



## Firm runs Native American summer program

[Jim Dunlap]

A partnership between Quarles & Brady Streich Lang and two Native American reservation communities has resulted in a unique summer program - splitting law student duties between Indian law issues and mainstream legal practice in the firm's Phoenix and Milwaukee offices. The program targets Native American law students.

Conceived in 1999, the program began in 2000 with the hiring of Kerry Patterson, a Seneca Nation member and law student at Arizona State University. Patterson and summer associates who followed spent half the program working on legal issues within the Gila River Community and half in Quarles & Brady's Phoenix offices.

More recently, the firm signed an agreement with the Forest County Potawatomi tribe in Wisconsin to begin a similar program through Quarles & Brady's Milwaukee offices. Jim Ryan, a Phoenix-based partner who has played a leading role in the program, said the firm planned to hire at least one Native American first year student in Milwaukee this summer.

He said the firm has expanded its recruiting search for the program from Arizona to law schools and Native American Legal Students Association members nationwide. In the program's second year, the firm brought in a Navajo law student at Cornell University. Two former summer program participants have received and accepted permanent offers from the firm, Ryan said, including Patterson.

Associates alternate weekly stints between the reservation and the firm's office. In addition to Indian law issues, associates receive the same types of projects and assignments that the firm's other associates handle.

Quarles & Brady pays the entire summer associate salary of the Native American program participants.

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