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PANEL PRESENTATION

PROPERTY AND THE ROLE OF LAND-BASED CULTURAL HERITAGE – GLOBAL AND NATIONAL

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

PROFESSOR PLACIDO G. GOMEZ†

On behalf of the Association of American Law Schools I welcome you to the panel presentation titled *Property and the Role of Land-Based Cultural Heritage – Global and National*. This panel is a joint program of the Sections on Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples, Law and Anthropology, and Property Law. Professor Stacy Leeds, University of North Dakota, is the Program Co-Chair and Chair of the Section on Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples; Professor Jo J. Carrillo, University of California, Hastings, is the Chair of the Section on Law and Anthropology; Professor Joan E. Vogel, Vermont Law School, served with myself and Professor Leeds as Program Co-Chair. My name is Placido Gomez. I am a Professor of Law at St. Mary's University and the Chair of the Property Section.

This panel will focus on global and national issues regarding land-based cultural heritage. In many ethnic communities, both national and international, cultural heritage is linked to land. Indian nations and indigenous people around the world continue to address issues involving land and land use. Professors Leeds and Christine Zuni Cruz will speak to those efforts. The grantees of Spanish and Mexican land grants and their successors-in-interest have struggled for well over a century to reclaim rights to use the grants' former common lands; the Colorado Supreme

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Court recently recognized some of those rights. Jeff Goldstein and Professor Peter Reich will talk about that case and its significance. Recent developments in Hawaii, South Africa, and the Philippines reflect the significance, urgency and global nature of issues involving land-based cultural heritage. Professor Rob Verchick of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Professor Casey Jarman of the University of Hawaii, and Andre Groenewald, First Secretary at the South African Embassy will address a few of those issues.

After the presentations Susan Gooding, a Graduate Fellow at the Institute for Legal Studies at the University of Wisconsin will provide a commentary. We look forward to her observations.

Of course, this panel can only begin to address these very complex and current issues. We look forward to future presentations and discussions focusing on the concept of real property as an integral component of cultural heritage.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to *The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues* for agreeing to publish the proceedings of this panel.¹ *The Scholar* has become one of the premier journals addressing issues of concern to minority communities and providing an alternative perspective and insight to these issues.

Again, welcome.

1. The presentations of Professors Rob Verchick and Casey Jarman, Jeff Goldstein, Professor Peter Reich, and Andre Groenewald are published in this issue of *The Scholar*. Audiotapes of all the presentations are available from the Association of American Law Schools.