I. Mission Statement

For over 200 years, the federal and state governments have pursued conflicting policies in dealing with tribal governments located within their borders: treaty making; removal; allotment and assimilation; government reorganization; termination; and now self-determination. As a result, there exists an extraordinarily complicated body of federal, state, and tribal laws that affect tribal governance. The complexity of "Indian Law," and the general lack of knowledge regarding the unique legal and cultural needs of Indian people, has created a situation in which attorneys working with Indian tribes often place too great an emphasis on state or federal law, without taking into account tribal history and tradition.

The distinctive mission of the Indigenous Law Certificate Program is to prepare students for practicing Indigenous Law upon graduation by providing rigorous and comprehensive training in indigenous law, policy, and practice. The certificate program is designed to ensure that selected law students are equipped with a specialized expertise – having the knowledge and skills to effectively identify and address Indigenous Law issues, represent Indian nations, and appreciate their unique legal and governance systems.

II. Application Process

To be considered for the program, you must successfully complete all of your first-year law school courses. You must also have completed or enroll to take the course on Federal Law & Indian Tribes this fall semester.

The application process for the Indigenous Law Certificate consists of two stages and is administered through a competitive selection process.
Stage 1: Application. You must first complete and submit this Application and all supporting materials. The Application and all supporting materials may be hand-delivered to Kate Fort in Room 405C, or mailed to the following address. The Application and supporting materials must be received or postmarked no later than November 17, 2008.

Indigenous Law & Policy Center
MSU College of Law
405C Law College Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1300

Stage 2: Interview. After reviewing the applications, students who will be considered for the Certificate program may be invited for an interview with the Staff Attorney / Clinical Instructor for the Center, Kate Fort, the Director of the MSU Indigenous Law Program, Asst. Professor Matthew Fletcher, or Associate Director, Asst. Professor Wenona Singel.

III. Certificate Requirements

A. Overview

There are three requirements for the certificate program:

- 13 credits of coursework (7 credits of required courses, 6 credits of elective courses)
- Advanced research paper in Indigenous Law
- 3-credit experiential learning component

B. Coursework Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Law and Indian Tribes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Topics in Indian Law</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Topics in Indian Law</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: Advanced Topics will be offered as either a 2 or 3 credit course)
Elective Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Law (strongly recommended)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict of Laws (strongly recommended)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decedents’ Estates and Trusts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Law I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Jurisdiction (strongly recommended)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured Transactions</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.7 GPA in courses counted towards the certificate.

Students are eligible for admission to the certificate program after successful completion of their first-year required courses (29 credits). Applications will be accepted from second and third year students, provided that they have taken or are currently enrolled in the Federal Law & Indian Tribes course.

C. Paper

Students are required to complete a substantial research paper on a topic relating to indigenous law issues. The topic must be approved by the Director of the Indigenous Law Program and the paper must meet the law school's ULWR standards, whether or not it is actually used to satisfy the ULWR.

D. Experiential Learning

Students are required to complete a 3-credit experiential learning component. The primary option for fulfilling this requirement is participation in the Indigenous Law & Policy Center at MSU College of Law. Students who participate in the Center have the opportunity to engage in a variety of projects, including: legislative and policy work for tribal governments, significant legal research and writing assistance for tribal judiciaries, and drafting and revising tribal codes.

Subject to the Director's approval and consistent with faculty rules in effect, students may also satisfy the experiential learning requirement by completing a 3-credit internship or externship with a tribal government (legal department, court, or government office), a state or federal governmental unit that focuses on Indigenous Law issues, or a non-profit or non-governmental organization involved in Indigenous Law issues.
INDIAN LAW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
Application Form

I. INSTRUCTIONS

✓ Please type or print the following application—it must be legible.

✓ If there is not enough space to complete your answer, type or print “See attached” and attach your answer on a blank sheet of paper.

✓ You must also enclose a writing sample and a copy of your resume. For your resume, both legal and non-legal work experience are important, so please include both.

✓ Make sure to keep a copy of the application for yourself, as it lists all of the requirements for the Certificate program. You are responsible for ensuring you are on track to complete the program once admitted.

✓ If you have any questions regarding the program or this Application, please contact Kate Fort at fort@law.msu.edu or at 432-6992

II. IDENTIFICATION

The address you provide here will be used for all communications related to the selection process. You are responsible for providing timely written notice of any change to your address or telephone number.

1. ____________________________________________________________
   NAME:  LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE

2. ____________________________________________________________
   CURRENT ADDRESS:  NUMBER & STREET
   _________________________________
   CITY, STATE, ZIP

3. ____________________________________________________________
   TELEPHONE/CELL PHONE NUMBER

4. ____________________________________________________________
   EMAIL ADDRESS
III. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

5. College: ____________________________________________________
   DATES                  SCHOOL NAME                  DEGREE(s)
   Major/Minor or Course emphasis: ________________________________________________

College: ______________________________________________________
   DATES                  SCHOOL NAME                  DEGREE(s)
   Major/Minor or Course emphasis: ________________________________________________

College: ______________________________________________________
   DATES                  SCHOOL NAME                  DEGREE(s)
   Major/Minor or Course emphasis: ________________________________________________

6. Professional certifications and licenses:
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

7. Law school class level (2L, or 3L): _______________________________
   If you are currently enrolled in a dual-degree program, please state which one.

8. Expected date of law school graduation: __________________________

9. Law school cumulative grade point average: _______________________

IV. Program Requirements

A. Courses                  Credits                  Date Completed/ Anticipated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Date Completed/Anticipated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Advanced Topics in Indian Law</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Topics in Indian Law (2)</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Elective Course: _____________________

### Elective Course: _____________________

### Elective Course: _____________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL CREDITS</th>
<th>_________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### B. Experiential Learning in Indigenous Law (equivalent to 3 credit hours)

Practice Experience requirement will be fulfilled by:

- **Option 1:**
  - Indigenous Law and Policy Center: Semester(s)*: ____________________________

- **Option 2:**
  - Tribal Government Externship: Tribe: _____________________________ Dates: _______________

- **Option 3:**
  - State or Federal Government Externship: Agency: ___________________ Dates: _____________
    - Briefly list duties: ____________________________________________

- **Option 4:**
    - Briefly list duties: ____________________________________________

- **Option 5:**
  - Other: Organization: ____________________________________ Dates: _________________
    - Briefly list duties: __________________________________________________________________

Approval Date: _____________________ Authorized By: _____________________________

*Selected students may participate for up to two semesters (6 credits) in the Center, although only one semester (3 credits) is required for the Certificate Program.*
C. Substantial Research Paper in Indigenous Law

Substantial Paper

- **Option 1:**
  - Law school course
  - Course name: _____________________________
  - Course No: __________

- **Option 2:**
  - Independent Study
  - Course No: ________________
  - Date completed: _____________________________
  - Faculty review completed by: _____________________________
  - Date: ____________________

- **Option 3:**
  - Law Review
  - Title: ________________________________________________
  - Date submitted: _____________

V. APPLICANT’S PERSONAL STATEMENT

Enclose with this application a double-spaced, typewritten statement (no more than 5-7 pages) addressing the following:

A. What are your career goals? How do you believe participating in the Indigenous Law Certificate Program will help you to achieve those goals?

B. Briefly, define “tribal sovereignty” according to your own studies, views and/or experiences.

C. What current issue(s) do you believe are of greatest concern for tribal governments today?

VI. CERTIFICATION

The responses contained in this Application, and all information provided in the supporting materials, are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

______________________________________
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE