

## FOREWORD

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This important series will be useful to anyone interested in tribal judicial systems. The revitalization of the judicial and law-enforcement systems of Oklahoma's Indian tribes, to which Professor Arrow's series bears witness, is vital to the development of strong tribal governments.

Commencing in the 1890s, the Cherokee Nation, along with other tribes, was required by the federal government to turn over its governmental responsibilities, including its extensive court system, to the federal territorial government. Previous treaties were ignored and abrogated by Congress. The Curtis Act, for example, called not only for allotment, but also for the abolition of tribal courts and governments.<sup>1</sup> The policies adopted by that Act were intended to effectuate the assimilation of tribal people into non-Indian society by diminishing the influence of their tribal governments and repressing the foundations and institutions of tribal societies. Such policies partially achieved what they had intended.

During the Franklin Roosevelt administration, however, the allotment policy was officially ended with the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 [IRA]<sup>2</sup> and the Oklahoma Indian

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<sup>1</sup> Act of June 28, 1898, ch. 517, 30 Stat. 495. *See generally* FELIX S. COHEN'S HANDBOOK OF FEDERAL INDIAN LAW 770-797 (1982 ed.) (citing statutes — and extrinsic reference materials — related to history and development of Oklahoma's tribal governments).

<sup>2</sup> Act of June 18, 1934, ch. 576, 48 Stat. 984, *codified at* 25 U.S.C. §§461 *et seq.*