

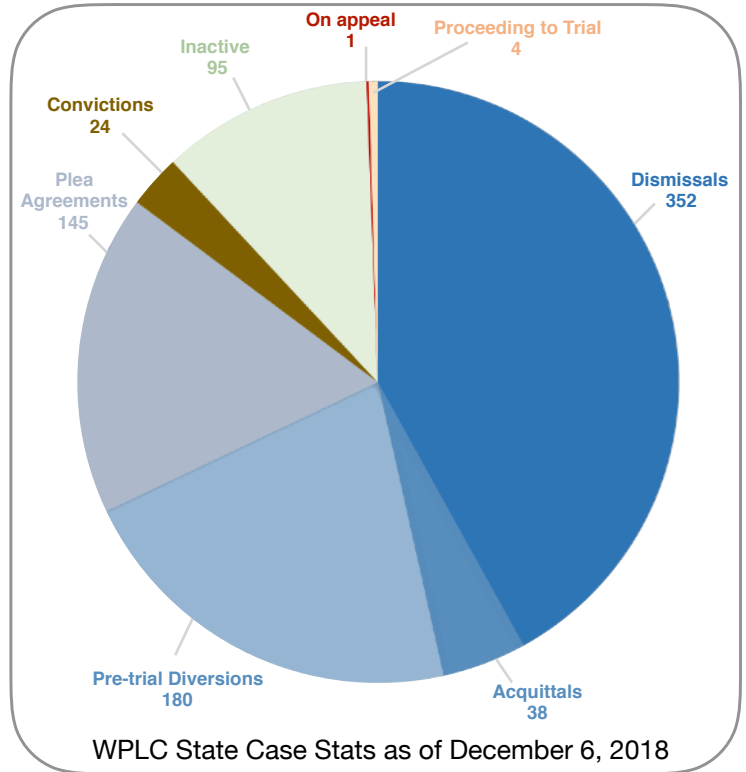


Protecting the Protectors: If Our NoDAPL Court Stats Could Speak

At WPLC, we live and die by outcomes. Our bottom line: what have we achieved for the Water Protectors? Have we done everything possible to protect the protectors?

It has been a long tough fight: over two years battling it out in racist colonial courts, against a State’s Attorney’s Office that long ago sold its soul to the oil and gas oligarchs who run this state. We didn’t come looking for justice; we are not naive. We know that Morton County prosecutors are functioning at the behest of the oil industry and attempting to deflect focus from extreme police violence and a vile act of environmental racism – that DAPL moved the pipeline away from the Bismarck water supply by displacing the risk downstream to the Standing Rock reservation. These past two years, we have sent our attorneys and legal workers in and out of their courthouse with one aim above all: to reduce the harm that this criminal legal system wreaks upon these leaders and this movement.

The Indigenous people here stood up and tribal representatives from across the world showed up to stand with them. WPLC



will always feel the honor of having been here to stand by their side. Rooted in the National Lawyers Guild’s time-honored practice of mass legal defense in support of progressive social movements, we are doubly inspired by the promise of this burgeoning Indigenous-led movement to protect the earth for future generations.

Our “State Case Statistics” are an index of the passion and perseverance with which we have met North Dakota’s attempt at repression. The chart represents the legal muscle behind our unshakeable belief that the Standing Rock Sioux and the people who answered their call had every right to stand in protection of their treaty lands, cultural heritage and main water source. Out of 839 cases the prosecution to date has garnered only 24 convictions.

The 351 dismissals often came in batches when prosecutors were forced to realize that judges and juries could not convict on certain farfetched or flimsy legal theories. On November 30, 2018, when all charges were dismissed for Waste’Win Young, the judge wrote that “the Prosecution’s discovery violations here fail to pass the smell test for due process and fundamental fairness.” Water Protector Erica

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Erica Gonzalez at her trial in Morton County-Acquitted! (Photo by Jonathan Klett)



Water Protectors Christina Rogers and Andrew Weber--Acquitted!



Waste'Win Young (center) with daughter and WPLC Staff--Charges Dismissed!

Gonzalez was acquitted on all charges emanating from her presence on November 15, 2016 at the prayer walk to commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women.

"We wanted to have our ceremony there to raise awareness that wherever these pipelines come in they bring these man camps, and then our women around the reservations go missing and are getting murdered or raped. The state doesn't do anything about it," said Ms. Gonzalez. "I don't want to sugar-coat it: when they're raping our mother earth, they are also raping our women."

More recently, two lower court convictions from the same action were overturned in the North Dakota Supreme Court, and Morton County subsequently dismissed a separate case that had been scheduled for trial on November 27, 2018.

The 37 acquittals have been a vindication for Water Protectors like Christina Rogers, who returned from Michigan to face trial and was acquitted at her bench trial.

The judge ruled that the state had not presented sufficient evidence against her to proceed.

Rogers, who is Ojibwe and Potawatomi, went to Standing Rock to become a Water Protector after the death of her infant daughter. Her arrest at Last Child Camp was her first ever.

"I was face to face with an officer," she said, "and I told him that I had swum in a river full of tar sands oil, and maybe that's why my baby was born sick. I knew I was going to jail for a right reason."

In December 2016, WPLC commissioned a study which documented the perilously high number of potential jurors who were deeply biased against Water Protectors and were candid about their inability to consider the evidence fairly. This data helped to guide Water Protectors' individual decisions about how to proceed given their own circumstances and goals. To date, 180

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Militarized Police Force Raiding Camp on Final Day--2/3/17 (Photo by Rob Wilson)

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Pretrial Diversions offered by the government have been accepted by Water Protectors. Pretrial Diversions are a mechanism by which defendants can forego a trial by agreeing not to violate any laws for a prescribed period, after which the charges go away and all record of them is removed. An additional 144 Water Protectors accepted plea agreements in exchange for reduced sentences. Felony charges were reduced to misdemeanors and multiple counts were collapsed into one. None of these pleas involved any additional jail time.

Our scorecard is not yet finally tallied. We have four more cases set for trial and are working to resolve as many of the 95 cases with open warrants as possible by the end of December. But we can say this: these statistics affirm our organization's *raison d'être*. But even for cases with the best legal outcomes there has still been a travesty of justice.

Inside each number is a Water Protector who answered the call to protect the water, joining with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to face down a blatant act of environmental injustice by a powerful corporation with

government allies. They came to pray, to protect the water, and in opposition to the broken treaties and destruction of sacred sites, and to bolster the tribe's sovereignty and human rights with their presence. People sacrificed so much in this struggle, including permanent injury, disfigurement and trauma.

The numbers alone cannot reflect the intangibles of the process—the many home cooked meals and soulful talks in which we all shared, and in sharing, processed our experiences at the front lines, at camp, the detention centers and jails, hearings, behind-the-scene negotiations and trials. All of these exchanges have advanced our collective healing and have solidified our shared commitment to the Water Protector movement. Along with our astonishing record of success in the legal arena, we count the richness of our experiences as a measure of the value of this work. We wind down our engagement in North

Dakota with an avid intention: to fall in again behind future Indigenous-led struggles, far wiser for our engagement and accomplishments at Standing Rock.

**"I don't want to sugar-coat it: when they're raping our mother earth, they are also raping our women."
— Erica Gonzalez**

WPLC Chosen in 2018 for Arc of Justice Award

On November 17, 2018, WPLC was honored with the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition's 2018 Arc of Justice Award. Heavy snowfall and icy conditions on I-94 prevented us from traveling the three hours from Mandan to Fargo to collect it personally, but we were able to watch the ceremony online. We also issued a press release containing a statement from our board president Daniel T'seleie. In it he says:

"We are grateful to receive the Arc of Justice award for defending Water Protectors in North Dakota's criminal courts, but we receive it humbly because this is work that should never have been necessary. The Standing Rock Sioux and the people who answered their call had every right to stand in protection of their treaty lands, their cultural heritage and their main water source. The Indigenous peoples of this land have been waiting for the arc of history to bend toward justice for centuries. The historic gathering at Standing Rock has given us all hope that perhaps that time will come. That work is still ahead."



(Photo by Jaden Cowboy)

Jessee Appeal Victory is Win, Win, Win and Win Again

On November 7, 2018, the North Dakota Supreme Court ruled in favor of Water Protector Rebecca Jessee, reversing her lower court conviction arising out of a November 15, 2016 prayer walk in commemoration of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Jessee and 26 others, including her partner Mark Hebert of Reno, NV, and Brian O'Keefe of Santa Fe, NM, were arrested close to a railway track near Mandan. The arrests were aggressive and O'Keefe suffered substantial injuries including broken ribs that required hospitalization.

The walk had attempted to access a DAPL storage site to pray and participate in a ceremony dedicated to calling attention to the troubles that arise from "man camps" – temporary housing for oilfield workers that become havens for gendered violence and human trafficking of Indigenous women and girls. Police blocked the group at the railroad tracks, ordered them to disperse and proceeded to arrest them.

Jessee, Hebert and O'Keefe were all charged with Tampering with a Public Service, a Class C felony.

WPLC volunteer attorney Melinda Power argued the appeal before the five Supreme Court justices on September 7, 2018 in Bismarck, ND. Power focused her argument on the definition of tampering. In their ruling, citing numerous precedents from North Dakota case law, the justices agreed that Jessee's mere presence at the railroad tracks did not constitute "tampering" and they reversed the guilty verdict.



A pensive Rebecca Jessee was convicted at trial; the verdict was overturned on appeal. (Photo by Jonathan Klett)

Brian O'Keefe's trial had been set for November 27, 2018. But on November 16, 2018, the state filed a motion asking for a continuance on the grounds that an "essential witness" (unnamed) had "unresolved conflicts" (unspecified). In her reply motion, Power urged the prosecution to either proceed with the trial as scheduled or dismiss based on the Jessee decision. On November 23, 2018, the Court dismissed O'Keefe's case.

On December 6, 2018, citing their decision in the Jessee case, the North Dakota Supreme Court reversed the lower court conviction against Mark Hebert. Also on December 6, the Court denied the prosecution's request to rehear the Jessee decision.

"The Supreme Court in North Dakota has made it clear that my clients and Mark Hebert did not tamper with any public service as they were attempting to march to a DAPL site to protest the disappearance of Indigenous women," said Power, who also represented O'Keefe.

"I feel a weight lifted off me from what was a burdensome and scary process, of which I had no prior experience," said O'Keefe. "It was a big dark space with legal monsters. But the WPLC was extremely helpful in getting me together with Melinda who showed the determination and tolerance (of me) to 'stay on the case'. It was that effort and commitment that provided the outcome— dismissal. I feel much relief that I can get on with my life. My family shares in that. I will continue being an activist particularly in the arena of decolonization."

**"It was a big dark space with legal monsters.
But the WPLC was extremely helpful..."
— Water Protector Brian O'Keefe after his
charges were dismissed**

WPLC Brings Indigenous Women and Climate Issues to National Lawyer's Guild #Law4thePeople Convention



Kendra Pinto of Twin Pines, NM, addressing protest rally at BLM in Santa Fe (Photo courtesy of WECAN)

It was a dream panel. Especially for those who enjoy complexity and the interrelationships of movement threads: in this instance divestment advocates, “necessity defense” proponents, Water Protectors standing for Chaco Canyon and for the #NoBayouBridge DAPL pipeline battle in Louisiana. Organized by WPLC board member Rachel Lederman, who’s been thinking about how best to bring legal resources to Indigenous women-led projects for a long time, she called the session: “Land & Water Defense: How Can the NLG Support Resistance to Extractive Industries?” Panel speakers shared struggles and solutions from activists, defense counsel and movement legal strategists.

On July 11, 2016, a fire broke out in a series of explosions at WPX Energy’s West Lybrook six-well-pad unit, a five-acre oil production site

on Highway 550 near Nageezi, New Mexico, in San Juan County. All of the 36 storage tanks, 30 holding oil and six a mix of water and hydrocarbon, caught fire and were allowed to burn out for three days and nights. Nine families living within a ½ mile radius were evacuated. Among them friends and relatives of Kendra Pinto.

Pinto, an active community member from the Eastern Agency on the Navajo reservation traveled to Portland to describe what it’s actually like to live in the midst of a fracking boom amongst the drills and derricks that have dramatically transformed the previously bucolic agricultural setting into an industrial eyesore and environmental and health hazard. She spoke of washed out rutted roads, increased tanker truck traffic and elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide at an oil well site located within 1000 feet of an elementary

school. And also fears of degradation to a priceless UNESCO World Heritage site, one of the world’s treasures on the order of Macchu Piccu, a marvel of early architecture and astronomy.

“I live right outside Chaco Canyon Culture Historical Park,” she said. “It’s a sacred landscape for the Diné and Pueblo people; a cultural tie to our people who have been there for millennia.”

Nonetheless, and despite a record 10,000 citizen protest comments opposing more leasing, an online auction of over 84,000 acres of public and ancestral tribal lands, including over 46,000 acres in the Greater Chaco region was conducted by the Bureau of Land Management on December 6, 2018. It was vigorously protested by an Indigenous-led coalition on December 5.

Continued from page 5

Hoping to build upon ongoing successes with important allies, such as a health impact assessment being conducted in the greater Chaco area with the support of the Sierra Club, Pinto came to the #Law4thePeople Convention to expand her networks. She also wanted to take the opportunity to inform attendees about the potential need for mass defense for protestors of the BLM's lease auctions and other future resistance efforts.

Panelist Kelsey Skaggs, Executive Director of the Climate Defense Project in Berkeley, California said she is noticing more and more interest from the legal community in climate related work.

"Our model is to partner with local attorneys where possible, who have expertise on local rules and local judges and who are connected to the community," she said. "We hope that if people are working with climate issues that they'll get in touch with us."

Their mission is to provide legal defense for activists in the climate movement, and the current priority is to promote trials that argue the "necessity defense" before juries as a way of overcoming the power of the fossil fuel industry, especially its oversized influence due to money in politics.

"The necessity defense is a powerful narrative tool," Skaggs explains. In the "valve-turner" prosecutions, defendants in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and Washington State were accused of shutting down all tar sands oil flowing into the United States. They did it by

turning the valves to off all on the same day—October 11, 2016. At his trial, defendant Ken Ward introduced scientific data about the impact of sea level rise on the region, and testified that's why he felt it necessary to engage in civil disobedience.

**"I live right outside Chaco Canyon Culture Historical Park. It's a sacred landscape for the Diné and Pueblo people; a cultural tie to our people who have been there for millennia."
— Kendra Pinto**

"He did not contest that he did the action," Skaggs explained, "and based purely on his testimony we won a hung jury."

"I was thrilled to be able to speak to a Guild audience," Skaggs said, "because the climate necessity defense is a good fit with Guild values and many of our partner attorneys are Guild members. I've seen climate activists embrace this tactic, and it's important for attorneys to be thinking about it as well."

In the Venn diagram of NLG and WPLC there is much overlap. NLG was there at the genesis of WPLC, was part of our origin story and has been the backbone of our legal defense efforts. Many of our volunteer *pro hac vice* lawyers and legal workers have come to us through NLG. Where we differ in mission is what makes our partnership so interesting and so vital. WPLC is an Indigenous-led organization that employs the time-tested techniques and tools of mass legal defense, learned and adapted from the NLG and other movement legal support efforts, to support Indigenous-led environmental struggles. NLG remains a vital partner for WPLC as we move beyond Standing Rock, and we were grateful to participate in their annual convention gathering.



Kendra Pinto and Jessica Parfait presenting about the on-the-ground struggles in Chaco Canyon and the #NoBayouBridge resistance in Louisiana (Photo by Rachel Lederman)

Meet our New WPLC Board Member—Attorney, Scholar, Activist, Michelle Cook



WPLC Board Member Michelle Cook (Photo by Derek Johnson)

From the earliest days at the Oceti Sakowin prayer camp, Michelle Cook “sat at the grassroots of the prairie,” and was among the group who founded our legal collective from the camp legal tent to provide on-the-ground legal defense for the Dakota Access Pipeline resistance. She was a freshly minted lawyer recently graduated from the University of New Mexico law school, and one of the few Indigenous lawyers on the tumultuous scene.

Her response to the human rights violations she witnessed on the front lines was not just lawyerly, but profoundly human.

“I was not afraid to die anymore,” she said. “Staring down those police, I realized I’m not scared anymore.”

Courage, credentials and a willingness to assume a mantle of leadership impelled her to pursue a conversation between Indigenous women and the North Dakota banking industry. Cook wanted to talk to them about pipeline financing and the human rights violations of Indigenous people happening in front of her eyes.

“People were being thrown in dog kennels; I wanted to remind them of their responsibility to ensure the survival of Indigenous people,” she said.

Her overtures were met with silence and locked doors. But rejection only made her will grow stronger.

“You won’t even meet with us like human beings, you think you’re not going to let us in,” she remembers fuming at the time. “But I will get in somewhere and I will get all these other Indigenous women into a bank somewhere.” That moment was the genesis of her resolve to center Indigenous women at the forefront of the international divestment movement.

She leans on Navajo teachings for determination and inspiration, especially the origin story of the Warrior Twins who quest beyond the four mountains for a weapon to slay the local monsters. For the twins it was lightning, for Cook it’s the *lingua franca* of business, human rights and corporate social responsibility. Funded by Women’s Earth & Climate Action Network (WECAN), she hurried first to meet with bankers in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Scandinavia, countries with “low hanging fruit” where her efforts have helped effect some successes in stopping funding for extractive projects. Her goal is to create precedents abroad, and then use them to shift the U.S. system.

“It’s good for our people to see us fight for justice and for our earth, to know we are not defeated, that we will kill all the black snakes and that the whole industry will be gone,” she said. “We need to know where to put pressure on the financial industry, and we also need the legal analysis of how to intercept that money,” she explained, “which is fundamental to our survival. Wall Street should not get unlimited unchecked authority to hoard the world’s resources and hurt people.”

“Everyone should be clear: the future is Indigenous.”

Cook officially joined the WPLC board on October 12, 2018, with the goal of helping to see the remaining Standing Rock Water Protectors through to the

other side of their legal journeys. The criminal defense work of the organization she helped to start at camp in 2016 and her leadership in giving voice to Indigenous women in the divestment movement are all of a piece.

“Everyone should be clear: the future is Indigenous,” she says. “We can help the world develop an alternative vision. Because we have the traditional knowledge of pre-colonial economies and because of our unique governing systems. Indigenous ways are fundamental to the solution.”

Water Protectors with Federal Charges

In addition to the 839 cases brought by the State of North Dakota, some Water Protectors were charged federally. WPLC has participated in the defense of five Indigenous Water Protectors, four of whom are currently incarcerated in federal prisons in West Virginia, Texas and Minnesota, and one who is serving a sentence of Supervised Release. We will keep you updated on their status and condition and share news of their well-being.

Statement of James “Angry Bird” White

James “Angry Bird” White was sentenced in federal court on December 5, 2018 to two years of Supervised Release. Below is part of a statement that he had prepared to read during sentencing. He ultimately chose not to read it to the judge, but with his permission we share it with you:

I did what I thought was right for the safety of others I might have known and others who I never met.

I now know that we live in two different worlds on the same earth – the one we live in and the one you live in. I am still in a deep fog between both worlds. The world I live in includes the ways we were taught and how to show respect.

I tried to keep everyone safe in camp, and also to keep the water and the earth safe from danger that will occur in the future.

Life is tough for many, as we all know, and good for so few. For us growing up, being in boarding schools was not so good. But we are still living, trying to forget the pain and shame of what happened to me and so many others at a young age.

The way people in the other world that you live in see us and judge us is easy to understand for they do not live in my shoes or climb the ladder I have to climb or had to climb.

I tried to live in both worlds – as a vet and a father sending my offspring and others to the other world to make a better place. We all need to come to an understanding that we are killing the earth for money and profit. But we forget what we are destroying for our future generations. We need to come together as one – not as one better than the other – and to remember it’s going to take us all to help fix what we’re destroying. If not for us, then for our children and children’s children to live.

I tell others that you must travel the path you need to travel. Don’t look at the bad but look at the good to help you reach your goals.

– James “Angry Bird” White

Please write to Angry Bird and the four other Water Protectors who are serving sentences on federal charges:

Red Fawn Fallis, Prisoner No. 16358-059, FMC Carswell, PO Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127

Michael Giron (Little Feather), Prisoner No. 25201-075, USP Hazelton, U. S. Penitentiary, PO Box 2000, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

Dion Ortiz, Prisoner No. 16559-059, FCI Sandstone, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072

Michael Markus (Rattler), Prisoner No. 06280-073, FCI Sandstone, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072

James “Angry Bird” White, PO Box 755, Fort Yates, ND 58538

Follow the [Water Protector Prisoners](#) page on our website for details and updates and tips on writing to prisoners.

Starving the Black Snake: WPLC Outreach Organizer Joins Divestment Tour to Tell Financiers to Stop Funding Human Rights Violators

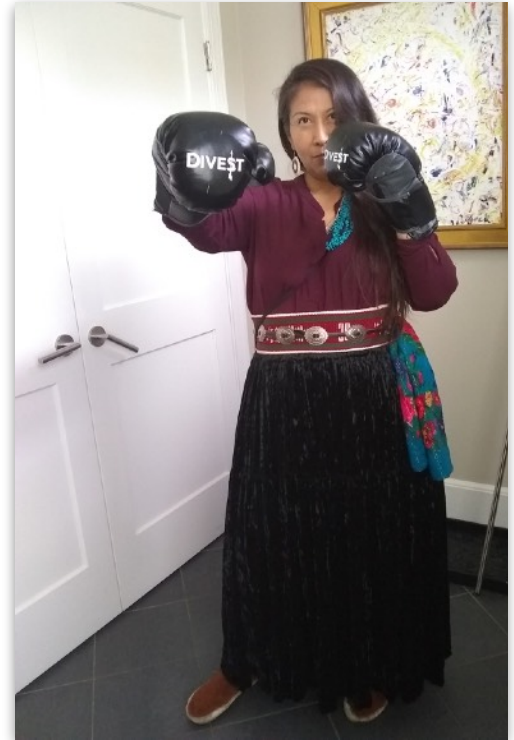
Women’s Environmental Climate Action Network (WECAN) took its fourth Indigenous Women’s Divestment Delegation (IWDD) to meet bankers and credit raters who have the power to impact investment decisions like the Dakota Access Pipeline. WPLC’s Outreach Organizer Leoyla Cowboy was there representing.

IWDD is the brainchild of WPLC board member Michelle Cook who saw a need to center Indigenous women in the worldwide conversation about business practices and human rights. Cook invited Cowboy to tell her story knowing it would hit the financiers hard, and it did.

Cowboy was born in Breadsprings, NM and is from the Diné (Navajo) clans of *Tó’dikozhi* (Salt Water), *Tsi’ naajini* (Black Streaked Wood), *To’ dichinni* (Bitter Water) and *Nakai Diné’é* (Mexican clan). She traveled from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Cannonball, North Dakota in the spring of 2016 to join the Oceti Sakowin camp at the NoDAPL resistance at Standing Rock. Her odyssey in North Dakota, however, did not end when the camps were disbanded in February 2017; in fact, her journey has been as long and curving as the Missouri River itself.

At camp she met and married a Chumash man—Michael “Little Feather” Giron—fated to become the first person sentenced to federal prison time from the NoDAPL resistance. He is currently incarcerated in a maximum security penitentiary in West Virginia. By instinct and passionate interest, she reached out to the families of the other arrestees and is an integral part

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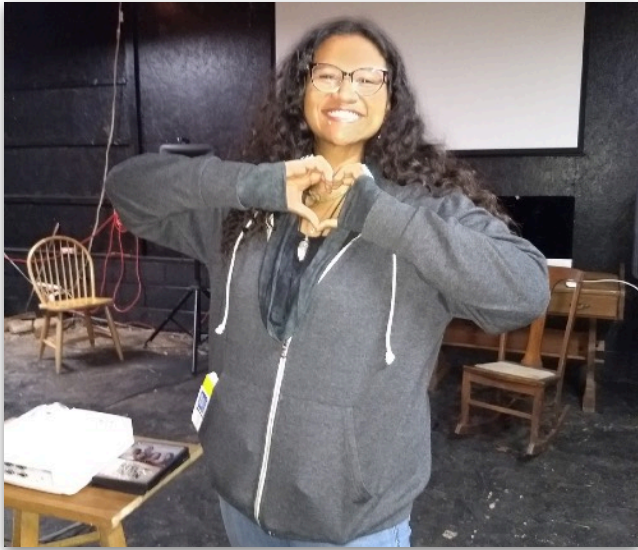


WPLC Outreach Organizer Leoyla Cowboy preparing for her meetings with financiers to urge them to divest from extractive projects.



James “Angry Bird” White (on horse) (Photo by Jonathan Klett)

WPLC Legal Intern Named 2018 -19 AWAKE Media Fellow



Jaden Cowboy, one of 8 AWAKE Media Fellows, in the studio at *Gasland* director Josh Fox's home studio. (Photo by Sarah Hogarth)

Jaden Cowboy, WPLC's Paralegal/Legal Intern was chosen for one of eight coveted slots in the first cohort of AWAKE Media Fellows, a year-long fellowship in media arts for Indigenous youth. Created by the producers and filmmakers of *AWAKE: A Dream from Standing Rock* (2017), it's a space where young Natives can "tell their stories of resistance and cultural engagement."

On November 17 through 25, the fellows received instruction from media specialists including Josh Fox, the Oscar-nominated director of *Gasland*, Myron Dewey of Digital Smoke Signals, Teena Pugliese of Women's Indigenous Media and videographer Florice White Bull of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. In addition to workshops and hands-on trainings on interviewing, voiceovers, imagery and editing, the fellows visited the studios of Democracy Now! and NowThis Media, which delivers video news content to mobile devices and social media platforms.

"In the Indigenous resistance struggles I've been a part of there's been so much harassment and surveillance that I have had a hard time with media. Cameras, drones, all of

"If I don't do it, someone else will— someone with a different narrative and intention."

it," Jaden said. "But the Fellowship shifted that. Instead of manipulating information as a weapon against the people, I saw how by using the tools of media there are opportunities to get good information out there."

The year-long fellowship's goal is "to train and engage Native youth in new schools of media and storytelling, bringing light to frontline communities." Jaden, who is Afro-Indigenous Diné, plans to focus her project on the harms of the extractive industries in the Four Corners area.

"We have to haul water because the water is toxic," she explained. "In the Four Corners area we have fracking, uranium, coal, and oil and gas. I see what's happening at home with my own eyes."



On the grounds at Josh Fox's home studio in Pennsylvania (Photo by Hon'mana Seukteoma)

Jaden says that having the ability to shape her own narratives is both healing and empowering.

"If I don't do it, someone else will— someone with a different narrative and intention," she said.

Although the application process was extremely competitive, the fellows themselves are cooperative and supportive with each other. They will stay in contact throughout the year as they work on skills-building assignments and have monthly virtual meetings on the progress of their individual documentaries.

"One of the best parts about the week together was getting to be in a safe space to connect and be vulnerable with a new found community," Jaden said. "They're all beautiful people with powerful projects."

WPLC Outreach Organizer from page 9

of the NoDAPL federal defendants support and information sharing network. As a consequence she knows many of their stories almost as well as her own.

She told representatives from the MSCI credit rating agency in New York and the Equator Principles Association in DC about what it was like having her new love taken from her, about the research into jury pool bias that had contributed to Little Feather's decision to enter into a non-cooperating plea agreement as a way of avoiding decades of incarceration, and about the lockdowns and other deprivations he now suffers in a violent federal penitentiary. And she spoke of the similar traumas inflicted on the families and loved ones of the other federal prisoners.

"These bankers we met with are lending money to companies that are doing the resource extraction," Cowboy explained. "I wanted them to see me. To see me as an Indigenous woman. To see us and

understand that we're real people, and that we were there to hold them accountable."

She says her listeners wept, and some even apologized after hearing her story.

"I don't care about apologies, I care about their actions, which are killing Indigenous people," she said.

She says that part of the problem is that the financial centers are distant from the reservations where the human rights violations by companies in extractive industries are taking place.

"They're sitting at their desks far away from Indigenous communities and they have no idea," she said. "Our stories about the harms, like when Energy Transfer bulldozed sacred sites and had Water Protectors thrown in dog kennels and the underlying reasons we were protecting the water at Standing Rock—that's what they need to incorporate in their research."

"I wanted them to see me. To see me as an Indigenous woman. To see us and understand that we're real people, and that we were there to hold them accountable."



(Photo by Frances Madeson)

**WPLC
#NoBayouBridge
sunrise solidarity event
at Sacred Stone
Cannonball, ND**

How to Support WPLC

The extractive industry isn't going to stop trying to criminalize dissent, and WPLC will not stop protecting the protectors who stand in resistance.

We are an Indigenous-led legal collective practicing holistic legal defense that supports Indigenous-led environmental struggles. With your help we'll keep fighting.

When the Rev. Karen Van Fossan, Minister of the Mandan-Bismarck Unitarian Universalist Congregation, nominated us for the 2018 Arc of Justice Award, she wrote:

"Their work is not only justice work; it is healing work. They bring a spiritual, even loving, presence to the challenging role of human rights defense in our time. They are in the courtrooms, the jails, the prisons, the rallies, the meetings, the carpools, the dinners, the prayers. They organize, they strategize, they motivate, they support. Their work is imbued with prayer, and their prayer feeds their work."

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You can receive this newsletter in your in-box! Please sign up to receive by filling out the [form](#) on our website.

Water Protector Legal Collective (WPLC) is the on-the-ground legal team for the Dakota Access Pipeline resistance at Standing Rock. We continue to maintain a presence in North Dakota and provide legal advocacy, jail and court support, criminal defense, and civil and human rights protection to the Native peoples and their allies who gathered at the ceremonial resistance camps.



Water Protector Legal Collective, PO Box 578, Mandan, ND 58554 • Phone: 701-566-9108
Email: press@waterprotectorlegal.org • waterprotectorlegal.org