The Role of the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood in Defining Native American Legal Identity

Lecture by:

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Mr. Spruhan will talk about his essay which addresses the “CDIB” or Certificate of Indian or Alaska Native Blood, a document that proves an individual’s quantum of Native American blood. The CDIB is a federal document issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs or by tribal nations through a “638” self-determination contract, but without published regulations or even clear written guidelines. His essay discusses its mysterious origins, its primary purpose, and its role in defining Native American legal identity. It also suggests some provisions to be included in final regulations, should the Bureau of Indian Affairs revive its attempt to publish CDIB regulations.

He received his A.B. in 1995 and his A.M. in 1996 from the University of Chicago. He received his J.D. in 2000 from the University of New Mexico. He graduated Order of the Coif and received an Indian law certificate. He and his wife, Bidtah Becker, have two children, and live in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

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President Peterson Zah Active Learning Classroom, Room 352
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