



THE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION #2026-01

TITLE: Calling to Hold Immigration and Customs Enforcement Accountable to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Citizens

WHEREAS, the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) works to promote legal issues important to the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian community and to improve professional opportunities for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian lawyers; and

WHEREAS, the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) was founded in 1973 and serves as the national association for Native American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, and NNABA promotes and addresses social, cultural, political, and legal issues affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, tribal Nations are sovereign governments, and tribal citizenship is a political and legal status determined by tribal law; and

WHEREAS, tribal members are dual citizens of their tribe and the United States and entitled to the protections of the United States Constitution and federal law; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans are United States citizens and though U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has no jurisdiction over citizens, ICE has targeted Native people, tribal citizens, and descendants; and

WHEREAS, NNABA is alarmed by recent reports that ICE and related federal immigration enforcement personnel have stopped, questioned, detained, or threatened tribal citizens during enforcement activity in and around Minneapolis, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, multiple reports indicate that at least five Native Americans were detained and others questioned during large-scale ICE operations in Minneapolis, including detentions occurring at or near a homeless encampment; and

WHEREAS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe publicly reported that multiple tribal citizens were detained by ICE in Minneapolis and transferred to an ICE detention facility at Fort Snelling, and tribal leadership called for their immediate release; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments and tribal citizens across the country have raised serious concerns regarding the targeting of Native people and the need for clearer federal guidance, government-to-government consultation, and immediate corrective action; and

WHEREAS, NNABA is further concerned by reports that tribal citizens were stopped by ICE and that their federally-recognized tribal ID was dismissed as “fake,” raising serious concerns regarding the lack of training to recognize tribal identification documents; and

WHEREAS, tribal citizens routinely carry tribal government-issued identification as proof of identity in lawful interactions, including for travel and access to housing, services, and voting; and

WHEREAS, tribal identification cards and Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood (“CDIBs”) are official documents and must be treated as valid and respected forms of identification in federal interactions; and

WHEREAS, the failure to recognize tribal identification, or the presumption that Native people are non-citizens or unlawfully present based on race, appearance, language, or geography, undermines tribal sovereignty and violates fundamental civil rights principles; and

WHEREAS, improved training, clear policies, and accountability are necessary to prevent the wrongful targeting and reactive detention of tribal citizens and to ensure lawful and constitutional conduct by federal immigration enforcement personnel; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Native American Bar Association condemns the recent actions of ICE and other federal immigration enforcement personnel that have wrongfully targeted, questioned, intimidated, detained, or threatened tribal citizens; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the National Native American Bar Association reaffirms that Native Americans are citizens of the United States, and that no tribal citizen should be presumed to be a non-citizen, undocumented, or unlawfully present based on race, appearance, language, geography, or possession of tribal identification; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the National Native American Bar Association affirms that tribal identification cards and CDIBs are valid forms of federal identification and calls upon the Department of Homeland Security, ICE, and related agencies to issue clear, enforceable guidance requiring personnel to recognize, accept, and properly evaluate tribal identification documents; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NNABA supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

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CERTIFICATE OF CORPORATE SECRETARY

I, Jordan Oglesby, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA);

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY THAT Rani Williams, Lorenzo Gudino, Matthew Archer-Beck, Tyler Smith, Travis Trueblood, Jared Crum, Jessica Goodwin, Brittany Habbart, Deborah Reed, Blair Tarman-Toner, Brian Garcia, Ashley Hamilton, Alexander Mallory, Kori Cordero, Veronica Newcomer, and I are the currently serving directors of NNABA; and

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY THAT attached hereto as is a true and complete copy of a resolution titled “Calling to Hold Immigration and Customs Enforcement Accountable to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Citizens,” duly adopted according to NNABA’s Bylaws by the Board of Directors of NNABA at a Regular Meeting of the NNABA Board of Directors on March 4, 2026 and effective as of that same date;

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY THAT said resolution has not been altered, amended, or rescinded and is now in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name on this 4th day of March, 2026.



Jordan Oglesby
Secretary, National Native American Bar Association