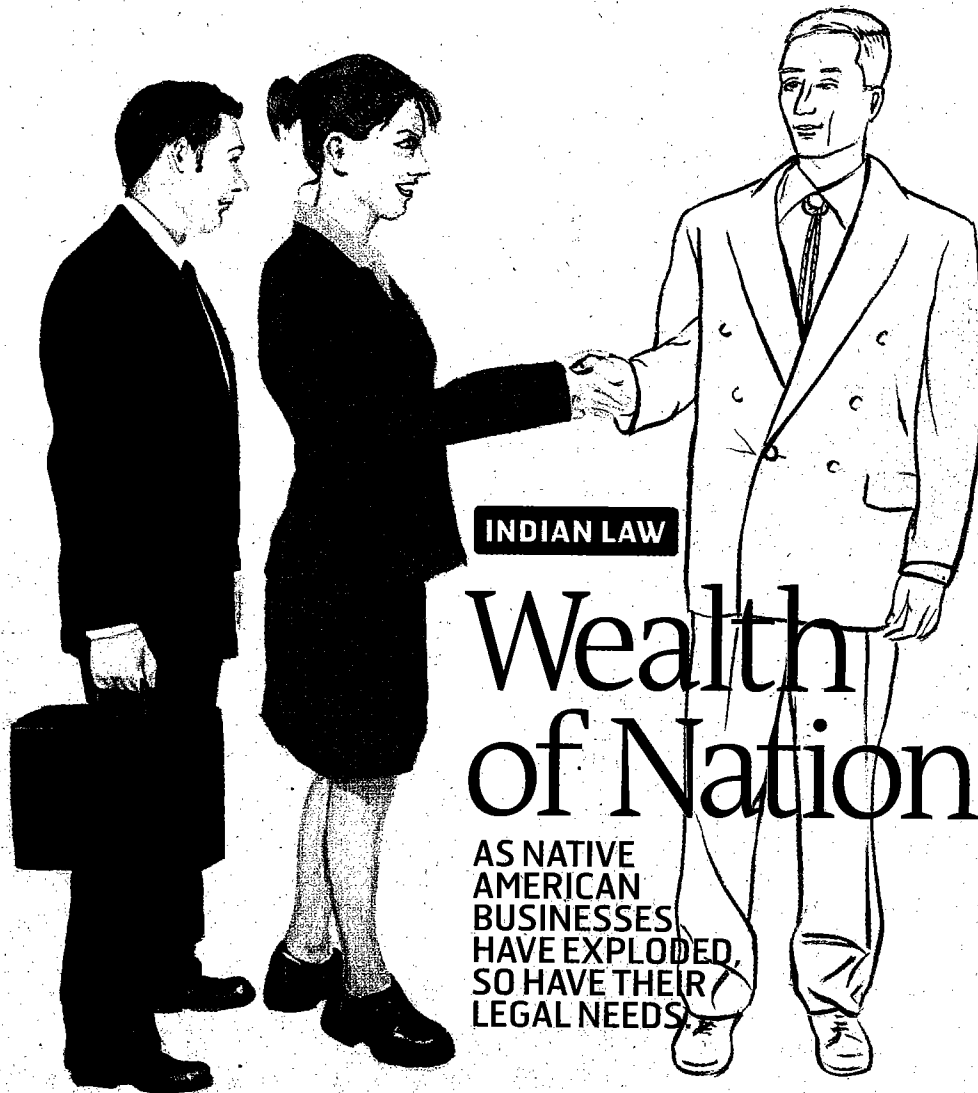


# DISCOVERY



INDIAN LAW

## Wealth of Nations

AS NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESSES HAVE EXPLODED, SO HAVE THEIR LEGAL NEEDS.

**W**hen Gabriel Galanda, an associate at Williams, Kastner & Gibbs, was elected president of the Seattle-based Northwest Indian Bar Association two years ago, the group had 21 names on a largely dormant e-mail list. Today, membership includes 170 lawyers who meet monthly to discuss how to increase opportunities for American Indians, and others, to study and practice Indian law. In that time, they've distributed \$20,000 in scholarships—a modest beginning, especially considering how quickly the field of Indian law has grown lately thanks in part to the sprouting of slot machines and craps tables. But it's a start.

Groups like the NIBA reflect efforts by law schools and firms across the country—and by Indian reservations themselves—to improve the quality and expertise of lawyers who practice Indian law. Rather suddenly, there are plenty of hours to be billed to the nationally recognized tribes in some 30 or so states. According to the National Indian Gaming Association, casinos generated an estimated \$16 billion in 2003, and that money has enabled Native Americans to wage legal battles

ILLUSTRATION BY ARTHUR GIRON

INSIDE E-CONTRACTS | NAOMI WATTS | WARHOL'S LAWYER

