

May 19, 2003

Melissa L. Pope, Chair
American Indian Law Section
PO Box 13038
Lansing, MI 48901

State Bar of Michigan
Joyce Nordeen
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Ms. Nordeen:

As the Chair of the American Indian Law Section (AILS), it is my pleasure to submit to you the annual summary of the Section's activities pursuant to Article VIII of the State Bar of Michigan Bylaws.

Annual Meeting and Program, September, 2002

The AILS held its annual meeting at the 2002 State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting. The AILS hosted a program directly following the meeting which was titled "Peacemaking." The guest speakers were Jo Anne Cook and Donna Chippewa of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Cook and Chippewa gave a detailed presentation about the Peacemaking Court's use of traditional practices for dispute resolution and community healing.

Council Meeting, January 27, 2003

The Council met to determine programs that it would co-sponsor, as well as select the 2003 Tecumseh Peacekeeper Award.

Michigan Anishnabe Educational Forum on Educational Issues Affecting American Indians, February 17, 2003

The AILS partnered with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School to host an educational forum on challenges facing the education of and about Michigan American Indians. The specific focus of this forum was the impact of American Indian logos and mascots on the educational process for both American Indians and non-American Indians.

Odawa Cultural Immersion, March 14, 2003

The AILS partnered with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights to offer a day of activities that immersed participants in the Odawa culture, tradition, language and religion.

Council Meeting, March 21, 2003

The AILS attended the Native American Law Day sponsored by the Native American Law Student Association at the University of Michigan. The AILS meeting followed with discussions about outreach and the Annual Program.

Michigan Conference on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Legal System, April 10-12, 2003

The AALS endorsed the Michigan Conference on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Legal System, sponsored the opening of the Thursday luncheon, and participated in the Thursday plenary panel about minority bar associations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this summary. I can be reached during regular business hours at (517) 371-5140 ext. 2247 or via e-mail at <popem@cooley.edu>.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Pope, Chair