

**Nomination of Professor William C. Bradford of the Indiana**

**University School of Law—Indianapolis**

**American Bar Association Henry J. Ramsey, Jr. Award for Diversity**

*Submitted by Julia Illman Maness, Student, Indiana University School of  
Law--Indianapolis*

I nominate Professor William C. Bradford of the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis for the American Bar Association Henry J. Ramsey, Jr. Award for Diversity.

Professor Bradford's achievements in promoting diversity in legal education and the legal profession are many. Professor Bradford strives to fulfill the ABA Goal IX: "to promote full and equal participation in the legal profession by minorities, women and persons with disabilities."

Professor Bradford arrived at the Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis in the fall of 2002. At that time, our law school curriculum had no courses reflecting the importance and relevance of Native American legal issues, and we had no native student groups. In the brief time since his arrival at our law school, Professor Bradford has changed this. Through example, leadership, and scholarship, he has brought Federal Indian Law and issues of Native American interest and indigenous human rights to our law school community.

Today, we have a Federal Indian Law course designed by Professor Bradford. The course

“explores the principles, doctrines, and statutes governing the legal relations between American Indian tribes, the United States, and State governments, as well as the history of federal Indian law and policy. Topics specifically examined in the course include treaty rights and sovereignty, congressional plenary power, the trust doctrine, jurisdiction in Indian country, tribal courts and tribal lawmaking, tribal regulation of non-Indians, economic development in Indian Country, Indian hunting and fishing rights, environmental regulation on Indian lands, protection of Indian religious and cultural property, Indian gaming, Indian child custody, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian rights, and comparative international legal perspectives on the rights of indigenous peoples.” *Syllabus, Federal Indian Law, Spring 2004, IU—Indy School of Law*

Although there are Federal Indian Law courses offered at various law schools in the country, I feel particularly fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience this course with Professor Bradford. As a scholar of Chiricahua Apache descent, he offered a unique perspective to his students. Many of the students in the class had had little to no prior exposure to Native American issues. Through his creativity, energy, and thoughtful analyses, Professor Bradford fostered diversity in the legal profession through opening students' eyes to Federal Indian Law, its nuances, and its practical application to living native peoples.

Professor Bradford further promoted diversity throughout our law community by inviting law students, faculty, and staff to join the class when speakers visited. This past semester, Dr. Cecelia Martinez, an expert in American Indian Policy at Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Chief Buchanan of the Miami Tribe of Indiana spoke to the class and the law community.

Further, under Professor Bradford's leadership, our law school now has an active and growing Native American Law Students Association ("NALSA"). NALSA fosters discussion and interest in Native American issues. NALSA and Professor Bradford have been instrumental in bringing Miami of Indiana tribal members into our law school community for discussion and sharing. This both educates and inspires law students, and blends Native American lifestyles with the law school community, further fostering diversity in the profession.

I was also a student in Professor Bradford's Property I and II course. Professor Bradford furthered ABA Goal IX by introducing students to property cases relevant to Native American issues, such as *Johnson v. McIntosh* (which established the "right of occupancy" under the Discovery Doctrine), *Charrier v. Bell* (ownership in Native American burial artifacts cannot be transferred to another under the theory of abandonment), and *Nome 2000 v. Fagerstrom* (an adverse possession case holding that Native Alaskan traditional use of land is merely stewardship rather than dominion).

Professor Bradford is committed to eliminating bias against the Miami Tribe of Indiana. The Miami are not currently a federally recognized Indian tribe, and Professor Bradford is working with the Miami in their struggle for federal recognition. This includes legal advocacy and education about the bias inherent in a majoritarian society's treatment of Native Americans.

Professor Bradford is of Chiricahua Apache descent. He is one of ten tenure-track Native American law professors in the country. I believe we need individuals who reflect our color, our sex, and our diversity in positions of leadership. Professor Bradford is a shining example of possibility for Native American students and would-be students, and an inspiration to us all.

Professor Bradford also promotes diversity in the legal profession through his various Native American-focused scholarly articles. These articles include *Save the Whales v. Save the Makah: Finding Negotiated Solutions to Ethnodevelopmental Disputes in the New International Economic Order* and *Reclaiming Indigenous Legal Autonomy on the Path to Peaceful Coexistence: The Theory, Practice, and Limitations of Tribal Peacemaking in Indian Dispute Resolution*.

Further, Professor Bradford voluntarily served on the Review Panel for the Equal Justice Works Summer Scholars Public Interest Law Fellowships. As chair of the Fellowships committee, I had the opportunity to work closely with him in this matter. The purpose of the Summer Scholars Fellowships

program is to facilitate law students' legal work for underserved populations. Through his involvement in Summer Scholars, Professor Bradford furthered ABA Goal IX by facilitating increased access to legal services by people in underserved populations. He further helped to increase the diversity of our law school by facilitating students of all economic backgrounds to participate in the work of their choice.

Without hesitation, I nominate Professor William C. Bradford for the ABA Henry J. Ramsey, Jr. Award for Diversity. Through Professor Bradford's energy, passion, and commitment, he has increased diversity within our law school and beyond. I am fortunate to be his student, and the legal profession is fortunate to benefit from his creativity, energy, and commitment to diversity.