

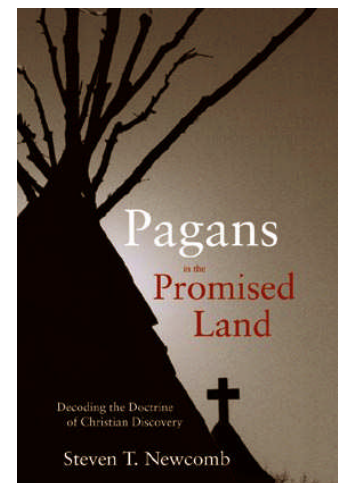
## The Smoking Gun: The Doctrine of Christian Discovery in Federal Anti-Indian Law and Policy

### Steve Newcomb



Steven Newcomb (Shawnee/Delaware) is the author of “Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery.” He is the Indigenous Law Research Coordinator for the Sycuan Education Department of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, co-founder and co-director of the Indigenous Law Institute, and a columnist with Indian Country Today.’

Since 1992, Newcomb has campaigned to have Pope John Paul II, and now Pope Benedict the XVI, to formally revoke certain Vatican papal decrees (papal bulls) from the fifteenth century that called for the subjugation of Indigenous nations and the colonization of Indigenous territories. Newcomb will focus on a United States legal brief from 1954 that argued against Indian land rights on the basis of a distinction between “discovering” Christian sovereigns and “heathens and infidels” American Indians.



**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

**5:30 pm**

**Peter Graham Scholarly Commons in Bird Library**

**This event is free and open to the public.**