



News Release

December 7, 2007

Contact: Paul Lumley
202-789-1754
plumley@naihc.net

INDIAN HOUSING COUNCIL'S LEGAL SYMPOSIUM A FOCUS ON REAUTHORIZATION

Las Vegas, Nevada. – The National American Indian Housing Council's (NAIHC) 9th Annual Legal Symposium took place December 4 through 6 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Nearly 400 Indian housing industry professionals, experts, and tribal officials attended the annual legal symposium. The symposium provides a forum for open and frank discussions of the principal legal issues that face American Indians and Alaska Natives as they fight to improve the housing conditions of their tribal members.

The NAIHC is composed of 265 members, representing 428 tribes, and is the only national Indian organization representing Native American housing interests. The status of the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) was a primary topic and important issue at this year's symposium, according to Marty Shuravloff, Chairman of the NAIHC Board of Directors. Shuravloff is an enrolled member of the Lesnoi Village of Kodiak Island and Executive Director of the Kodiak Island Housing Authority. "Reauthorization is on track" Shuravloff told those gathered at the legal symposium. "Not without some controversy and not with everything we asked for...but reauthorization is track."

Originally enacted in 1996, NAHASDA consolidated several federal housing programs into a single, formula based block grant program. NAHASDA recognized tribal authority to provide housing and related infrastructure in a way that maximizes tribal decision making and flexibility. Shuravloff noted that the reauthorization of NAHASDA is of the utmost importance to American Indians and Alaska Natives and urged the members to encourage their representatives in Congress to "swiftly and surely" pass this legislation and send it to the president.

A highlight of this year's legal symposium was the beginning of an important partnership between the NAIHC and Bank of America. NAIHC announced that Bank of America has committed \$50,000 to NAIHC to help alleviate the deplorable housing conditions in Indian Country. Paul Lumley, NAIHC Executive Director, expressed his gratitude and appreciation saying, "I am humbled by and greatly appreciate Bank of America's recognition of the great housing needs in Indian Country. We at the Housing Council know Native American people across the country will benefit greatly from the financial education efforts of our Home Buyer Education Program because of Bank of America's contribution to NAIHC." Maria Echeveste, Senior Vice President of Bank of America's Community Impact program was on hand at the legal symposium to present the \$50,000 check on behalf of Bank of America. Echeveste noted that Bank of America's efforts to introduce important lending products and programs for Native Americans would continue.

For more information on this hearing or other housing news, please visit www.naihc.net.

###

The National American Indian Housing Council assists tribes and tribal housing entities reach their goal of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.

"A Tradition of Native American Housing"



(L to R) Paul Lumley - Executive Director National American Indian Housing Council, Maria Echeveste - Senior Vice President Community Impact Market Manager Bank of America