



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS COMMITTEE

2011 NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD NATIONAL CONVENTION

WORKSHOP: DECOLONIZATION OF INDIGENOUS AMERICA

This workshop will address the continuing US colonial occupation of Native American and Hawaiian nations and peoples. It will focus on the fundamental human right to self-determination and struggles for decolonization as well as the development of human rights norms and international law, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, recently signed by President Obama. The workshop will discuss the use of the UN and the Inter-American System and the available international forums in the struggle to decolonize indigenous nations and peoples. The workshop panelists will discuss specific legal actions that have been and can be used to address these issues and to challenge and bring colonization, and slow the genocide of indigenous peoples, by the United States to an end.

The **Workshop panelists** are:



- **Antoinette Moore** is a human rights attorney who represents the Mayan peoples in their litigation with Belize of land and natural resource rights. She was and is local counsel in the ground-breaking cases of the Mayan peoples before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Supreme Court of Belize, and the follow up with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. She has a JD and a Master's Degree in international human rights law. She will focus her presentation on the human rights and decolonization of indigenous peoples under international law.



- **June Lorenzo** is a member the Pueblo of Laguna, a sovereign Native Nation in her home state of New Mexico. She has served as in-house counsel for the Pueblo and currently as counsel with the *American Indian Law Alliance*. Also working with the Indian Law Resource Center, she has focused on

the international application of human rights law to indigenous peoples as a participant in the negotiation processes of the drafting of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She has attended UN Indigenous forums at all levels, including the negotiations on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Lorenzo began her legal career at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, and then moved on to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the US DOJ Civil Rights Division. She is a graduate of Cornell University and was recently awarded its Alumni Exemplary Public Service Award.



- **Nellis Kennedy-Howard**, is a Dine' graduate from the University of New Mexico School of Law who has studied at Oxford University in England, at the Universidad Autonoma de la Laguna in Torreon, Mexico, and with the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, Switzerland. She is the National Campaign Associate for Honor the Earth, a Native-led organization focusing on developing the financial and political resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities. She will speak on the grass-roots decolonization efforts of Native communities.



- **Brandy K.M. Toelupe** is a Native Hawai'ian attorney practicing federal Indian law with Tilden McCoy & Dilweg, LLP in Denver, Colorado. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and her law degree in 2009 from the University of Denver where she served as the Chapter President of the Native American Law Students Association. She also studied the development of Indigenous Peoples and federal Indian law in Geneva, Switzerland. She clerked with the Native American Rights Fund during and after law school, working on cases involving the Indian Child Welfare Act, tribal governance, and federal recognition. She will speak on the current status of decolonization efforts in Hawai'i.