

President's Message

by Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpí Jr.



Indian Law and the FBA

The unique legal relationship of the many nations

of Native Americans with our federal government is a topic that is greatly ignored by a majority of Americans. The Federal Bar Association (FBA), I'm very proud to say, has always been a leader in educating bench and bar about the many and very transcendental legal issues involving this important relationship.

For three decades, the Federal Bar Association has hosted its annual Indian Law Conference in April. Past National President Lawrence Baca founded the Indian Law Section and as chair for 20 years organized many such conferences, which from humble beginnings have grown into what is now the FBA's largest annual event, attracting in excess of 800 participants.

I am proud to have served on our national board under President Baca and am now equally proud to have on my board Tribal Judge Elizabeth Kronk Warner, two excellent and proud Native American professionals and FBA leaders. Native Americans have played, and will always play, an integral role within our organization. I would be re-

miss not to mention Tribal Justice Mike McBride, who also served for several years on our national board and as the FBA's general counsel.

In our nation's history, Native Americans have contributed enormously to our culture and served our country proudly in all facets of life, including serving in our armed forces. It is thus astonishing to note that while many other minorities have made it to the federal bench, Native Americans are not adequately represented. As FBA president, I will take the opportunity whenever and wherever I can to encourage our elected leaders to take appropriate action.

I look forward to attending this year's conference in Santa Fe, N.M., which will provide me the opportunity to further educate myself on the many issues in this area of law. This edition—dedicated to Indian Law—is a great educational tool for those who, like me, support the rights of all Native Americans, who constitute an integral part of our society. ☺

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Gelpí Jr.", located to the right of the main text block.

2018 FBA Annual Meeting and Convention

Hosted by

[Insert Your Chapter Name Here]

The National Convention Committee is soliciting bid proposals from all chapters interested in serving as the host chapter for the 2018 Annual Meeting and Convention. More information and proposal requirements may be found at www.fedbar.org. If your chapter wishes to see its name above, submit your bid proposal by May 31, 2014, to convention@fedbar.org.

Watch for the May/June 2014 special double issue of *The Federal Lawyer*, focusing on U.S. magistrate judges, in mid-May!