



DNA receives Community Service Award

DNA was awarded the Native American Bar Association of Arizona (NABA-AZ) *Community Service Award* at the 3rd Annual Seven Generations Awards Dinner & Silent Auction on September 24, 2011. NABA-AZ is dedicated to “promoting the development of Indian attorneys while advancing and improving the practice of Indian law in Arizona”, and the annual dinner and auction raises money to fund scholarships. The *Community Service Award* recognizes “individuals or groups that make an impact in Indian Country.” Faith Klepper, NABA Board member and former DNA intern from the mid 1990s, introduced DNA. She spoke about DNA’s impact on Native American lawyers and individuals, and generally for the seven tribes that DNA serves. She also highlighted DNA’s contributions toward improving the practice of law in Indian country, reminding the audience of DNA’s broad influence beyond basic legal services, such as having two former employees serve as tribal Presidents and several as elected officials, and state or tribal judges.

DNA Board President Karl Gillson accepted the award on behalf of DNA. Mr. Gillson thanked NABA and the Arizona law schools for striving to place more Native American attorneys in their own communities, especially with organizations like DNA. A number of those who attended the dinner began their careers in legal aid, some with DNA, including Eric Dahlstrom, state Senator Albert Hale, Rodney Lewis, NABA Member of the Year award winner Steve Heeley, and current DNA board member Tom Murphy.