grand entrance, Field House, 6 p.m.

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Contacts: For Law and Policy Conference information, call Bonnie Craig, 243-5831, or Brenda Desmond, 243-2007; for powwow information call Teresa Brockie, 243-2073.

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