Tulalip Student, and Judge Make their Marks at Harvard University

By Wendy Church, Tribal Court Director

Harvard University in Massachusetts was recently ranked by U.S. News and World Report magazines as the number one University in the world. Now, two individuals with strong ties to Tulalip are making their marks at Harvard Law School, the number one law school in the Nation.

Tulalip member Marjorie James was admitted to Harvard Law School in of 2009 and will be finishing her first year in May of this year. Ms. James was awarded a bachelors degree from the University of Washington in 2007. At this time, Ms. James is planning to return for the summer to Tulalip to work as a law clerk in the Tulalip Office of the Reservation Attorney.

Said Margie, “I am tremendously excited Professor Anderson will be at Harvard Law School for the next five years. I know his work back home is very beneficial to Tulalip and tribal communities nationwide and now I have the unexpected opportunity to work with him here. This will also be a chance for the Native community at Harvard to further advocate the importance of producing Indian Law practitioners and research at a world class institution.”

Tulalip Court of Appeals Judge Robert T. Anderson has been appointed to Oneida Chair of Native American Law at Harvard Law School. Professor Anderson, who is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa in Minnesota, is presently Associate Processor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law and Director of the U.W. Indian Law Center. Under the direction of Professor Anderson, the Tulalip Public Defense Clinic was established at the U.W. Law School in 2002. The award winning Defense Clinic provides counsel to persons charged with crimes in the Tulalip Tribal Court and representation for parents involved in children’s matters.

Professor Anderson will teach Federal Indian law one quarter each year at Harvard, and will be able to continue his work at Tulalip, and the University of Washington.