

Steven T. Newcomb

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Curriculum Vitae

Personal

Born 1955, Portland, OR

Spouse: Paige Giberson.

Higher Education

University of Oregon, Rhetoric and Communication Major, Spring, 1975-Spring, 1981.

Professional Positions

Consultant – Original Nations Advocates

Indigenous and Kumeyaay Research Coordinator, Sycuan Cultural Department, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, April 2011 to December 2019.

Indigenous Law Research Coordinator, Kumeyaay Community College/Sycuan Education Department, 2002- 2010.

Co-founder and Co-director, Indigenous Law Institute, 1992 to present

Columnist, Indian Country Today/Indian Country Media Network, 2002 to 2017.

Senior Fellow, Fourth World Center for the Study of Indigenous Law and Politics, University of Colorado at Denver, 1997-2000.

Visiting Lecturer, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, January-June, 2002.

Visiting Lecturer, University of Colorado at Denver, “Indigenous Peoples’ Political Systems,” 1996.

Visiting Lecturer, Denver University, 1996, “Indigenous Peoples’ Issues.”

Teaching Assistant to Ms. Winona LaDuke, Savage Fellowship Visiting Professor, University of Oregon, Spring 1993.

Independent Research, 1981-present

(History, Law, Political Science)

University of Oregon
University School of Law

Oregon State University
Lewis and Clark Law School
Portland State University
University of Southern California
University of California at Los Angeles
University of Arizona
University of Hawai'i
Columbia University
New York University
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.
Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
Harvard Seminary Library
University of Colorado at Denver
Denver University
Denver University School of Law
U.C. San Diego
University of San Diego
San Diego State University
League of Nations Library, Geneva, Switzerland
George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

Awards

“Writer of the Year Award” in Journalism, WorkCraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, 2005.

Rupert Costo Medal recipient, UC Riverside, awarded to Native scholars who have contributed to the advancement of Native American issues, November, 2014.

Cultural Heritage Award, Wishtoyo Foundation, March, 2016.

Other Professional Activities

Attended UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2002-2012 at the United Nations in New York City.

Research Fellow, American Indian Policy and Media Initiative
Buffalo State College in New York, 2003-2008.

Publications

Book

Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (Fulcrum Publishing, 2008)

Book Chapters

“Domination in relation to Indigenous (‘dominated’) Peoples in international Law,”
Indigenous Peoples as Subjects of International Law (Routledge, 2017).

“Original Nations of ‘Great Turtle Island’ and the Genesis of the United States,” Chapter one in, *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Religion and Politics in the U.S.*, (Wiley-Black, 2016).

Law Review Articles

“The U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Paradigm of Domination,” *Griffith Law Review*,” Vol. 20, No. 3, 2011. Griffith School of Law, Queensland, Australia.

“On the Rightful Political Heritage of Native Nations,” *Indigenous Peoples’ Journal of Law Culture and Resistance*, U.C.L.A. School of Law, 2005.

“The Evidence of Christian Nationalism in Federal Indian Law: the Doctrine of Discovery, *Johnson v. M’Intosh*, and Plenary Power,” *Rev. of Law and Social Change*, New York University School of Law, 1993, Vol. 20, No. 2.

Presentations and Meetings

Panelist at the Premier of the documentary movie, “Spirit Game: Pride of a Nation.” May, 24, 2017, Writer’s Guild Theatre, Hollywood.

Meeting with Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, May 4, 2016. A brief meeting with Pope Francis on the same day.

Keynote Speaker at the Parliament of the World’s Religions, February 2, 2016.

Keynote Speaker on the Doctrine of Discovery, Arizona House of Representatives,

Participant, U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2012.

Meeting at the Archives of the Indies in Seville, Spain on May 3, 2013, to see two of the original five-hundred twenty year old papal decrees issued by Pope Alexander VI.

Indigenous Drafting Team for the Indigenous Peoples’ “Alta Outcome Document,” in Madrid, Spain, in May, 2013.

Participant U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2010

Participant and Panelist at Parliament of the World’s Religions, 2009.

Participant UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2009

Participant at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2008.

“The Birth of Human Rights: Indigenous Contact with Europe and the Origin of International Law,” a side-panel of the United Nations Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian and the Flying Eagle Woman Fund, May 17, 2007.

Presenter at the 2005 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Panel: “Challenging the Doctrine of Discovery, Christianity, Papal Bulls, and Manifest Destiny, May 2005.

Participant at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, May 2005.

Participant at the Nican Tlacah Ilhuitl, Indigenous Peoples Day Event, Phoenix, Arizona, March 10-11, 2004.

Participant in the International Centre for Healing and the Law’s “Healing and the Law in Native American Tradition Retreat,” Oct. 17-19, 2003.

Presenter at “Models of Healing for Indigenous Survivors of Inter-Generational Trauma” Conference at D-Q University at Sycuan, April 15-18, 2003.

Presenter at the “Sacred Lands & The Health of Mother Earth Conference,” regarding the protection of sacred places, Nov. 8-9, 2002.

Guest presenter at The Louise W. and Edmund J. Kahn Liberal Arts Institute, “The Question of Reparations: The U.S. Context,” Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, November 2-5, 2002.

Presenter at the “Decolonizing Methodologies: Teaching about Indigenous Peoples” Seminar, Sponsored by the Five College Center for the Crossroads in the Study of the Americas, April, 1999, University of Mass., Amherst.

Presenter at the “Human Genome/ Human Rights” Conference, sponsored by the Five College Native American Indian Studies Faculty Seminar & Curriculum Committee, April 1996, University of Mass., Amherst.

Attended “Consultation” on the U.N. Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at Harvard University with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Justice Dept., and the Department of the Interior, May 18, 1996.

Attended “Consultation” on the U.N. Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the U.S. State Department, July 26, 1996.

“Indigenous Systems of Meaning & the Law,” Law & Society Conference, Toronto, Canada, 1995.

“The Natural State of Native Existence vs. the Artifice of the State,” Florence, Italy, February, 1995.

“Historic Patterns of Domination: 1452-1995,” 500 Years of Resistance Conference, Perugia, Italy, 1995.

“Traditional Native Law and the Environment,” Environmental Racism Conference, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, January, 1995.

“U.S. Violations of Western Shoshone Human Rights,” Racism Hearings, Sponsored by the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, Oakland, California, October 1994.

“Who Defines the Sacred,” Land, Air, Water Environmental Law Conference,” Eugene, Oregon, March 1993.

“The Legacy of Christendom and the U.S. Domination of Native Existence,” Land, Air, Water Environmental Law Conference, Eugene, Oregon, March, 1993.

“The Illegal U.S. Occupation of the Black Hills,” Hearings on Racism, Sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Manderson, South Dakota, November, 1992.

“Call for the Revocation of the Inter Cetera Bull of 1493,” Voices of the Oppressed Panel at the Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago, Illinois, September 1993.

“The Infidel Status of Indians in U.S. Law,” Guest Lecture, Native American Student Association, Oregon State University, March 1993.

“Treaties, Treaty-Making & Justice,” International Indigenous Spiritual Elders & Peoples Conference, Tamuranui, Aotearoa (New Zealand), February 1993.

“The Inter Cetera Bull,” University of Milan, Milan, Italy, October 1992.

Speaking Tour with Birgil Kills Straight and Jaquie Bird, Northern Italy, October 1992.

“American Indian Contributions to the World,” Indian Givers Conference, Basel, Switzerland, October, 1992.

“The Revocation of the Inter Cetera Papal Bull,” Unitarian Church, Eugene, Oregon, May 1992.

“The Reality of the Spirit World,” Guest Lecture, Good Samaritan Church, Corvallis, Oregon, April 1992.

“Native Americans as Infidels in U.S. Law,” Land, Air, Water Conference, University of Oregon School of Law, Eugene, Oregon, March 1992.

“Christianity and the Western Denial of Indigenous Reality,” Guest Lecture, Tribal Hall of the Coos, Siuslaw, and Lower Umpqua Nations, April 1992.

“Revoking the Papal Bull of 1493,” People and the Planet Symposium, Eugene, Oregon, March 1992.

“The Religious and Political Origins of Federal Indian Law,” Guest Lecture, University of Oregon School of Law, March, 1992.

Workshop Facilitation

Global Communications & Indigenous Cultural Survival,” International Studies Workshop, International Studies Department, University of Oregon, July 1995.

“The Political Etymology of Native Oppression,” Multicultural Workshop, Lane

Community College, Eugene, Oregon, January 1996.

“Treaties, Treaty-Making, and Justice Workshop,” International Indigenous Spiritual Elders and Peoples Conference, Tamaranui, Aotearoa (New Zealand), February 1993.

“Christianity and U.S. Federal Indian Law,” Second Fannie Lou Hamer Convention, Harlem, N.Y., July 1992.

Media Interviews

Interview on Native American Calling, May 2007.

Numerous interviews on “First Voices” WBAI (Pacifica) in New York City, 2002-2006.

Interview on Native American Calling, April 8, 2004.

Interview on Pacifica Radio, WBAI, New York, N.Y., 2002.

Interview on “Native American Calling,” 1996

Interview on KGUN, Boulder, Colorado, 1998.

Interview on KILI Radio, Pine Ridge Reservation, 1993.

Interview on “Buffalo Nation Journal,” South Dakota Public Television’s “Columbus Day” Show.

Indian Country Today Columns

Indian Country Today and Indian Country Media Network published several hundred of my columns from 2002 to September, 2017. Below is a sampling of titles:

“Arrival of traditional canoes opens indigenous treaty meeting,” Aug. 30, 2007.

“Affirm the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” Aug. 16, 2007.

“In honor of a spiritual man: Corbin Harney,” July 27, 2007.

“United States plays fast and loose with the facts,” June 28, 2007.

“The United States’ fancy footwork on the Western Shoshone treaty,” June 21, 2007.

“Jamestown 2007: Commemorating the colonization of North America,” May 10, 2007.

“Indigenous summit: ‘Our world is not for sale,’” April, 20, 2007.

“The Cherokee Nation’s contradictory stance,” March 30, 2007.

“‘The Secret’ philosophy is nothing new,” March 16, 2007.

“The Kamehameha Schools issue in Hawai’i,” Feb. 23, 2007.

“Anti-Indian rhetoric in the 21st century,” Feb. 02, 2007.

“Imagine this: from G. Washington to G. Bush,” Jan. 26, 2007.

“Joseph Story and the ‘right of discovery’,” Jan. 11, 2007.

“All our relations,” Dec. 29, 2006.

“Review of ‘Unlearning the Language of Conquest’,” Nov. 30, 2006.

“Bush’s unprecedented power,” Nov. 17, 2006.

“On the North American Indian tradition of liberty,” Oct. 26, 2006.

“Revitalizing the Kumeyaay language,” Oct. 13, 2006.

“Papal statement suggests Crusades were ‘contrary to God’s nature,’” Sept. 29, 2006.

“The order of skull and bones and Geronimo,” June 02, 2006.

“International law and the principle of free consent,” May 26, 2006.

“Water is Life: Sacred and precious,” May 05, 2006.

“Dark clouds: Destroying democracy to save it,” Feb. 17, 2006.

“False specter of indigenous ‘secession’ again raised at the U.N.,” Dec. 22, 2005.

“John Locke and Indian Country,” Oct. 27, 2005.

“Bush and the political winds of Katrina,” Oct. 06, 2005.

“The star of empire,” Sept. 15, 2005

“Depleted Uranium: A crime against humanity and the environment,” Sept. 08, 2005.

“Coyote and the doctrine of discovery,” August 18, 2005.

“The lesson of a Creek chief’s visit to King George,” August 04, 2005.

“A Native view of Catholic missions in California,” June 07, 2005.

“On legitimacy, lies, and the war in Iraq,” June 23, 2005.

“Footnote number 1: A reminder for Indian country,” June 17, 2005.

“Debunking Johnson v. McIntosh,” May 26, 2005.

“A farewell tribute to Mary Dann,” May 12, 2005.

“On matriotism and patriotism,” April 28, 2005.

“A worst-case scenario: Are we ready,” March 28, 2005.

“On Challenging wrongful ideas,” Feb. 10, 2005.

“Bush’s second inauguration and the Western Shoshones,” Jan. 27, 2005.

“Fire Thunder’s historic inauguration day,” Dec. 17, 2004.

“American Indian nations wrongfully defined by non-Indian concepts,” Dec. 10, 2004.

“On the words ‘tribe’ and ‘nation,’” Dec. 03, 2004

“Colonization Day,” Oct. 08, 2004

“A deceptive metaphor,” Oct. 05, 2004.

“On America’s pathological behavior toward Native peoples,” Sept. 10, 2004.

“Bush at Mount Rushmore, ‘The Shrine of Hypocrisy,’” August 06, 2004.

“House to vote on Western Shoshone land bill today,” June 21, 2004.

“The NLRB’s arrogation of authority over Indian nations,” June 18, 2004.

“On the ability of words to empower and disempower,” June 11, 2004.

“Reflecting on U.S. moral values and the Western Shoshones,” May 21, 2004.

“Justice Clarence Thomas and U.S. v. Lara,” April 29, 2004.

“On attorneys, Indian advocacy and Nevada v. Hicks,” April 23, 2004.

“Contradictions inherent in U.S. v. Lara,” April 06, 2004.

“Rejecting domestic dependent nationhood,” March 29, 2004.

“An Open Letter to Congressman Tom Delay, Jan. 24, 2004.

“Observations on U.S. v. Lara,” January 19, 2004.

“Unbaptized stuff and the “Right” of Christian Discovery,” Dec. 29, 2003.

“U.S. actions against Western Shoshone becoming transparent,” Dec. 5, 2003.

“The semantic gamesmanship of the United States,” Nov. 18, 2003.

“In honor of Tecumseh,” Oct. 20, 2003.

“The plot thickens in Western Shoshone Saga,” Oct. 6, 2003.

“The Bureau of Land Management, they steal horses don’t they?” Sept. 30, 2003.

“Senator Reid and the Western Shoshone Indians,” Sept. 15, 2003.

“Land, Economics, and racism in federal Indian law,” Sept. 9, 2003.

“The sacred birthright of Indigenous Nations and peoples,” August 15, 2003.

“Toward a doctrine of American Indian independence,” July 21, 2003.

“Chairman’s testimony violated Te-Moak constitution,” June 27, 2003.

“Congressional hearing on Western Shoshone lands faces unresolved questions,” June 16, 2003.

“Pretension as the rule of U.S. Indian law,” June 13, 2003.

“An open letter to Congressman Jim Gibbons,” June 6, 2003.

“UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Must Move Beyond the Status Quo,” May 9, 2003.

“The Biblical Basis of federal Indian law and policy,” April 14, 2003.

“Is the U.S. a nation of arbitrary laws?” March 10, 2003.

“The colonial freedom of federal Indian law,” Feb. 26, 2003.

“Indian casinos an exercise of self-determination,” Jan. 24, 2003.

“Deception and the Indian Claims Commission,” Dec. 10, 2002.

“Western Shoshone tribal councils oppose Reid’s legislation,” Nov. 7, 2002.

“The Western Shoshone and U.S. organic law,” Oct. 18, 2002.\

“The Western Shoshone Fight On,” June 1, 2002.

Other Writings

Assisted Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation to draft an intervention on Indian Treaty Rights for the 2007 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York.

“The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Vatican Papal Bulls and Indigenous Nations and Peoples,” Prepared for the 2005 Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues panel: “Challenging the Doctrine of Discovery, Christianity, Papal Bulls, and Manifest Destiny,” May 2005.

“Fair Share: The History of What is Owed the Native Peoples of California,” Native Americas: Hemispheric Journal of Indigenous Issues, Winter 2003, Vol. XX, No. 4, pp. 23-33.

“Failure of the United States to File a Final Report with Congress in the Western Shoshone Case (Docket 326-K), Pursuant to Sections 21 and 22(a) of the Indian Claims Commission Act,” A Report Prepared on Behalf of the Western Shoshone National Council, January 2003.

“Indian Casinos an Exercise of Self-Determination,” San Diego Union-Tribune, Fall 2003.

“Justice Department Memo Shows U.S. Never Legally Annexed Hawai’i,” Honolulu Advertiser, March 1999.

“Pu’uhonua Peace Pact,” position paper co-authored with Nalani Minton and presented at the “World Appeal for Peace,” sponsored by the United Nations and convened in Den Hague, The Netherlands, May 1999.

Contributed to development of legal brief for the Western Shoshone National Council, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, April 1998.

“An Oglala Lakota Response to the U.S. Position on the U.N. Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” Adopted Unanimously by the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, September 17, 1996.

Contributed to development of Third Party Intervention for the Western Shoshone National Council, (a legal brief Filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, July 1995).

“Pagans in the Promised Land: A Primer on Religious Freedom,” (Self-published pamphlet, May 1995).

“An Inquiry into the Rights of the Western Shoshone Nation,” A paper written on behalf of the Western Shoshone National Council, 1995.

“Traditional Native Law: A Path to an Ecologically Appropriate Life,” *Turtle Quarterly*, Vol. 6, Number 1, 1994.

“Why We Want the Pope To Revoke the *Inter Caetera* Bull.” (*Indian Country Today*, Summer 1994).

“Open Letter to Pope John Paul II,” (*Indian Country Today*, August 11, 1993)

“Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice,” *Shaman’s Drum Magazine*, 1992.