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The National Indian Law Library at the Native American Rights Fund Receives the 2006 Public Access to Government Information Award

Boulder, CO – The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) recently awarded Monica Martens and David Selden at the National Indian Law Library (NILL) the Public Access to Government Information Award (PAGI), for their work in making tribal law-available to the public. No other library devotes itself as completely as NILL does to the laws of sovereign Indian nations and Alaska Native villages, which number more than 560 and whose laws are rarely found in libraries across the nation.

“A principle tenet of the American Association of Law Libraries is the right of equal access to information for all to ensure an informed citizenry and to promote a just and democratic society,” said Johanna C. Bizub, AALL Awards Committee Chair.

The library’s work in providing access has focused on collecting hundreds of tribal codes and constitutions and offering a variety of user-friendly tools to access this difficult-to-find information, including full-text online copies, a “gateway” on the library's web site, and unique and thorough keyword searching capability through the library’s Internet catalog.

“It is hard to overstate how important NILL’s work in improving access to tribal and federal Indian law materials has been and continues to be. NILL is undoubtedly the most valuable national resource available for the research and study of tribal law. It is through their efforts that tribal governmental information is being made available – often for the very first time,” said Jill E. Tompkins, Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the University of Colorado American Indian Law Clinic.

For more information about the library’s tribal law project visit <http://www.narf.org/nill/index.htm> or contact the library directly.

The National Indian Law Library was established in 1972 as a special project of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and is the only public law library specializing in Indian law. It serves both the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and the public.

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The Native American Rights Fund is a non-profit organization that has been protecting the legal and sovereign rights of tribes and Native people within the American legal system for more than 35 years. NARF is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado with offices in Anchorage, Alaska, and Washington, D.C.