

May 21-22, 2015

ITEM 167-1002-R0515

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Law on Raymond Cross –
University of Montana-Missoula**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Raymond Cross from the faculty of the School of Law of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 21 years of dedicated and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Professor Raymond Cross was a member of the School of Law faculty from 1993 until his retirement in 2014. Professor Cross taught courses including Federal Indian Law, Advanced Federal Indian Law, Tribal/State Relations, American Indian Cultural and Religious Freedom, and Public Land and Natural Resources Law. He mentored Native American law students by supervising the Indian Law Clinic, coaching the NALSA Indian Law Moot Court Team, securing the Axinn American Indian Fellowship, and developing the American Indian Tribal Leadership Program. He authored numerous respected articles on Indian Law topics that have been cited extensively in law review articles and court briefs.

Professor Cross served on many law school committees, serving as head of the Indian Law program from 1993-2014, and advising the Public Land and Resources Law Review. He also served on committees and participated in campus lectures and programs involving native peoples, water rights, public lands and the environment. Professor Cross has enhanced the reputation of the Law School and the University of Montana through speaking engagements at law schools and symposia across the nation. In doing so, he has contributed greatly to the national dialogue on such topics as energy law, multiculturalism and economic development for indigenous nations.

Professor Cross demonstrated excellence in service to Indian Country through his extensive work with Native American Rights Fund, Indian tribes, Indian organizations, and federal agencies on issues of Indian education, tribal self-determination, and cultural and natural resources preservation. His battle against the federal government on behalf of the Mandan, Arikara and Hidatsa tribes for the uncompensated taking of 155,000 acres of rich tribal agricultural lands for the Garrison Dam project in North Dakota resulted in a \$150 million settlement and is chronicled in the book *Coyote Warrior* by Paul VanDevelde. Professor Cross has been described as a Coyote Warrior, part of “a far-flung band of highly dedicated, wonderfully educated men and women who have returned full circle to the ancient principles of a cohesive spiritual ethic know to them as the ‘Sacred Trust,’ an ethic passed down through countless generations of forefathers and mothers.”

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments