



PRESS RELEASE

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Native American Intellectual Property Enterprise Council (NAIPEC) Announces New IP Initiative Through NDN IP PARTNERS

(ATLANTA, GA – September 12, 2017 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) – The Native American Intellectual Property Enterprise Council (NAIPEC) has announced a new initiative, aimed at providing Native American Tribes strategic support in the acquisition, monetization and management of Intellectual Property portfolios. NDN IP PARTNERS, LLC (NDN) (www.ndnip.co) will assist tribes in acquiring patents and other intellectual properties, and support Tribes in leveraging patent ownership, utilizing tribal sovereignty, and by providing broad IP strategic management support.

The passage of the Leahy–Smith America Invents Act (AIA) in 2011 established new procedures for third parties to challenge the validity of issued patents in a contested validity trial in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, before its Patent Trial and Appeal Board. The AIA replaced inter partes re-examinations with a set of new proceedings. According to many expert observers these post-grant validity trial procedures have radically changed the patent litigation landscape, with challenges becoming more common, and successful, with up to 35% of claims being upheld and the patents involved, invalidated.

NDN IP Partners provides a ‘plug-in’ type business model that allow Tribes to acquire Intellectual Property assets, that can be leveraged as global, bankable assets. NDN IP Partners offers tiered services, chiefly their patent procurement leasing platform.

Utilizing Tribal sovereignty, NDN IP Partners can assist Tribes in creating on-shore safe havens for companies and independent inventors wishing to preserve their patents from being attacked by actions brought by so-called ‘Patent Dragoons’ or ‘Patent Ogres’. The NDN IP Partners plan facilitates Tribes acquiring patents or patent portfolios, and develops a leases-back program for the entity wishing to shield the patent from IPR and other actions, under the aegis of Tribal Sovereignty.

According to NAIPEC founder, and CEO of NDN IP PARTNERS, T. David Petite, “NDN IP Partners is seeking to create new opportunities for Native Americans Tribes and traditional businesses by intersecting Tribal Sovereignty with Intellectual Property protection, using NDN IP Partners technical, business, financial, and legal support. This enables new economic drivers to the reservations, helping to create jobs and educational resources, enhancing and preserving traditional communities in Indian Country.”

A single IPR can cost well over \$250,000, and even if the USPTO institutes an IPR and affirms the challenged claims, the petitioners are estopped from challenging them again, anywhere, many small businesses and independent inventors are not able to contemplate mounting a counter-challenge to an IPR on cost basis.

“NAIPEC’s initiative will provide patent holders the opportunity to gain some protection from costly litigation in the U.S.A. and provide Native American Tribes, who enjoy sovereign status, the ability to become a major player in the intellectual property management and monetization arena”, said Kim Ribbans, Executive Director of NAIPEC.

“NAIPEC has increasingly become involved in strategic intellectual property work, and this initiative adds to our ability to help Tribes in a very important manner”.

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About NAIPEC

The Native American Intellectual Property Enterprise Council (NAIPEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide direct help and assistance to Native American inventors and Tribes.

NAIPEC supports invention and innovation in the Native American community by providing quantitative patenting, copyright, and trademark assistance. By helping individual inventors or tribal communities bring new concepts to market, NAIPEC is at the intersection of industry and academia, facilitating opportunity and helping create new knowledge-based enterprises. NAIPEC also leads programs that support economic development initiatives in Indian Country, assisting Tribes, Tribal Businesses and Tribal Individuals in strategic business development and IP strategies.