

# Jerry Frank Muskrat

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Assistant professor Jerry Muskrat graduated from OU majoring in political science, and he completed all but his dissertation on a PH.D. in political science. He then went to Harvard Law School, where he graduated in 1972. After a year's stint with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., he returned to join the OU faculty, where he has been serving as Director of the University's ethnic studies program, as well as teaching law.

Jerry Muskrat is faculty adviser to one of the University's newest publications, the American Indian Law Review, which published its first issue in December, 1973. As far as he knows, this is the only publication in the country which addresses Indian legal problems in depth. Although the first issue was produced by a staff entirely composed of students of Indian descent, later issues have been produced by both Indian and non-Indian students. Muskrat views its greatest contribution as providing a forum in which Indian affairs may be discussed intelligently from a variety of viewpoints. "It also seeks to go beyond scholarship," Muskrat notes, "to address the nonacademic community; to reach an audience of persons active in Indian affairs."

As a matter of interest to legal scholars, Muskrat is related to the David Muskrat who set the stage for the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1911 in *Muskrat v. United States*. David Muskrat, an Oklahoma Cherokee, was a cousin to Jerry Muskrat's grandfather. Shortly after the turn of the century, he legally challenged the constitutional validity of an act of Congress concerning the distribution of lands to the Cherokees. "The decision," says Jerry Muskrat, "was of procedural significance, rather than substantive. It concerns the limitations of judicial review in what determines a proper controversy before the court."

