

Litigation & Governance Committee

June 4 and 5 at 4:15pm

Room: Andy Kirk AB

Committee Chair: John Echohawk

Subcommittees:

Jurisdiction & Tribal Government

Chair John Echohawk

Tribal Gaming

Chair Ernie Stevens, Jr.

Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns

Co-Chairs Juana Majel Dixon; Suzan Harjo

Taxation

Chair Arlan Melendez

Public Safety & Justice

Co-Chairs Theresa Sheldon; Paul Downing

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Short Announcements
3. Eagle Feathers and Religious Freedom. Becket Law has been representing Pastor Soto, a religious leader of the Lipan Apache tribe in Texas. They have won a settlement with Interior that includes a petition for rulemaking protecting the religious use of eagle feathers – an issue that affects both state and federally-recognized tribal members and raises other important questions about religious freedom and eagle feathers.
Pastor Robert Soto, Vice Chairman, Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
Joe Davis, Counsel, Becket
4. Tribal Supreme Court Project Update – Joel Williams, NARF
5. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Update – Rhonda Harjo, Deputy Chief Counsel
6. Cannabis Legislation and how it may include Indian Country
7. Department of Homeland Security Update – David Munro, Director of Tribal Affairs
8. Safeguard Tribal Object of Patrimony (STOP Act). The legislation is a response to the Acoma shield Paris auction. Primarily, the bill prohibits the export of Native American cultural items that were obtained in violation of NAGPRA, Native American archaeological resources that were obtained in violation of the Archaeological Resources

Protection Act of 1979, or Native American objects of antiquity that were obtained in violation of the criminal code.

9. FCC Litigation and the National Historic Preservation Act. The Federal Communications Commission on March 22 approved new rules exempting 5G fixtures from reviews under the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, saying that deploying the small cells needed for the next-generation 5G networks does not constitute a “federal undertaking” under the NHPA or a “major federal action” under NEPA that would require review.
10. Update from National American Indian Court Judges Association, Nikki Borchardt Campbell, Executive Director
11. Genetic Resources & Traditional Knowledge, Melody McCoy, Native American Rights Fund
12. Consideration of Proposed Resolutions
13. Adjourn