



**Host Site:** DNA-Peoples Legal Services, Inc.

**Topic of Project:** Indian Law

**Location:** Flagstaff, AZ; Farmington, NM; Tuba City, AZ; Keams Canyon, AZ; Window Rock, AZ; Chinle, AZ (In-person, hybrid, or remote)

**Description of Fellow Project:**

The Rural Summer Legal Corps Fellow will have the opportunity to immerse in a tribal law program by working alongside, and under the supervision of, Navajo- and/or Hopi-licensed attorneys to provide outreach, community legal education, and a full spectrum of legal assistance.

The Fellow will work on legal issues that traditionally impact people living in poverty, especially those related to family law, consumer issues, housing, and income maintenance. The Fellow will learn first-hand about unique issues that commonly impact Navajo or Hopi clients, some who don't speak English or have indoor plumbing in their homes. It is likely the Fellow will also learn about legal issues and remedies unique to Indian country, such as complex probate matters due to intricate land ownership regulations for Native Americans, or various ways to consider jurisdictional complexities that can arise between federal, tribal, and state court systems.

The RSLC Fellow will help to identify areas of tribal law where the Hopi Code is silent, needs to be codified, or filled in with federal or state law in order to provide similar protections to those received in other tribal courts. The Fellow may assist in gathering important legal opinions and summarize and index them and write "White-Paper" legal memos on common issues. The Fellowship will permit the student to participate fully in regular office activities under attorney supervision, including intake, applicant interviews, case acceptance meetings, data collection and timekeeping, legal research, community outreach, document preparation, and court appearances. With this breadth of integration, the Fellow will learn about tribal law and gain a very realistic understanding of the daily professional life of a DNA attorney.

**Additional Applicant Qualifications:**

DNA does not require proficiency in a second language but might give preference to Navajo and Hopi speakers. Proficiency in Spanish would also be helpful but is not required.

