



**Host Site:** Michigan Indian Legal Services, Inc.

**Topic of Project:** Indian/Tribal Law

**Location:** Traverse City, MI

**Description of Fellow Project:**

Michigan Indian Legal Services (MILS) provides quality legal representation for the Native American communities and tribes throughout Michigan. Over the years, the heart of MILS' work has been on helping keep Indian families together. MILS has prioritized representation of parents in appeals of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) cases in state courts. MILS has prevailed in cases that have established the right of an adult adoptees to access adoption records to pursue tribal membership, the right to ICWA protections in guardianship cases, prevented the adoption by Michigan courts of the judge made Indian family exception to ICWA, and the insuring the application of the ICWA to child welfare court placements to non-respondent parents.

The Student Fellow will be working with the staff attorneys who have active child welfare matters in the tribal court systems and, if any are pending, appellate ICWA and MIFPA cases. In addition, the Intern will assist with other family law related client intakes, especially when there are tribal law and jurisdictional questions involved. The Fellow will also review current child welfare and family law related standard letters, forms, website resources, and other materials and propose edits and updates.

The Fellow will also work with the Pro Bono Coordinator to create additional self-help and educational materials on child welfare matters using pro bono assistance.

**Additional Applicant Qualifications:**

The Fellowship is preferred to be hybrid but remote or in-person are allowed. Proficiency in a second language is not required.

