



Rebuilding
Communities
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Media Release

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NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION JOINS EVENT CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND

Thackerville, Oklahoma – November 1, 2010 - National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., joined the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) as they came together in celebration of their 40th Anniversary. Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma at their fabulous WinStar World Casino in Thackerville, Oklahoma, the celebration centered on NARF's 40 Years as a defender of Tribal sovereignty in the federal court system.

The anniversary event highlighted four decades of federal Indian law and NARF's role in protecting tribal rights. Attendees also received an update on current concerns and challenges within each tribal priority area and their impact on Indian law. Tribal leaders and tribal attorney's came together to develop a shared vision for the future direction of Indian law and how NARF can address pending legal issues as Indian Country moves forward.

"I believe in NARF because of its legacy as a grassroots organization built on the warrior energy of our men and women. In spite of the tremendous progress and success there remains so many challenges in Indian Country," said Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, Ernie Stevens, Jr. "We as tribes need to help NARF continue its good work with moral and financial support." Stevens is a former NARF board member and serves on its National Support Committee.

An additional highlight of the celebration was the NARF 40th Anniversary "40 for 40" Dinner which recognized 40 tribes, individuals and organizations who have helped shape the 40 years of NARF.

"As leaders and advocates in American Indian and Alaska Native rights, it is important to reflect on just how far we have come," said John Echohawk, Executive Director of NARF. "We have conquered challenges and obtained goals that were only dreams just 40 years ago."

Founded in 1970, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) is the oldest and largest nonprofit law firm dedicated to defending the rights of Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Americans nationwide. As the celebration of NARF's 40th Anniversary came to a close, those in attendance pledged to re-commit themselves to the NARF mission: preserving and defending tribal sovereignty; protecting tribal natural resources; promoting Native American human rights; and educating the public about Indian rights, laws, and issues.

On behalf of NIGA's 184 Member Tribes, we applaud NARF and all their hard work over the past 40 years and look forward to celebrating another four decades of protecting Tribal sovereignty.

NARF'S 40 FOR 40

CLIENTS

Elouise Cobell (Blackfeet)
Pele Defense Fund / Palikapu Dedman (Native Hawaiian)
Katie John (Athabaskan)
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Native American Church of North America
Nez Perce Tribe
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Shinnecock Indian Nation

FORMER STAFF

Keith M. Harper (Cherokee)
Robert T. Anderson (Bois Forte Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe)
Lawrence A. Aschenbrenner
Walter R. Echo-Hawk (Pawnee)
Yvonne T. Knight (Ponca/Creek)
Arlinda F. Locklear (Lumbee)
Donald B. Miller
Thomas N. Tureen
Jeanne S. Whiteing (Blackfeet)
Charles F. Wilkinson

FUNDING PARTNERS

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Administration for Native Americans
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma
Ford Foundation
Open Society Institute
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
Tzo-Nah Fund
Wayne and Nancy Starling Ross

FORMER BOARD MEMBERS

Wallace E. Coffey (Comanche)
Gilbert B. Blue (Catawba)
John F. Gonzales (Pueblo of San Ildefonso)
Richard "Skip" A. Hayward (Mashantucket Pequot)
Will Mayo (Native Village of Tanana)
Chris E. McNeil, Jr. (Tlingit-Nisga`a)
Elizabeth Ann Ho`oipo Pa (Native Hawaiian)
Norman M. Ration (Navajo)
Evelyn M. Stevenson (Salish and Kootenai)
Eddie L. Tullis (Poarch Creek)

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About the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) - The National Indian Gaming Association is a nonprofit trade association comprised of 184 American Indian Nations and other nonvoting associate member. The mission of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian people – economically, socially and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and educational legislative and public policy resources for tribes, policymakers and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development. For more information, visit www.indiangaming.org.