



Host Site: Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Topic of Project: Indian Law

Location: Bangor, ME

Description of Fellow Project:

Maine is in the homeland of the Wabanaki, the People of the Dawn, and is home to four federally recognized tribes: the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseets, and the Mi'kmaq Nation. The Mi'kmaq Nation is the most recently recognized tribe; their federal recognition came in 1991 as the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. Pine Tree Legal Assistance is honored to collaborate with and serve the Wabanaki through the Indigenous Peoples Unit (IPU).

Working with Pine Tree Legal Assistance's Indigenous Peoples Unit, the Fellow will address legal issues affecting the Wabanaki. The Fellow will work with Pine Tree's IPU on outreach and education to tribal communities; tribal, state and federal agencies to retain housing and benefits for tribal members; and case work representing Indigenous People in Tribal Court and State Court proceedings.

Pine Tree's IPU represents individuals and families facing legal problems related to their status as Indigenous People, including but not limited to tribal housing, employment, benefits and services; tribal land usage and other rights arising under tribal law; wills and estate planning specific to reservation properties or Tribal Courts; racial discrimination; access to healthcare; legal needs of Indian elders and youth; the Indian Child Welfare Act; education; criminal cases of Indigenous People within Tribal Courts; family matters on behalf of Indigenous People; border crossing rights, treaty rights, and other rights arising under federal Indian Law.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will be in-person with accommodations available for remote or hybrid Fellows. Proficiency in a second language is not required.

