When the Cherokee Nation went to the United States Supreme Court in 1831 to sue the State of Georgia they started a paradoxical endeavor. They argued that they were a “foreign state” – but at the same time subjected themselves to the jurisdiction of another state. In the course of this campaign they transformed from a political to a legal subject and took the position of what today would be called an “indigenous” community. By analyzing the bill the Cherokee Nation presented to the Supreme Court, Dr. Bens examines how indigeneity is produced in the interaction between the native communities of North America and the (post-)colonial state’s legal system.

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