



**FREDERICKS PEEBLES & MORGAN LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Firm Senior Partner Honored with University of Colorado Alumni Award**

**Boulder, Colorado.** - The University of Colorado Boulder announced that Thomas Fredericks, senior partner with Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP has been honored by receiving the George Norlin Award, the University of Colorado's most prestigious alumni award. The George Norlin award recognizes outstanding alumni who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in their chosen field of endeavor and a devotion to the betterment of society and their community.

The tradition of honoring the University of Colorado Boulder's best began in 1930 when the Alumni Association wanted to honor the CU President George Norlin and the growing legions of extraordinary alumni. Thus, the George Norlin Award was born. Since then, the association has been fortunate to recognize several generations of outstanding alumni with the Norlin Award, including President Norlin himself who received his medal in 1939 when he retired after 20 years of presidential service. This award is one of the University's longest standing traditions.

Mr. Fredericks is from Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota and is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. His lifetime commitment to change government policy towards Indian tribes began with his family's hardships on the reservation. In high school he excelled in all sports and was awarded athletic scholarships to Minot State University. He began his career as a high school teacher and coach. He was also the Economic Opportunity Program Director for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Mr. Fredericks went on to attend the University of New Mexico's Summer Indian Law Institute. That led to his attendance at the University of Colorado at Boulder Law School where he developed a passion for Indian Law. As a liaison between the California Indian Legal Defense Fund and the law school, he helped facilitate the founding of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in Boulder in the early 1970s.

Mr. Fredericks began as a law clerk with NARF while still a law student. He later became NARF executive director. In that role, he was an essential component of the overall legal strategy during the 1970s, when the courts decided many major Indian legal issues. He has also served as chief legal



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officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then the primary policy official for Indian Affairs within the Department of the Interior as a political appointee in the Carter Administration.

Mr. Fredericks founded his own law firm in 1979. During his years of practice, he developed proficiency in many areas of Indian law involving tribal governance. He has mentored young associates throughout his career, particularly helping young Native American attorneys to advance. He has seen many associates under his guidance go from young law clerks to seasoned associates and even partners. He's seen his prodigies advance to important positions and successful careers of their own.

In 2007, Mr. Fredericks became a senior partner with the law firm, Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP. At the Firm, his practice focuses on: natural resources, energy and environmental laws, tribal sovereignty, tribal government, business and corporate law, gaming, and economic development. He has been involved in numerous negotiations with the federal government concerning its trust responsibilities to Indian Country. He also has successfully litigated important Indian rights and resources cases.

Mr. Fredericks will be honored at the Annual Alumni Association Awards Ceremony which will take place Thursday, October 24, 2013 to kickoff "Back to Boulder Homecoming Weekend." In addition to this prestigious award, in 2011 Mr. Fredericks was honored by receiving the Minot State University (MSU) Alumni Association Golden Award. It is the highest award given by the MSU Alumni Association.

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*Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is dedicated to the representation of American Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the United States. Legal services provided by Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP include a wide spectrum of services related to Indian concerns in the areas of business transactions, litigation, and governmental affairs. The firm has offices in seven states and Washington, D.C. Nebraska office locations include Omaha and Winnebago. Visit our website at [www.ndnlaw.com](http://www.ndnlaw.com)*