

American Indian Law

Theme Introduction

By Stanette J. Amy

Welcome to the American Indian Law theme issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. There are currently 12 federally recognized tribes in the state of Michigan. Other bands are applying for recognition; see Bart Stupak's article, "2015 Acknowledgement Regulations Invalidate Native American Treaties," about a current case.

Tribal law governs most civil and misdemeanor cases on reservations, while federal law governs in other circumstances. Special laws apply to Indian children to assure that traditional culture is preserved. Jim Keedy examines these laws in "The History of Indian Legal Services."

Tanya Gibbs and Jennifer Saekyl discuss which tax laws apply to tribal businesses on state land in their article, "State Taxation of Tribal Businesses."

The problems of the opioid epidemic are everywhere. "A Tribal Court's Response to the Prescription Drug and Opioid Crisis" by Hon. Pat Shannon provides a look at how one tribal court is attacking it from a public health point of view.

Marijuana law encompasses conflicts of law between federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as discussed in Jeff

Davis's article, "Michigan Marijuana Laws: Michigan Tribes Can Participate, But How?" It is such a hot topic that it is the subject of the American Indian Law Section's annual meeting on August 9 at the Odawa Hotel in Petoskey. The free program begins at 1 p.m. Come and hear the roundtable discussion by Wenona Singel, deputy legal counsel to the Office of the Governor of Michigan, and Pat Miles Jr., former U.S. attorney for the Western District of Michigan appointed by President Obama. Then stay and enjoy the pow wow the next day! ■



Stanette J. Amy is the current chair of the SBM American Indian Law Section. She concentrates in American Indian law, nonprofits, and criminal and family law in Burton. She is a 2000 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Law and has an MSW and an MPA from the University of Michigan. Her article, "Patents and Taxes and Poof! It's Gone," appeared in the May 2001 issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal*.