

**To: Deans, Directors, Department Chairs, Administrative Officers, and Faculty and Staff affiliated with the Institute of American Cultures, Ethnic Studies Departments and Programs, and the School of Law**

Dear Colleagues,

Angela R. Riley, Director of the American Indian Studies Center (AISC) and Professor of Law, has informed me of her plans to step down upon completion of her 5<sup>th</sup> year as AISC Director.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Scott L. Waugh and I wish to thank Professor Riley for her truly distinguished years of service in the Institute of American Cultures and for her many accomplishments. Under her leadership, the American Indian Studies Center increased significantly the Center's global profile through its expansion into the international indigenous peoples' human rights movement. During her tenure, Director Riley was appointed to the United Nation's Indigenous Peoples Partnership Policy Board (2011-2014), which she now chairs (2013-present). In addition, the AISC hosted the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the keynote speaker at their conference *Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the International Human Rights Framework—A Comfortable Fit?* Riley has made presentations around the world on these issues, including delivering the keynote address at the *World Intellectual Property Organization Side Event* in Geneva, Switzerland and the conference *Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Knowledge and Customary Law* in Brisbane, Australia.

Also raising the AISC's visibility, Riley has been a highly sought presenter in the U.S. as well with the distinction of having been introduced by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg when she spoke at the United States Supreme Court to the Supreme Court Historical Society on *The Supreme Court and Native American Property Rights* (November 2012). Other notable engagements include presentations of her work at the Law Schools of Harvard, Stanford, Yale, and the University of Arizona, as well as giving endowed lectures at Williams College and the Autry National Center. In 2013, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences.

Under Professor Riley's leadership, the AISC has brought to campus leading national and international scholars in the fields of Native governance and Native Studies, such as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn and Joseph Kalt, founder of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. The 2010 conference *Race and Sovereignty*, produced with the School of Law, is considered a landmark event.

Riley also continued the AISC's storied publication record, producing in particular, the *Indian Civil Rights Act at Forty* (K. A. Carpenter, M.L.M. Fletcher and A. R. Riley, Eds.) and *Structuring Sovereignty: Constitutions of Native Nations* (M. L. Tatum, M. Jorgensen, M. E. Guss, and S. Deer), in collaboration with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

She has also continued to publish her own work in the field's most outstanding journals, including with K. A. Carpenter, "Indigenous Peoples and the Jurisgenerative Moment in Human Rights" (*California Law Review*, 173, 2014, 102) and "Indians and Guns" (*Georgetown Law Journal*, 5, 2012, 100).

Riley also expanded the Center's community outreach with leadership positions in and collaborations with such notable organizations as the Sundance Institute, the Insight Project, and the Autry National Center. In conjunction with the Indian Law and Order Commission (a national institute on criminal justice in Indian Country), she created *Partners for Justice*, supporting the Commission's work and ultimately making the ILOC's materials available to the public exclusively through the AISC Library.

Riley has been a Professor of Law at UCLA since 2010. In addition to her AISC appointment, she directs the MA/JD joint degree program in Law and American Indian Studies and co-directs the UCLA Native Nations Law and Policy Center. Riley completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma and earned her J.D. at Harvard Law School. Outside of her UCLA activities, since 2010 Riley has served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (serving as Justice from 2002). Since 2007 she has also been an evidentiary hearing officer for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (2007 – present).

I want to reiterate my tremendous appreciation for Professor Riley's outstanding service as AISC Director, her friendship, and wise counsel. The Center and the Institute of American Cultures have benefited significantly from her leadership, dedication, and vision. Fortunately, as an AISC Faculty Associate, Professor Riley will remain within the fold, so we will continue to benefit from her expertise and her support.

A national search for the next AISC Director will be launched this fall.

Sincerely,

**M. Belinda Tucker**

Vice Provost, Institute of American Cultures