

Tribal Leaders Forum

**With a weak economy, an environment of dysfunctional partisan politics, and reduced federal funding,
WHAT IS THE PATH FORWARD?**

Dates:
February 20-21, 2013

Once again tribal communities are at a crossroads. Another election cycle has passed and tribal leaders will embark once again on another agenda-setting exercise. As one surveys the array of challenges facing Indian country, what is the path forward? Will the policymakers in the Nation's Capitol listen to and act on what tribal leaders express as their primary challenges and priorities? If meaningful progress is to be made to enhance the quality of life in Indian Country, to protect and preserve tribal homelands, to exercise governing authority over all activities within reservation boundaries, and to achieve sustainable economic self-sufficiency, tribal leaders must move forward in a bold and creative way to ensure a promising future for generations to come. The goal of this forum is to bring together concerned tribal leaders so they can engage in conversation and strategic thinking about common concerns and priorities and discuss ideas about a path forward.

Forum Program

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

8:30 a.m. *OPENING PRAYER*

WELCOMING REMARKS

Hon. Daniel J. Tucker

Chairman

Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

OPENING REMARKS & FORUM OVERVIEW

Richard Trudell, Executive Director

American Indian Resources Institute

SESSION ONE
Congress, Tribes, and Federal Policymaking

During the past decade, politics in the Nation's Capitol have become very divisive and dysfunctional. Unfortunately for Indian and Alaskan Native communities, politics affect every aspect of Native American life. When tribes couple the inability of the Congress to get anything done with the erosion of tribal jurisdiction and governing authority by the federal courts, tribal leaders need to rethink how they will navigate policymaking arenas and how they might achieve their policy goals. One of the big challenges facing tribal leaders is to be forward thinking and to make the effort to chart a course for the future development of Indian law and policy. The number of challenges to tribal sovereignty and self-governance increase every year. As one surveys the array of challenges facing Indian and Alaskan Native communities, what thoughts and ideas do tribal leaders have for charting a path forward?

Moderator:

Richard Trudell, *Executive Director*, American Indian Resources Institute

Discussion Panel Perspectives

Tribes and the Congress: A Perspective on the 113th Congress and the Challenge of Enacting Legislation to Benefit Tribes—Patricia M. Zell, *Partner*, Zell & Cox Law, P.C., Alexandria, VA; *Former Staff Director and Chief Counsel*, Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate

Tribes and the Courts: A Perspective on the Impact of Recent Supreme Court Opinions and on the Need to Monitor Active Indian Law Cases—Richard A. Guest, *Senior Attorney*, Native American Rights Fund, Washington, DC

Thoughts about Shoring up the Foundations of Federal Indian Law and Policy in an Era of Nation Building and Self Governance—Charles Wilkinson, *Distinguished University Professor and Moses Lasky Professor of Law*, University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, CO

OPEN DISCUSSION

12:00 noon *LUNCHEON*

Speaker:

1:45 p.m.

SESSION TWO
Tribes and the Federal Trust Relationship

In this era of tribal nation building and self-governance, some tribal leaders pose the question “What is the future of the federal trust relationship?” During the past two decades, tribes have seen both action and inaction by the Executive Branch that would suggest the government is backing away from certain of its trust responsibilities and obligations. Some tribal leaders have also questioned whether the federal trust relationship is in danger of being dismantled. What do tribes want the trust responsibility to be and what are the policies necessary to make that happen? In thinking about the future of the trust relationship, tribes must understand and address the history and scope of the trust responsibility. Does the trust relationship only include funds held in trust and tribal natural resources or all aspects of the relationship between the United States and the tribes? Is it realistic to expect the three branches—executive, courts, and congress—of the federal government to make policy changes that protect tribal homelands and enhance self-governance? If not, what are the tribes willing to do themselves?

Moderator:

Richard Trudell, *Executive Director*, American Indian Resources Institute

Discussion Panel Perspectives

The History and Scope of the Federal Trust Relationship: Looking Back, Looking Forward—**Eric D. Eberhard**, *Distinguished Indian Law Practitioner in Residence*, Center for Indian Law and Policy, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA; *Former Staff Director and Legislative Counsel*, Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate

Nation Building, Tribal Self-Governance, and the Federal Trust Relationship: The Coeur d’Alene Tribe Experience—**Hon. Chief John Allan**, *Chairman*, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Plummer, ID

Nation Building, Tribal Self-Governance, and the Federal Trust Relationship: The Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation Experience—**Hon. Daniel J. Tucker**, *Chairman*, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, El Cajon, CA; *Chairman*, California Nations Indian Gaming Association

OPEN DISCUSSION

4:45 p.m. Concluding Remarks

RECESS

5:45 p.m.

Reception & Dinner

Location:
Sycuan Golf & Tennis Resort

Thursday, February 21, 2013

8:45 a.m. *OPENING PRAYER*

OPENING REMARKS

ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE
Discussing Key Challenges Facing Tribes as Governments and
Exploring Ideas and Thoughts about a Path Forward

Facilitator:

Richard Trudell, *Executive Director*, American Indian Resources
Institute

OPEN DIALOGUE

12:00 noon Summary of Recommendations and Next Steps

CLOSING REMARKS

END OF FORUM

Tribal Leaders Forum

General Information

MEETING LOCATION & REGISTRATION: The meeting location is the Sycuan Resort & Casino, El Cajon, CA, which is located approximately 35 minutes from the San Diego Airport. For more information about the Sycuan Resort, please visit their website (www.sycuanresort.com). The Registration Fee is \$300 and includes refreshments, meals, and meeting materials. The Registration Fee, along with a completed registration form, should be mailed in advance to 331 Moraga Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611, or hand carried to the forum. Checks should be made payable to the **American Indian Resources Institute**.

LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS: Attendees should plan to stay at the Sycuan Resort or at the US Grant Hotel which is located downtown San Diego, both properties are owned by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation. Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Please call the Sycuan Resort (619-442-3425 or 800-457-5568) or the US Grant Hotel (619-232-3121 *or* 800-741-5072) to make reservations under the meeting name "***Tribal Leaders Forum***" for a special Tribal Government Rate (\$75 plus tax at the Sycuan Resort and \$165 plus tax at the US Grant). The rates will also be available for early arrivals. To inquire about alternative lodging accommodations in the El Cajon area, please call the Resort for hotel telephone numbers and locations.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: To get to the Sycuan Resort & Casino from the San Diego Airport, one can rent a car or take a taxi. If one has additional questions about ground transportation, please call the Sycuan Resort at 619-442-3425. Shuttle services are not complimentary.

FOR INTERESTED GOLFERS: The Sycuan Resort has three golf courses (Oak Glen, Pine Glen, and Willow Glen) and boasts the best San Diego golf vacations as rated by readers of San Diego Union Tribune's website, as well as receiving top ranking by the San Diego Business Journal. To make tee times, call 800-457-5568 or 619-442-3425.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Please direct inquiries concerning the *Forum* to Richard Trudell at 510-551-6551 (mobile) or at richardtrudell@me.com.

AIRI Tribal Leaders Forum

Sycuan Resort & Casino • El Cajon, CA • February 20-21, 2013

Registration Form

COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:

American Indian Resources Institute
331 Moraga Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

NAME _____

TITLE/POSITION _____

TRIBE/ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE WORK _____ CELL _____

PHONE FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

INDICATE PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash **Check/Money Order** **Credit Card:** **VISA** **Master Card**

If the Method of Payment is by Credit Card, please email a completed Registration Form to richardtrudell@me.com with Credit Card Information. Card will be processed and a receipt emailed to name on registration form above.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$300

NAME ON CREDIT CARD:

CARD NO _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____