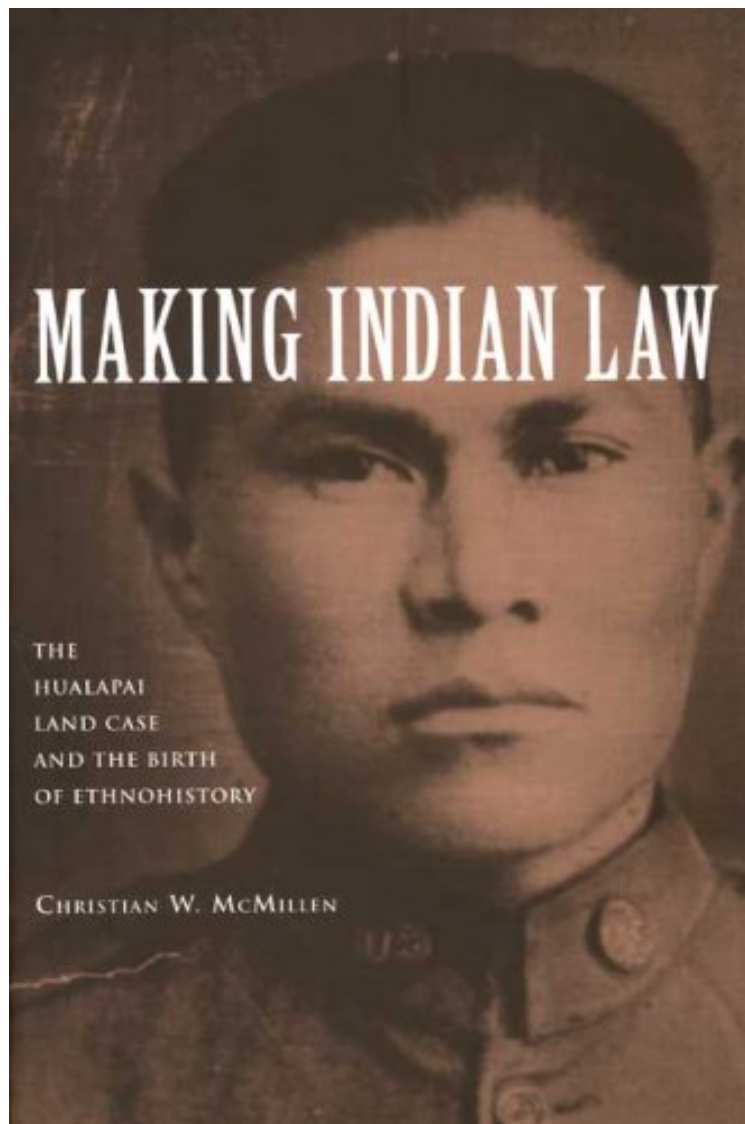


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Making Indian Law: The Hualapai Land Case and the Birth of Ethnohistory (The Lamar Series in Western History)

Christian W. McMillen

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Christian W. McMillen : Making Indian Law: The Hualapai Land Case and the Birth of Ethnohistory (The Lamar Series in Western History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making Indian Law: The Hualapai Land Case and the Birth of Ethnohistory (The Lamar Series in Western History):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Making Indian Law By tenino46 This book give a good history of the Indigenous struggle against predatory laws created to steal their lands while destroying their peoples' will to survive and their successful struggle to use those same laws to restore their Tribal lands as a part of their Tribal reservation. Good analysis of the process used to take lands and Tribal leadership to understand those laws and locate data to authenticate the ethnohistory of their claims to land rights. Deni Leonard 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Kallie Wilbourn This is a very detailed, well-organized book. A must for anyone interested in Indian history and law. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Solid detailed review of a critical issue By Andrew H This remarkable book is a must-read for any student of Southwest history (in which the Hualapai too seldom receive recognition for their accomplishment) or Indian law (which is still grappling with many of the same questions as it did in the landmark Hualapai case). What are indigenous property rights? Can we respect centuries-old systems of land tenure if they conflict with Western law? What is owed to a nation whose land was blatantly stolen out from under them, and how do you determine the legitimacy of either claim? McMillen gives a detailed account of both the issue and its context in American case law, with attention also paid to concurrent developments in the rest of the English-speaking world. While some of his claims about anthropology and ethnohistory are a tad incomplete, this is to be expected in a work that is and needs to be a work of advocacy as well as history. The work begun by Fred Mahone and his Washington allies is by no means finished, and as many eyes turn to a Hualapai Nation once again situating itself on the losing end of a significant public legal case, the history that McMillen airs here, more than just an ethnohistory, has become critical once again. I recommend this title to any interested party.

In 1941, after decades of struggling to hold on to the remainder of their aboriginal home, the Hualapai Indians finally took their case to the Supreme Court and won. The Hualapai case was the culminating event in a legal and intellectual revolution that transformed Indian law and ushered in a new way of writing Indian history that provided legal grounds for native land claims. But Making Indian Law is about more than a legal decision. It's the story of Hualapai activists, and eventually sympathetic lawyers, who challenged both the Santa Fe Railroad and the U.S. government to a courtroom showdown over the meaning of Indian property rights and the Indian past. At the heart of the Hualapai campaign to save the reservation was documenting the history of Hualapai land use. Making Indian Law showcases the central role that the Hualapai and their lawyers played in formulating new understandings of native people, their property, and their past. To this day, the impact of the Hualapai decision is felt wherever and whenever indigenous land claims are litigated throughout the world.

"The author skillfully untangles the legal complexities surrounding the Hualapai land dispute in a readable, informative narrative." Byron E. Pearson, *The Journal of American History* About the Author Christian W. McMillen is assistant professor of history and American studies, University of Virginia.