



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 23, 2008

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Author Steven T. Newcomb Discusses His New Book, “Pagans in the Promised Land”, at the San Diego Public Library

Argument encourages us to rethink foundational legal issues that result in problematic rules

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library will host and author talk featuring Steven T. Newcomb. He will discuss and read from *Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery*, offering a unique analysis of how religion has shaped U.S. federal Indian law. The free event will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, 2008, in the Wangenheim Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

Pagans in the Promised Land is the result of extensive research that argues that the United States cannot achieve a true separation of church and state so long as federal Indian law and policy are premised on the religious categories of “Christian people” and “heathens.” Using examples such as the Bible’s Old Testament narrative of the chosen people and the Promised Land, the Vatican’s 15th century colonialism of discovery and the Supreme Court ruling in *Johnson v. M’Intosh*—that “allowed” Indians to sell land exclusively to the U.S. government, the book illustrates how the U.S. claims dominion over both the existence and lands of formerly independent Indian nations.

Steven T. Newcomb is the indigenous law research coordinator at the Education Department of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation and is co-founder and co-director of the Indigenous Law Institute. He is also a fellow with the American Indian Policy and Media Initiative and columnist for *Indian Country Today*. Newcomb was named Writer of the Year in Journalism by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers.

Copies of Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery will be available for purchase at the event.

Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Library on Broadway and 8th, courtesy

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of Five Star Parking and parking meters are not enforced on Sundays.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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