

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES
organized February 3, 1950



Bill John Baker
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby
Governor



Gregory Pyle
Principal Chief



George Tiger
Principal Chief



Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief

A Resolution of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes in Support of Including Indian Law principles and Subject Matter on the Oklahoma Bar Exam

Resolution No. 13-03

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the Tribal Governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 500,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the ITC is in support of the efforts of the Oklahoma Bar Association-Indian Law Section to advance the understanding, study, adoption, application, interpretation, and improvement of Oklahoma state and tribal laws, rules, and regulations that pertain to Indians, Indian tribes or Indian country, and to their administration and enforcement, to understand and improve the relationships of these bodies of law and judicial and administrative systems, and to encourage and support mutual respect for, and understanding of, the cultures, values, customs, and heritages which underlie them, hereby submit this Resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the recent growth in tribal economic development and the resulting increase in interaction of Oklahoma's thirty-nine (39) federally recognized Indian tribes with non-Indian entities and individuals, both on and off-reservation, has given rise to an array of business transactions, regulatory issues, and litigation matters between tribal and non-tribal parties in this State; and,


WHEREAS, the citizens of Oklahoma and many attorneys in Oklahoma do not generally understand the sovereign legal rights of Oklahoma Indian tribes; nor do they understand precisely how tribal self-governance and self-determination, and the laws and ways of Oklahoma Indian tribes, affect and intersect Anglo-American legal and jurisdictional principles; and,

WHEREAS, the integrity and competence of the legal profession in this State would be enhanced if attorneys licensed by the State of Oklahoma generally understood significant federal jurisdictional Indian law principles, particularly the common law doctrines of tribal sovereignty, tribal sovereign immunity, tribal subject matter jurisdiction (both criminal and civil), and the federal Indian Child Welfare Act as well as the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Act; and,


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes do hereby support and urge that the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Board of Bar Examiners work together with the Oklahoma Bar Association-Indian Law Section to include Indian law principles and subject matter on the Oklahoma Bar Exam, such that every bar-licensed attorney will receive knowledge reasonably necessary to maintain competent representation and integrity in the practice of law in the State of Oklahoma.

CERTIFICATION

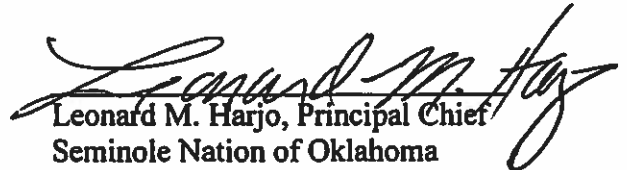
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 1st day of February, 2013, by a vote of All in favor for None against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation