Debates about environmental justice, climate change, energy policy, and Native rights have converged this summer around the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline, which would bring oil from North Dakota fracking operations across several states. The Oceti Sakowin (Great Sioux Nation) opposes the pipeline because construction would likely destroy sacred sites and because the current route goes under the Missouri River at a place where a spill would endanger the water supply to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Native resistance has taken the form of lawsuits, legislative advocacy, a media campaign and (most famously) a months-long gathering of “water protectors” near the pipeline site, which now includes hundreds of tribes.

This panel will explore the legal and social issues context for the #NoDAPL movement, the role of Presidential authority, and what it means for the national conversations about energy policy, fossil fuels, climate change, and environmental justice.

THE PRESIDENT & THE PIPELINE

Native rights, environmental justice, energy policy, Executive power, and the Dakota Access pipeline

with Professor Bret Birdsong (law), Professor Addie Rolnick (law), and Professor A.B. Wilkinson (history)

Monday, Oct. 17
12 - 1:30 p.m.
Light lunch provided

UNLV Boyd School of Law
Room 105 (BSL)

Debates about environmental justice, climate change, energy policy, and Native rights have converged this summer around the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline, which would bring oil from North Dakota fracking operations across several states. The Oceti Sakowin (Great Sioux Nation) opposes the pipeline because construction would likely destroy sacred sites and because the current route goes under the Missouri River at a place where a spill would endanger the water supply to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Native resistance has taken the form of lawsuits, legislative advocacy, a media campaign and (most famously) a months-long gathering of “water protectors” near the pipeline site, which now includes hundreds of tribes.

This panel will explore the legal and social issues context for the #NoDAPL movement, the role of Presidential authority, and what it means for the national conversations about energy policy, fossil fuels, climate change, and environmental justice.

sponsored by the Boyd School of Law
co-sponsored by the American Indian Alliance & The Intersection: Academic Multicultural Resource Center