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## Native American forum on nuclear issues presenter biography

Steve Newcomb

*Director of Indigenous Law Institute*

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Steven Newcomb (Shawnee/Lenape) is the Indigenous Law Research Coordinator at Sycuan Education Department and Kumeyaay Community College on the Sycuan Indian Reservation. He is co-founder and co-director of the Indigenous Law Institute, a research fellow with the American Indian Policy and Media Initiative, and a columnist with the newspaper "Indian Country Today" since 2001.

Mr. Newcomb studied Rhetoric and Communication at the University of Oregon from 1975 to 1982. In 1993, New York University School of Law's "Review of Law and Social Change" published Mr. Newcomb's law review article, "The Evidence of Christian Nationalism in Federal Indian Law," (Vol. 20, No. 2, 303). In November, 2004, Mr. Newcomb received a "Writer of the Year" Award from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writer's and Storytellers, in the area of Journalism, for his Indian Country Today column, "Bush Let's Freedom Reign." In 2005, U.C.L.A. School of Law's "Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture & Resistance" published Newcomb's article, "On the Rightful Political Heritage of Native Nations." He is author of the book "Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery" (Fulcrum, 2008). Newcomb has worked with the Western Shoshone nation since the mid-1990's.

Mr. Newcomb will make a presentation on the failure of the Indian Claims Commission to file a final report in the Western Shoshone case. The lack of a final report means that the U.S. government never reached finality in the Western Shoshone case. The U.S. government cannot prove it has title to the Western Shoshone lands delineated in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley.