FORUMS

NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY

Maine's Indian land claims settlement is nationally unique, and has had significant ramifications for Native American sovereignty in the state. Stephen Brimley reviews the passage, provisions, and impact of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 on Maine's tribes. The settlement act provided some economic benefits and an increase in federally provided services, but Maine's Native Americans still face economic, health, and social problems. Donna Loring of the Penobscot Nation, anthropologist Lisa Neuman, and anthropologist-attorney Lawrence Rosen in their commentaries offer further, varying perspectives on Native American sovereignty in Maine and elsewhere in the United States.

MAINE HOSPITAL COSTS

Hospitals are the largest single component of healthcare costs. Nancy Kane's study of Maine hospitals' financial performance was undertaken as a mandate of the Dirigo Health Reform Act. She reports here that Maine's hospital industry outperformed hospitals elsewhere during 1993-2003, but that there is major variability in financial performance among the state's hospitals. Mary Mayhew's commentary provides the perspective of the Maine Hospital Association, and D. Joshua Cutler gives his insights as a physician member of the Commission to Study Maine's Hospitals.