

What if there were places in the United States of America where the Rule of Law only applied to certain individuals or did not exist? A place where, before a sexual assault prosecution could be initiated, the prosecutor asked, “How severe is the crime and what is the ethnicity of the victims and defendants?” What if there were places where one out of every three Native women can expect to be raped in their lifetime? Or where rapists had little, if any, fear of apprehension, prosecution or incarceration? What if the systems of justice in these places were so compromised that Amnesty International* had to issue a report detailing the injustices?

There are such places in the United States - Indian country.

Please join the American Bar Association Judicial Division Tribal Courts Council in a gripping and shocking CLE program exposing injustices against Native women and other issues while exploring solutions, *Maze of Injustice—The Failure to Protect Indigenous Women from Sexual Violence in the USA*,* will be presented during the ABA Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 9th, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Marriott Marquis, New York City.

A diverse, world class group of experts will guide participants through the Maze:

Robert O. Saunooke, Esq., Saunooke Law Firm, P.A., chair of the ABA Tribal Courts Council and an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) will moderate the panel. Mr. Saunooke practices almost exclusively in Indian Country. He has worked with the Department of Justice under VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) as a technical assistance provider. Panelists include: Professor Gavin Clarkson, JD, Ph.D., University of Michigan School of Law and an enrolled member of the Oklahoma Band of Choctaw Indians; Mr. Gary Fields, an investigative reporter for the Wall Street Journal who has written a series of groundbreaking articles on this national disgrace; James W. Kilbourne, Esq., former long time Prosecutor for the EBCI and an expert in criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country; Professor Sarah Deer, a staff member with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute and a resource for the Amnesty International report; Gretchen C.F. Shappert, Esq., United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina and the current Chair of the Attorney General's Native American Issues Sub-Committee; and Cecilia Fire Thunder, a registered nurse and former President of the Oglala Sioux Nation.

Do not miss this important program!

For more information regarding the Program, contact Gilda Fairley at fairleyg@staff.abanet.org or visit the Tribal Courts Council website at <http://www.abanet.org/jd/tribalcourts/>.

****Amnesty International is a worldwide movement in over 150 countries that campaigns for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected. The Program name is used with permission from Amnesty Inter-***