



PO Box 11145
Tempe, AZ 85284
www.nativeamericanbar.org
facebook.com/NationalNABA
[twitter.com/@NationalNABA](https://twitter.com/NationalNABA)

President, Mary Smith
Immediate Past President,
Patty Ferguson-Bohnee
President Elect, Linda Benally
Secretary, Thomas Weathers
Treasurer, Lawrence Baca

Directors:
Gabriel Galanda
Douglas Nash
Aliza Organick
Robert Saunooke
Sara Setshwaelo
Naomi Bebo
Jeffrey Cornell

November 29, 2013

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

RE: Indian Country Fellowship

Dear Attorney General Holder:

On behalf of the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”), I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your dedication to Indian Country. We applaud your remarks given during the White House Tribal Nations Conference on Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

The vast majority of the NNABA membership is comprised of lawyers who are both U.S. citizens and citizens of their respective tribal nations. Our members, therefore, share the communal responsibility of protecting the sovereignty of tribal governments in the United States. NNABA is committed to ensuring access to justice in tribal communities and building a pipeline of future leaders in the legal profession. We applaud your announcement of the creation of a new component of the Attorney General’s Honors Program – known as the Attorney General’s Indian Country Fellowship. We are confident that the Indian Country Fellowship will “inspire and cultivate a new generation of public servants” to continue to advocate on behalf of tribal interests. NNABA is pleased that that law school graduates will gain invaluable experience in Indian law, an area of law that holds a personal obligation for so many of our members.

NNABA is equally pleased and encouraged by the Statement of Principles announced by the Justice Department at such an important time, particularly when the Tribal Law and Order Act and the historic Violence Against Women Act are being implemented in tribal communities across the country.

Thank you so much again for your commitment to Indian Country. If NNABA can ever be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at (202) 236-0339.

Sincerely,

Mary Smith
NNABA President