



NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN  
COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

# EMERGING PRACTICES IN Tribal Civil and Criminal LEGAL ASSISTANCE



NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

# Emerging Practices in Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance

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In Partnership with Slaton Associates, LLC

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## Purpose and Introduction

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice (the Department) provides funding through the Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance (TCCLA) Program to not-for-profit corporations with a 501(c)(3) tax status. BJA provides civil and criminal legal assistance to tribal justice systems in an effort to build justice system capacity and improve representation and adjudication for tribal members and, where appropriate, non-Indians.

With this objective in mind, BJA has engaged its training and technical assistance (TTA) partner, the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA), in partnership with Slaton Associates, LLC, to research and identify those tribal justice systems and legal aid organizations that model emerging and innovative programs serving tribes around the nation. This report intends to share these innovations with all tribal justice systems with the goal of: 1) acknowledging excellence; 2) spreading knowledge and expertise among tribal courts; 3) building court capacity and innovation; 4) improving court services to low-income clients; and 5) bringing justice and fairness to all citizens in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages.

The report includes specific program design elements and contact information in each program section with the hope that readers will contact the identified court leaders or Indian legal services organizations, will engage in future dialogue, and will adopt elements of these programs and practices for their own tribal judicial programs.

## OVERVIEW OF TRIBAL JUDICIAL SYSTEMS

The federal government currently recognizes 567 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in the United States. Tribes vary by size, location, history, jurisdiction, traditions, legal and community issues, service area characteristics, and resources. Each of the federally recognized tribal nations has its own indigenous justice system. More than 300 tribal justice systems have been either formally established or are in the process of being formalized. And many of these tribal justice systems have incorporated restorative justice concepts into their justice systems such as blending aspects of traditional tribal peacemaking with modern, adversarial techniques.

The tribal court programs and Indian legal services organizations highlighted in this report provide representation for their clients in tribal judicial systems, and they also share common traits of providing representation and/or education across jurisdictional boundaries. These organizations have implemented and continue to foster a system of holistic, client-based techniques, some of which include: providing direct legal

representation, code development, training, expertise, and a variety of resources to many tribes in their respective states. This allows successful collaboration among the tribe, state, local, and federal courts as well as providing adequate justice and healing for tribal members. The resulting respect, credibility, and cross-jurisdictional collaboration among these justice systems are critical to improving judicial outcomes for tribal and non-tribal members alike.

The tribal court and legal organizational programs and their emerging practices selected for this report are:

- Salish and Kootenai Tribal Defenders – Holistic Defense for Adults and Juveniles
- Yurok Tribe Court – Joint Jurisdictional Wellness Court
- California Indian Legal Services – Strengthening Tribal Judicial Systems and Intergovernmental Collaboration in a PL 280 State
- Oklahoma Indian Legal Services – Expunging Criminal Records

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION**

The National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of tribal court judges and justice personnel from across the nation. It is devoted to supporting and strengthening tribal justice systems through education, training, information sharing, and advocacy. NAICJA membership is comprised of over 200 judges, justices, peacemakers, and other justice system personnel who serve the tribal justice systems of federally recognized tribes.

NAICJA was established in 1969 following the enactment of the federal Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA) of 1968. The Act required tribes to follow certain requirements similar to those in the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution. Tribal courts are the forums where those rights are enforced. NAICJA's early goal was to provide education to tribal judges so that they could conduct proceedings in compliance with ICRA.

An elected Board of Directors manages NAICJA in conjunction with a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from each of 10 regions across the United States.

## **OUR MISSION**

Today, the goals of NAICJA have expanded to keep pace with the changing social and political environment and include:

1. Securing needed increases in funding for the daily functioning of tribal justice systems;
2. Serving as the national voice of tribal justice systems when advocacy is needed;

3. Ensuring that quality, culturally appropriate tribal judicial education is available nationwide;
4. Improving cooperation among tribal, state, and federal judiciaries; and
5. Providing support to tribal judiciaries by creating opportunities for networking and mentorship.

## **THE NATIONAL TRIBAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER**

NAICJA's TTA program is the National Tribal Justice Resource Center (NTJRC). The NTJRC provides TTA to tribal justice systems and tribal civil and criminal legal assistance to tribal legal aid attorneys and public defenders. NAICJA is currently a TTA provider under BJA's TCCLA Program.

## **THE TRIBAL CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The TCCLA Program is authorized by 25 U.S.C. 3651, et seq. (Public Law 106–59) to strengthen and improve the representation of indigent defendants in criminal cases and indigent respondents in civil causes of action under the jurisdiction of Indian tribes, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the operations of tribal justice systems and improving access to those systems by tribal citizens. TCCLA also funds TTA partners to collaborate with BJA and the Department to develop and enhance justice system personnel and practices within tribal justice systems. Program objectives include: providing procedural justice in tribal civil and criminal legal procedures, legal infrastructure enhancements, public education, and TTA for the development and enhancement of tribal justice systems. TCCLA resources have been appropriated since Fiscal Year 2010. Funding is made consistent with the following three categories:

**Category 1. Tribal Civil Legal Assistance Grants** – Funding is available to nonprofit organizations, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code (I.R.C) § 501(c)(3), including tribal enterprises and educational institutions (public, private, and tribal colleges and universities) that provide direct civil legal assistance services for members of federally recognized Indian tribes pursuant to federal poverty guidelines, federally recognized Indian tribes, or tribal justice systems. These resources may be utilized to support legal assistance services for Indian tribes, members of Indian tribes, and tribal justice systems, including guardian ad-litem appointments, court-appointed special advocates pursuant to the federal poverty guidelines, and development and enhancement of tribal policies, procedures, and code.

**Category 2. Tribal Criminal Legal Assistance Grants** – Funding is available to nonprofit organizations, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code (I.R.C) § 501(c)(3), including tribal enterprises and educational institutions (public, private, and tribal colleges and universities) that provide direct criminal legal assistance services for all individuals pursuant to federal poverty guidelines, federally recognized Indian tribes,



or tribal justice systems pursuant to federal poverty guidelines. Criminal legal assistance services may include adult criminal actions, juvenile delinquency actions, guardian ad-litem appointments arising out of criminal delinquency acts, or development and enhancement of tribal policies, procedures, and code.

**Category 3. Tribal Justice Training and Technical Assistance Grants** – Funding is available to national or regional membership organizations and associations whose membership or a membership section consists of judicial system personnel within tribal justice systems. The funding supports regional and TTA to tribal justice system professionals across the United States. This TTA can include tools such as a distance-learning module for tribal judicial personnel, online tools, and printed information for public education, code development, and the dissemination of training information to help build capacity in tribal justice systems.

BJA coordinates the scope based on current TCCLA TTA partner projects as well as other TTA projects in the BJA portfolio and those of its federal partners. To access more information about the BJA TCCLA Program, visit the [TCCLA website](#). For the entire Department portfolio of tribal justice TTA resources, visit the Department's [TTA website](#).

### **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR EMERGING PRACTICES IN TRIBAL COURTS**

For the purposes of this document, an “emerging practice” is defined as one that incorporates and is consistent with the philosophy, values, characteristics, and indicators of positive and effective interventions being used in the tribal justice field that are based upon research and interview. The tribal courts and organizations identified in this report share common characteristics resulting in innovation, cross-jurisdictional collaboration, creativity, cultural relevance, and positive outcomes.

The criteria for identifying an emerging practice are based on guidelines, protocols, standards, or preferred practice patterns that have been shown to lead to effective outcomes identified in reporting and/or data analysis. These guidelines and practices show evidence of positive outcomes for program participants in wellness courts, including deferral of sentences in civil or sometimes criminal court in favor of treatment for mental illness or chemical dependency. Tribal cultural practices included in these courts or organizations may be unique to each tribe, but the goal of each is consistent across each tribal court.

The impact of blending Western and traditional court practices appears to have positive effects on defendants and their tribes. The practices identified in this report have been largely accepted by local, state, and county courts based on their positive outcomes and trusted practices. The organizations and court that were selected for this report provide legal representation, code development, and a variety of other services critical to the success of the tribal courts they serve and justice for tribal members.



## DATA AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES EVALUATION

The emerging practices in this report incorporate a process of continual quality improvement that both accumulate and apply knowledge about what is working and not working in different contexts. They continually incorporate lessons learned, feedback, and analysis that lead to improvement in practices, procedures, and outreach.

The data and verified outcomes reviewed in these emerging practices include some of the following:

- Number of indigent clients served, number of cases cleared or seen in court;
- Examples of swift adjudication;
- Improved or streamlined adjudication procedures;
- Higher satisfaction ratings by staff and/or clients;
- Positive outcomes for clients and/or lower recidivism rates;
- Culturally relevant court mandates or remedies in sentencing judgments;
- More indigent defendants receiving counsel or deferred sentencing;
- Improved outcomes for juvenile defendants or more cases diverted; and
- Improved outcomes for clients related to issues pertaining to multiple jurisdictions.

## DATA COLLECTION OBSTACLES

Program evaluations intended to measure program participant outcomes are hampered by a lack of adequate funding for software development and/or subsequent training of personnel. In addition, tribal courts are often reliant upon the infrastructure and resources of their respective tribes—too often the desire to track client progress by dedicated administrators, judges, and capable attorneys and staff is hampered by a lack of resources. These barriers make data capture extremely challenging.

Although these emerging practices courts and organizations may not yet have evaluation data to demonstrate full effectiveness, their anecdotal, practice-based evidence is both persuasive and promising. With further investment in data collection and analysis, the featured emerging practices could be recommended to CrimeSolutions.gov for consideration and review of justice practices. To learn about programs and practices where rigorous research determines what works in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services, visit the Office of Justice Programs' [crimesolutions.gov/](https://www.crimesolutions.gov/).

# Holistic Defense for Adults and Juveniles: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Tribal Defenders

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** Concerned about recidivism and the high incidence of co-occurring mental health and chemical dependency problems among its clients, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Tribal Defenders decided to explore alternative ways to provide public defense.

**EMERGING PRACTICE:** Holistic Defense for Adults and Juveniles

**ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:** The CSKT Tribal Defenders' office provides services to CSKT tribal members in Montana. The Tribal Defenders represent members of any federally recognized tribe charged with crimes in the CSKT adult criminal and youth court. Moreover, the Tribal Defenders assist members of any federally recognized tribe with a variety of civil matters, including housing needs, consumer issues, guardianships, adult protection cases, mental health commitments, and any jurisdictional issues that might be involved in these cases.

## **PROGRAM MISSION:**

The CSKT Tribal Defenders are dedicated to strong advocacy and the protection of civil liberties while working with clients and their families to address underlying issues that bring them into the tribal justice system.

In addition to providing representation in civil cases, the Tribal Defenders' civil division assists individuals by answering questions, giving legal advice, making legal referrals, and providing procedural assistance and forms to pro se litigants. The Tribal Defenders also collaborate with and assist state public defenders who represent tribal members in Lake and Missoula Counties. The Tribal Defenders also contact tribal members who are incarcerated within the Montana Department of Corrections system to answer their questions and assist them to request temporary releases when there is a death in their immediate family.

**PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:** When tribal members are charged with crimes, they often risk eviction from tribal housing, loss of financial assistance, loss of employment, loss of driver's license, loss of educational financial aid, and the involvement of child protection services. The Bronx Defenders in New York developed its Holistic Defense Model to address these

collateral issues to achieve better outcomes for its clients. The CSKT Tribal Defenders adapted that model to address the needs of their tribal community.

The Bronx Defenders Holistic Defense Model is comprised of the following four pillars:

1. Seamless access to legal and non-legal services that meet clients' needs;
2. Dynamic interdisciplinary communication;
3. Advocates who provide an interdisciplinary skill set; and
4. A robust understanding of, and connection to, the community served.

**PRACTICE DESIGN:** In 2011, the Tribal Defenders' office received yearlong technical assistance from the Center for Holistic Defense at the Bronx Defenders in New York. The CSKT Tribal Defenders spent a year working with the Bronx Defenders and developed the Holistic Defense Program that incorporates tribal cultural values and streamlines services to better assist their clients to be more successful in the criminal justice system.

This holistic defense training supplemented the CSKT mental health collaboration's existing work. In 2009, the CSKT were awarded a grant from BJA to plan and administer a mental health collaboration program within the Tribal Defenders' office. This program collaborates with the tribal police, the tribal jail, and the tribal behavioral health department to assist those clients at greatest risk to cycle through the tribal and state criminal justice systems due to mental illness and chemical dependency. Clinical psychology trainees, based in the Tribal Defenders' office, provide mental health and chemical dependency assessments at the tribal jail and in the Tribal Defenders' office. The success of this mental health collaboration program has been attributed primarily to the accessibility of services.

The Tribal Defenders implemented the Bronx Defenders Holistic Defense Model by:

1. Applying the multi-discipline team approach used by the Bronx Defenders;
2. Administering client-centered services by each staff member using their particular knowledge and skills;
3. Using staff meetings to cross train staff which strengthened the team by improving team confidence and skills;
4. Growing the walk-in community clinic and services to pro se litigants by assisting clients with the collateral consequences to being charged with an offense; and
5. Expanding community outreach and education.

One of the basic tenets of the Holistic Defense Model is to assist clients with collateral consequences that result from criminal activity, since merely being charged with a crime can result in loss of financial assistance, student loans, jobs, licenses, and public housing. The Tribal Defenders assess these collateral consequences through needs assessments in order to help clients access housing, social and financial services, education, employment, transportation, mental health services, and assistance to complete court-ordered requirements. In order to assist its clients to identify and address the consequences of their actions and/or charges with a crime, the Tribal Defenders offer the following services:

- Civil legal assistance to address housing, social services, and other non-criminal issues;
- Driver's license restoration to determine why clients' licenses are suspended (it can be anything from an unpaid fine to a driving-under-the-influence offense) and how to get their licenses restored; and
- Diversion:
  - Driver's License Restoration – Clients who clear their licenses will have the opportunity for a reduction in charges so their licenses will not be suspended again for a driving-while-suspended conviction.
  - Cultural Mentoring Program – In collaboration with the tribal culture committees, the Tribal Defenders recruit volunteers who assist clients to reconnect to the tribal community and provide cultural mediation between clients and the persons wronged. The Mentoring Program also facilitates meetings with the culture committees to further rehabilitate clients, often resulting in diversion of criminal cases.
  - Bad Checks Diversion Program – The Tribal Defenders make early contact with clients charged with writing bad checks and try to avoid their conviction by encouraging them to pay off the checks before the prosecution goes forward.

Since the Tribal Defenders are underfunded, collaboration is integral to adequately provide client services. For example, the Tribal Defenders collaborate with tribal prosecutors to divert sentences for their clients by using services offered by the Tribal Defenders. Further, the Tribal Defenders collaborate with Tribal Behavioral Health, tribal police, and jail staff who refer clients to the Tribal Defenders' mental health program, so the Tribal Defenders may provide services to inmates in the tribal jail. On occasion, the Tribal Defenders also collaborate with tribal police on community service projects.

**ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS:** Values of any organization, and the quality of staff who maintain those values, are key to success. The Tribal Defenders’ Holistic Defense Model has brought the staff together as a team to provide client-centered services to its clients. As a result, it has established credibility among the people it serves. Services include chemical dependency and mental health assessment, individual therapy, and referrals to the tribal health department, which is operated by the tribe. This ensures transparency among tribal services and improves outcomes through internal coordination. Additionally, this program has collected preliminary data and shown positive program outcomes to support the assertion that the Holistic Defense Model is having a positive effect on clients and the community.

**ANALYSIS:** Attorneys working at the Tribal Defenders’ office stated, “The service should meet the needs of the client instead of asking the client to fit the diversion program. As a result, we don’t always divert. Instead, we offer the service in hopes it will have a rehabilitative impact.”

Clients who had the opportunity to get any or all of the program’s services such as mental health assessment/treatment, cultural mentoring, or driver’s license restoration had lower rates of reoffending than those who did not access services. This is evidenced in the data collection and underscores the need for data collection to show how that information can drive the program’s design and improvements.

Since reducing recidivism is not the only measure of success, it is reasonable to conclude that meeting basic needs and helping clients to develop basic life skills also contribute to self-worth and greater program compliance.

**SUMMARY:** The CSKT Tribal Defenders developed and provide a unique, broad, service-oriented program for tribal clients that supports cultural traditions and includes various age groups and mentoring by tribal elders. The Holistic Defense Model, which the Tribal Defenders have modified and initiated for its tribe, is comprehensive in its scope and services, and it is compassionate toward people who have made poor choices mainly due

### **DATA & PROGRAM OUTCOMES:**

#### **Defenders’ Mental Health Program (2009–2012)**

- 67 clients were served;
  - 80.5% had 3 or fewer subsequent offenses.
  - 48% had no new offenses.
- Average number of clients seen yearly (2009–2014)
  - 25 for mental health and chemical dependency assessment.
  - 10 for psychotherapy.
  - 25 for case management.

#### **Defenders’ Cultural Mentoring Program (2011–2014)**

- 54 individuals were served, and 35 have not reoffended.
- 41 were adults, 13 juveniles.

#### **Driving While Suspended Diversion (2011–2014)**

- 186 clients were charged, and approximately 30 clients per year had their licenses restored— a 64.5% success rate.

to substance abuse disorders and mental health issues. The Tribal Defenders holds its clients accountable to the law while providing them with services to heal that use its clients' cultural values and traditions. This model clearly links clients to the life support that will help them meet their legal requirements while mending the cultural harm their actions caused to themselves, their relatives, and their community.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Email: [defenders@cskt.org](mailto:defenders@cskt.org)

# JOINT JURISDICTIONAL WELLNESS COURT YUROK TRIBE

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** To address the issues of a growing population of tribal offenders appearing before state courts in a manner that is consistent with Yurok Tribe values.

**EMERGING PRACTICE:** Joint Jurisdictional Wellness Court for Adults and Juveniles

**ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:** The Yurok Tribe has a population of over 6,000 members residing mostly within the Yurok Reservation and ancestral territories that are bordered by Del Norte and Humboldt Counties in northern California. The Yurok Tribal Court was established in 1996, and the Yurok Wellness Court was established in 2009.

**PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:** The Yurok Tribal Court, in coordination with Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, developed a collaborative, joint-jurisdictional wellness court that addresses the legal issues of Yurok Tribe members appearing before it in order to promote judicial practices that are consistent with Yurok tribal values and needs. As a result, in certain cases, Del Norte and Humboldt Counties transfer jurisdiction to the Yurok Tribe's joint jurisdictional Wellness Court with the goal of reintegrating tribal members into the culture and life of the Yurok community and to help them establish a crime- and drug-free lifestyle.

**Program Mission:** To provide a path to healing for nonviolent Yurok offenders affected by drugs and/or alcohol through an intensive substance abuse treatment program in order to improve family, community, and cultural involvement; to promote healthy life choices; to ensure they meet their individual and community responsibilities that are integral to their Yurok identity; and to reduce criminal recidivism. Certain cases are transferred from state jurisdiction to tribal court jurisdiction.

**PRACTICE DESIGN AND SERVICES:** There were two main phases in the development of the Yurok Joint Jurisdictional Wellness Court:

1. A multi-step process to enhance the capacity and credibility of the Yurok Tribal Court with the county courts; and
2. Negotiating agreements with partner counties to transfer specific cases involving nonviolent tribal adult offenders from state courts to the Wellness Court.



**ENHANCING THE CAPACITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE YUOK TRIBAL COURT:** There were four main steps that led to the enhanced capacity and credibility of the Yurok Tribal Court. First, the Court recruited staff who could combine their preexisting life skills with newly learned professional standards so they could more readily recognize client needs and incorporate life skills development into treatment plans. Second, the Court planned for the future by anticipating the staffing, financial, and programming needs of the two county's courts. Third, the Court incorporated the values of community and family responsibility into all program components as a restorative part of healing. Last, the process of expunging criminal history records was added to the Court's services once participants completed all the requirements.

Integral to this plan was that the county court judges had professional respect for Chief Judge Abby Abinanti, who was both Chief Judge for the Yurok Tribe and San Francisco Superior Court Commissioner (retired).

**DEVELOPING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:** After the Yurok Tribal Court enhanced its capacity and credibility, it approached the adjoining counties of Del Norte and Humboldt and proposed taking responsibility for nonviolent tribal adult offenders who were on probation and/or eligible for diversion. The Yurok Tribal Court developed a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each county. In these MOUs, both counties agreed to:

1. Co-monitor clients;
2. Establish protocols that would assist in transferring cases;
3. Secure state court recognition of tribal court orders; and
4. Meet the cultural needs of tribal offenders.

The last point is critical because it recognizes that cultural interventions can improve outcomes and restore offenders to a traditional, substance-free lifestyle.

Additionally, a procedural agreement was established to postpone cases pending in each county court when the Wellness Court assumed co-jurisdiction and a client completed an accountability agreement/program and/or other conditions ordered by the Wellness Court.

The MOUs acknowledge both concurrent jurisdiction and the possibility of the Wellness Court petitioning for transfer of cases from the counties or allowing an individual tribal member to petition the Wellness Court directly and submit to its jurisdiction. Once the Wellness Court has jurisdiction over a tribal member's case, it establishes a plan and

weekly schedule for him or her in the Yurok Wellness Court. The client's daily activities are designed to be culturally relevant and restorative.

Additionally under the MOUs, Wellness Court personnel are responsible for compliance monitoring and reporting of any violations to the county court with which they partner. If clients are on probation or parole through the State of California, case managers assist clients to meet the terms and conditions of their probation or parole, including meeting with their probation or parole officer and substance abuse treatment program. Also, the tribal staff will drug test if testing is not done outside of the tribe, as tribal participation requires testing. Tribal probation officers are on call to help guide participants who may be struggling in a given situation. And tribal court staff make house calls and emergency meetings when the participants request them or require assistance.

**YUROK WELLNESS COURT:** The Wellness Court provides mental health screening, treatment planning, case management, and court monitoring for juvenile and adult offenders in both Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. Wellness Court participants are given every opportunity to succeed as problem areas are identified. Lifestyle changes are supported and mentored as cultural traditions are reestablished to provide healing and wellness for the whole person. This includes discussions between the participants and their case managers on how to give back to the community and family, how to be a responsible individual in a cultural context, and how to assure participation in gatherings and ceremony wherever possible.

The Wellness Court also supports participants to return to full family participation, as is appropriate to each case, and it includes support for sobriety and development of life skills. Family cohesion is highly valued within the tribe. This practice reconnects members with their families, cultures, and values by helping them see themselves as connected and supported by the Yurok Tribe.

The Yurok Tribe has a close-knit tribal life and is a welcoming culture that supports recovery and restitution over punishment and retribution for its members. For example, the Yurok Tribe does not support enforcing hiring requirements such as no criminal convictions or requiring a driver's license when it is not a necessary part of the job. It believes responsibility, practicality, and cultural tradition are the keys to success.

**ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS:** The Yurok Tribal Court has established a strong model of intergovernmental coordination with its collaborative court. State judges are familiar with Judge Abinanti, an enrolled member of the Yurok Tribe, as she was the first California Native American woman admitted to the State Bar of California and in the 1990s was

appointed San Francisco Superior Court Commissioner. This familiarity, plus the trust in her Yurok Tribal Court and its outcomes, enhanced collaboration among state and tribal court judges to work together in a joint jurisdictional court. An example of this is when a tribal attorney successfully represented a tribal member in California State Court by requesting and winning approval of an articulated rehabilitation and supervision plan. The tribal attorney's work was limited to court appearances in state court while the tribal probation officers appeared in both state and tribal courts. This process enhanced collaboration and trust in the viability of the Tribal Wellness Court's design and supervision plan.

The Yurok Tribe Joint Jurisdictional Wellness Court concentrates on the life skills and lived experiences of staff; it plans for the future and emphasizes responsibility to the community and family. Recovering or recovered participants are encouraged and supported to attend community events and cultural gatherings in order to contribute to the healing of others. These supported activities help build connections between court participants and their tribal roots, cultural practices, and tribal mentors. Further, staff members with expunged or pardoned records are accepted and invaluable in their ability to connect with the Wellness Court's clients.<sup>1</sup>

Successful examples of Wellness Court graduates include:

- An individual with bipolar disorder and methamphetamine addiction embraced recovery through the Wellness Court. The charge against him originated in county court and through pre-trial diversion, he was released and placed in the Yurok Wellness Court. He ended up in a sober-living home, on medication, living drug free.<sup>2</sup>

**DATA & PROGRAM OUTCOMES:  
Wellness Court clients  
Served (2009–2015)**

- 137 in total
  - 67 (49%) female
  - 70 (50%) male
  - 29 (21%) Humboldt County
  - 106 (77%) Del Norte County
  - 2 (2%) other counties
- 23 (17%) completed probation requirements
- 83% of individuals who completed probation requirements remained clean and sober

<sup>1</sup> Records were expunged through the Clean Slate Program, a program based in San Francisco that helps people clean up their criminal records to make it easier to find employment. <http://sfpublicdefender.org/services/clean-slate/>.

<sup>2</sup> Lee Romney, *Tribal Judge Works for Yurok Style Justice*, L.A. Times, March 5, 2014, <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-yurok-tribal-judge-20140305-dto-htmistory.html#ixzz2vrkyLiXz>.

- An individual who had issues with drugs sought out healing through the Wellness Court after a minor arrest. The Wellness Court staff helped her find a job and live sober.<sup>3</sup>
- The Wellness Court provided one of its graduates, who attended culinary school, a ticket home to cook for a Wellness Gathering and to speak to Wellness Court participants at the gathering.

MOUs between the Tribal Court and the supporting agencies within the cooperating counties enable each governmental entity to assume responsibility for the functions it can discharge most effectively and financially support. Rather than contest one another's jurisdiction, the counties and the Tribal Court agree to share parts of the criminal justice process and to respect one another's actions within each government's agreed-upon domain. The Humboldt County MOU provides for joint supervision of tribal members, and it piloted a successful ankle monitoring program for curfew and alcohol consumption.

**ANALYSIS:** The Wellness Court has demonstrated success with those offenders whose cases were transferred from state court to Wellness Court and who successfully completed the requirements of the Court. Of those who satisfied their probation requirements, 83% have remained clean and sober. Further, the Tribal Court, through this wellness court model, seems to illustrate that it has the capacity to sustain the practice to monitor, supervise, and treat tribal members participating in the Wellness Court. While the number of graduates is low, their stories and examples are meaningful, because they show healing through the Wellness Court's offer of opportunities to participate in cultural enrichment and community support. Those elements of support point to the continued success of Wellness Court graduates.

**JUVENILE WELLNESS COURT:** The success has led to negotiating additional MOUs to address juvenile offender issues in Del Norte County. The Yurok Tribal Court is currently negotiating an MOU to provide for the county and the Yurok Tribal Court to coordinate the disposition of cases, allowing for a joint determination to be made about which jurisdiction handles primary disposition of juvenile cases. Both Humboldt and Del Norte courts agree that the Tribal Court may order culturally appropriate education and case plan activities that include a restorative justice component for all juvenile offenses.

In addition, the Tribal Court is working on an agreement to establish a Youth Wellness Court that will mirror the approach outlined for the adults in Del Norte County. The Tribal

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<sup>3</sup> Lee Romney, *Yurok Tribe's Wellness Court Heals with Tradition*, L.A. Times, March 5, 2014, <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-yurok-wellness-court-20140304-story.html>

Youth Wellness Court will have a separate calendar and is a component of the Yurok Tribal Wellness Court.

**SUMMARY:** The significance and success of a joint jurisdictional wellness court between a tribe and a county in the State of California cannot be overstated. California is a Public Law 83–280 (PL 280) jurisdiction, and some counties have been resistant in recognizing the legitimacy of tribal law enforcement and tribal courts. But western-oriented tribal courts in the state are relatively new and are still developing code and capacity to enforce tribal jurisdiction. At the same time, tribal courts in California are slowly exercising jurisdiction while addressing capacity concerns, lack of cooperation with the state, and limited funding. The Yurok Joint Jurisdictional Wellness Court is a strong and hopeful model for other tribal courts in California and other PL 280 jurisdictions. Its design, capacity building, and strong focus on cultural relevance have enabled it to coordinate with surrounding counties. Its success is measured and reinforced by the success and wellbeing of its participants.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Klamath Tribal Office  
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<http://www.yuroktribe.org/tribalcourt/>

# STRENGTHENING TRIBAL JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION IN A PUBLIC LAW 280 STATE CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** Public Law 83–280, 18 U.S.C. § 1162, 28 U.S.C. § 1360, (PL 280) is complex and misunderstood; thus, the confusion surrounding the law and its misapplication affects the ability of a tribe to fully protect its citizens.

**EMERGING PRACTICE:** Strengthening Tribal Judicial Systems and Intergovernmental Collaboration in a PL 280 State Through Community and Cross-jurisdictional Education

## **ABOUT CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES:**

California Indian Legal Services (CILS) is the oldest not-for-profit law firm in California devoted exclusively to the cause of American Indian rights. Governed by a board of directors whose majority is elected by California tribes, CILS provides free and low cost legal services to California tribes and American Indian

individuals throughout the state and has done so for 48 years. Since 1967, when CILS was part of California’s Rural Legal Assistance, it has fought passionately for the rights and interests of American Indian tribes and individuals both in and out of court. CILS’ expertise and advocacy for tribes and individuals has made an indelible impact on California’s local and state government agencies by elucidating American Indian tribal sovereignty and aiding the legitimacy of tribal justice systems. Today, CILS maintains four field offices (Bishop, Escondido, Eureka, and Sacramento) staffed by advocates, including attorneys, paralegals, and intake workers who serve 58 counties throughout California as well as tribes outside the state on Indian Child Welfare Act matters.

**PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:** CILS is at the forefront of providing community education in the area of tribal court and law enforcement development to tribal and state jurisdictions.

## **Mission:**

The California Indian Legal Services’ mission is to protect and advance Indian rights, foster Indian self-determination, and facilitate tribal nation building. To further its mission, California Indian Legal Services works with tribes to develop their justice systems by aiding in court development, developing code, and advising tribal law enforcement departments.

California is a PL 280 state. PL 280 was passed by Congress and signed into law in 1953, conferring major federal criminal and more limited civil jurisdiction to five mandatory states (Alaska became the sixth upon statehood). Under PL 280, these six states and tribes have concurrent criminal and civil (private causes of actions) jurisdiction in Indian Country, with regulatory jurisdiction remaining exclusively tribal. However, this law has caused confusion and is widely misunderstood.

Tribal court and law enforcement development requires a fundamental understanding of what PL 280 is and what it is not (a complete divestiture of tribal jurisdiction). CILS' educational efforts are therefore also important to the non-tribal community. Educating state and local law enforcement, district attorneys, state judges, probation departments, as well as the federal criminal justice systems (i.e. U.S. Attorneys' Offices) on tribal jurisdiction is critical to the effective exercise of tribal authority.

**PRACTICE DESIGN AND SERVICES:** CILS educates tribes and the community about the nuances of navigating jurisdictional complexities. CILS also educates tribes on new changes impacting their jurisdictions such as amendments to the Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA), through passage of the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act, Pub. L. No. 111-211, and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, 42 U.S.C. § 13925, that return limited criminal jurisdiction to tribal courts over non-Indians accused of domestic violence, dating violence, and violations to protection orders. These new jurisdictional powers come with strict procedural requirements for the tribal courts.

CILS also assists tribes with amending existing tribal laws to add new provisions for the appointment of defense counsel for indigent defendants, making sure a tribe's judge meets the necessary training requirements and other mandated ICRA provisions.

**BUILDING TRUST AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL APPROACH:** Also critical, CILS serves as legal counsel for the California Tribal Police Chiefs' Association (CTPCA). The CTPCA was initially formed in the 1990s and then become dormant. While working with several tribal law enforcement departments throughout the state, CILS encouraged the re-formation of the CTPCA in order to share information, share challenges, and have a voice on critical issues facing law enforcement in California. The CTPCA reestablished itself and has over 15 member departments. Meetings are rotated between southern and northern California and include special guests from the Department, the State's Attorney General Office, representatives from the state highway patrol, local sheriff's departments, and others in order to share common problems and work on solutions.



CILS also provides individual legal assistance to law enforcement departments that have immediate needs and require legal advice. At the request of many law enforcement departments, CILS has offered educational information to their tribal leaders, the local law enforcement agencies that tribal law enforcement departments work with on a day-to-day basis, and the local U.S. Attorney's Office. The presentations focus primarily on the scope of tribal law enforcement authority and specifically authority over non-Indians on the reservation. This work has led to a better understanding by all the players of their respective roles and duties to the tribal community.

Throughout its four decades of service to tribes, CILS has strongly contributed to the substantial gains that California tribes have made in development of justice systems and law enforcement departments that ensure community safety, uphold the rights of U.S. citizens, and provide an opportunity for communities to heal. To continue these efforts, CILS played a crucial role in the re-establishment of the CTCPA. Through its support and encouragement, the CTCPA has been renewed, resulting in improved regard for tribal police and their first access into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS).

**SUPPORTING INITIATIVES FOR ENHANCED TRIBAL JUSTICE:** CILS works with several tribal domestic violence consortiums, all of which have, or are, developing viable tribal programs that include an array of services. CILS has drafted a tribal domestic violence code to give both tribal courts and tribal law enforcement the force of law to act on domestic violence cases. In developing a draft code, CILS worked with the California Administrative Office of the Courts to gain access to all state domestic violence judicial forms. CILS redacted, revised, and edited these state forms to reflect the process and procedure set forth under the Tribal Domestic Violence Code. The theory behind this effort was to allow state judges presented with tribal court temporary or protective orders to feel comfortable with forms they are used to seeing and issuing.

CILS is also working with states, local jurisdictions, and tribes to resolve the issues hampering enforcement of tribal court domestic violence court orders. State law enforcement has been unwilling to enforce tribal court domestic violence orders under current California procedures and processes. California has 58 counties, and the enforcement of tribal court orders can vary from county to county. Additionally, under federal (18 U.S.C. § 2265) and California law (Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act, Family Law Code § 6404), tribal court domestic violence orders are to be enforced by state or local law enforcement without requiring burdensome pre-registration requirements. Under California's current framework, tribal court domestic violence orders are submitted to the local superior court and processed pursuant to an

independent protocol established by that superior court. Again, with over 50 counties, this current process could result in over 50 different superior court protocols. The varied superior court protocols include registration of the court order into the California Restraining and Protective Orders System (CARPOS) and require access to California Court's Protective Order Registry (CCPOR).

Not all tribal courts or tribal law enforcement have access (meaning obtaining or inputting information) to these databases or CLETS. The result of this multi-tiered process is that a victimized tribal member with a valid tribal court domestic violence order may not obtain the immediate protection he or she needs until state law enforcement has completed its verification process. CILS does not believe this was the intent of federal or state law and intends to work with California and tribes to find a resolution to the current practice, and, if necessary, institute litigation to correct the problem.

**CODE DEVELOPMENT:** CILS has worked to support the advancement of tribal courts by drafting tribal codes and educating tribal councils for their passage, a demonstration of tribal sovereignty to support and protect Native children, youth, and adults who, for too long, have been victims without legal protections. For example, CILS provides training and an overview of a model tribal domestic violence code to those tribes that have adopted it, or are interested in adopting it, in order to ensure that law enforcement is familiar with its role in enforcing the code. The code has several provisions directed at what law enforcement must do and what notice must be given to both the victim and the abuser in a domestic violence situation, placing safety as the primary goal for all those involved.

CILS has a longstanding, working relationship with the Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC), a consortium composed of 11 tribes. As ICSC continued to evolve, a new issue emerged in which tribes were seeking court assistance on matters where there was no specific tribal code in place. Cases coming before the ICSC were often emergency situations needing court intervention but created challenges for the tribal court judges. In those cases, CILS developed draft comprehensive codes in certain areas that can then be submitted to each respective ICSC member tribe for tailoring and reframing to meet the tribe's specific circumstances. CILS has the advantage of working with many ICSC member tribes and is familiar with their needs, which proves valuable in drafting uniform codes suited for them.

Tribal code development enhances tribal justice systems by creating law that reflects a tribe's uniqueness. And well-defined tribal law provides guidance for tribal law enforcement officers. A strong tribal justice system not only protects the community as a whole but also

the rights of individuals by ensuring access to legal representation and ensuring a fair process that is overseen by qualified tribal court judges.

**ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS:** Over the years, CILS developed a uniform tribal justice code for tribal law enforcement and courts that has contributed to the legitimacy of those justice systems and tribal courts. The tribal police department of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay has successfully completed a pilot project resulting in the first federally recognized tribal law enforcement department to qualify for access to CLETS. The California Attorney General, the San Diego County Sheriff, and the San Diego County Automated Regional Justice Information System all accepted the pilot project, giving the Sycuan Police Department access to this valuable and needed communications system.

Law enforcement and jurisdictional issues have been on the agenda at California's Annual Tribal Court Conferences for five years. These issues were included as major parts of the 2013 "Tribal and State Law Enforcement Summit" held in San Diego County that was attended by many of the county's 18 tribes as well as state, county, and local law enforcement, judges, and other court personnel, and the Director of the State Attorney General's Office of Indian Affairs. CILS has provided training at five federal Indian law training sessions held for tribal officers seeking their "Special Law Enforcement Commission" from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

CILS has also provided education on tribal jurisdiction to tribal and local law enforcement, tribal members and leaders, state district attorneys, state superior court judges, state probation and parole officers, state highway patrol officers, city police, state public defenders, county councils, and federal judges. CILS has also made presentations to individual tribal councils and their tribal memberships.

The CILS model Tribal Domestic Violence Code gives both tribal courts and tribal law enforcement the force of law to act on domestic violence cases. CILS developed tribal judicial forms that mirror all state domestic violence judicial forms to reflect the process and procedure set forth under the Tribal Domestic Violence Code. This action enables state judges presented with tribal court temporary or protective orders to recognize and honor those orders. One southern California tribe has adopted the model Tribal Domestic Violence Code and two are in the process of reviewing it in preparation for adoption. CILS anticipates that all of the member tribes of the ICSC will adopt the model or some form of a domestic violence code in 2015. Although some tribal courts still issue protection orders without a tribal code, tribal courts are now moving away from that practice and opting to use the model code as an emerging practice.

**SUMMARY:** Tribes and their judicial systems, including tribal law enforcement and tribal courts, located in PL 280 states experience constant challenges to their tribal authority due to the complexity of the law governing shared criminal jurisdiction and the pervasive misunderstanding of that jurisdiction by tribal, state, local, and federal courts and law enforcement agencies. By building strong tribal institutions such as tribal courts and law enforcement, tribes are enabled to exercise their sovereignty in a far more vigorous way. CILS continues to provide legal services that strengthen the foundation of tribal justice systems and enables tribes to keep their members safe and communities strong for future generations.

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# EXPUNGING CRIMINAL RECORDS OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** Criminal histories produce some very problematic collateral consequences that prohibit clients from receiving basic benefits and from fully participating in their communities.

**EMERGING PRACTICE.** Expunging Criminal Records (or Expungement)

### ABOUT OKLAHOMA INDIAN LEGAL

**SERVICES:** Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) is one of five “standalone” Indian law programs in the nation and one of the oldest with 33 years of service to Oklahoma tribes. OILS provides a wide scope of individual and tribal legal services that support Indian people, their tribes, and the State of Oklahoma. The staff attorneys at OILS specialize in civil cases that impact Indian people, including: Indian Child Welfare Act issues, probate and wills for elderly living on restricted or trust land, housing, tribal sovereignty, and individual rights. OILS staff attorneys also represent Indian people in criminal cases held in tribal courts. Funding for OILS programs comes from BJA, Legal Services Corporation, State of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma Bar Foundation, among others.

### Program Mission:

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) is a nonprofit legal aid office providing services to low-income Indians living in Oklahoma. The OILS attorneys and staff represent Indian people in civil cases that are connected to their Indian status, meaning clients are members of federally recognized tribes who are facing problems related to that status. The main OILS office is centrally located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with a satellite office in Ada, Oklahoma. From these locations, OILS attorneys provide services to all 77 counties in the state.

**PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:** Criminal records make it nearly impossible to get a job, qualify for federal housing subsidies, and regain the custody of children. Expunging criminal histories is an emerging practice that can address these collateral issues and ensure that Indian people can heal from their past criminal behavior or recover from their past history of substance abuse. Although the expungement process is arduous and time consuming under Oklahoma law, it provides a crucial service to Indian people who want to repair their lives and be successful.

In Oklahoma, expungement cases delete or modify arrest records with the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation or in local courts, making it possible to answer “no” to whether one has been arrested for or convicted of, a crime. In addition, expungement protects one’s privacy and clears one’s record of past mistakes. Once records are expunged, employers, schools, state and local governmental agencies, or officials are not permitted in any application to mandate disclosure of sealed expunged information or deny services or access to any application based on any crime that was expunged.

The process of expunging criminal records in Oklahoma is very complex and difficult for an individual to navigate without an attorney. It can take attorneys between three and six months to complete the research, filing, and execution process of expungement. Under Oklahoma law, expungement is limited to deferred or delayed sentences. Additionally, sections 18 and 19 of the expungement law allow for the deletion of the entire Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation arrest record, as well as local records. Section 18 expungement is possible in a dozen specific situations, ranging from acquittal and pardon to a successful completion of a nonviolent felony conviction. Some of these provisions have limits on the level of expungement; for example, a record may be expunged as to the general public but may still be available for review by law enforcement. Section 19 defines the limits and procedures for a section 18 expungement, and it must be followed very carefully in order to complete the process.

**PRACTICE DESIGN AND SERVICES:** In 2013, OILS started a program to expunge the criminal records of its clients after noting that criminal histories were creating barriers for them. Through this practice, OILS attorneys and staff have assisted many tribal clients to put their lives back together and reunify with their families and tribes.

OILS attorneys actively advertise its services in its service areas, which include:

- Expungement Clinics: OILS staff attorneys hold clinics around the state that provide education for Indian and non-Indian entities. An expungement brochure is disseminated in person at the clinics. Tribal courts also provide referrals for clients who qualify for services related to expunging their criminal records.
- Website Outreach: OILS distributes an expungement brochure on its [website](#). It may also be ordered by calling 405–943–6457.
- Tribal Code Assistance: For tribes without an expungement code, OILS staff attorneys advise them to include language to accommodate deferred sentences and/or assist with code development.

- Pro se Legal Assistance: OILS provides pro se assistance at tribal courts by helping pro se litigants prepare the proper orders and petitions to correctly resolve their cases.

Once OILS has identified a potential client, it must determine whether the client is eligible to receive services. In order to qualify for the OILS criminal history expungement program, applicants must meet certain requirements: 1) Applicants must be low income, because selection guidelines are based on gross income, the number of people in the home, and the debt of the parties; 2) Applicants must be Oklahoma residents; 3) Applicants must be enrolled members of a tribe; 4) Applicants must have completed a deferred sentence; and 5) Applicants must have completed terms of probation and time limits of sentence/probation under Oklahoma law. Once OILS has determined eligibility, it begins the process under the applicable jurisdiction to assist its clients to expunge their records.

**ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS:** The following examples are two of many that reveal the value of expungement for ex-offenders who can now contribute to their families and tribes in unexpected ways:

- Housing Accessibility. A client wanted to apply for a home ownership program through a local tri-county self-help housing program. She was concerned that her past criminal record would prevent her from qualifying for the program and hesitated to apply. OILS was able to get all of her criminal record expunged from the public record and encouraged her to apply for the housing program. She did so and is now the owner of a new three-bedroom home.
- Employment Protection. A registered nurse was charged with indecent exposure and disorderly conduct. The indecent exposure charge would have required him to register as a sex offender and result in the loss of his professional license. His crime was urinating in the public parking lot of a casino. OILS represented him in the tribal court and the indecent exposure charge was dismissed. He was given a deferred sentence on the disorderly conduct charge. Upon the completion of his deferred sentence, the charge was dismissed and OILS had his record expunged. He was able to keep his professional license.

**DATA & PROGRAM OUTCOMES:**  
 Expungement of Criminal Records.  
 Number of clients served (2013–2015)

- 29 male clients
- 24 female clients



**ANALYSIS:** The basic data in no way accurately reflects the life-changing impact of expunging criminal records for clients. It also does not reflect the opportunities OILS provides to clients who would not otherwise have them because the service removes barriers that are prohibiting their clients from taking advantage of meaningful opportunities and services. As a result of months of work by the OILS attorneys to expunge the criminal records of 53 tribal members, those 53 people now have opportunities to thrive in ways that they considered impossible.

**SUMMARY:** Individuals who have made mistakes in their past, including very minor ones, are still paying for those mistakes today. The practice of expunging criminal records is an extremely beneficial service to clients who have completed their deferred sentences and/or probation or parole requirements but are hampered by their past criminal records to qualify for housing or work, or even regain custody of their children. For those past criminal records that qualify for expungement under the law, those clients who receive the services experience an immediate benefit. Individual and family lives are mended in ways that ensure they are on a path to wholeness.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<http://www.oilsonline.org>

## Additional Resources

### TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT

BJA Tribal Law and Order Act: [http://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program\\_ID=88](http://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=88)

BIA Office of Justice Services: <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OJS/index.htm>

Tribal Justice and Safety at the Department of Justice: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal>

Tribal Law & Order Resource Center: <http://tloa.ncai.org/>

Indian Law and Order Commission: <http://www.aisc.ucla.edu/iloc/>

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Office on Violence Against Women: <http://www.justice.gov/ovw>

Tribal Implementation of VAWA: <http://www.ncai.org/tribal-vawa>

Tribal Protection Orders: <http://www.TribalProtectionOrder.org>

### FUNDING

OJP: <http://ojp.gov/funding/>

Community Oriented Policing (COPS): <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=46>.

OVW: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/ovwgrantprograms.htm>

Administration for Native Americans (ANA): <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/grants>

Project Team: <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/evidence-based-policy-center/stakeholder-engagement/project-team.cfm>

Grants.Gov: <http://www.grants.gov/>

### OTHER RESOURCES

NAICJA: <http://www.naicja.org/>

Tribal Law and Policy Institute, Walking on Common Ground:

<https://www.walkingoncommonground.org/>

Tribal Law and Policy Institute, Healing to Wellness Courts: <http://www.wellnesscourts.org/>

National Criminal Justice Association: <http://www.ncja.org/>

National Institute of Justice: Tribal Crime and Justice: <http://www.nij.gov/topics/tribal-justice/Pages/welcome.aspx>

Tribal Justice Exchange: <http://www.courtinnovation.org/topic/tribal-justice>  
National Indian Law Library (NILL via NARF): <http://www.narf.org/nill/resources/tloa.html>  
BJA National Training and Technical Assistance Center: <https://www.bjatrainng.org/>  
CrimeSolutions.gov: <http://www.crimesolutions.gov/>  
The National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC):  
<https://csgjusticecenter.org/jc/category/reentry/nrrc/>  
NRRC Tribal Affairs: <https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/issue-areas/tribal-affairs/>  
The National Parole Resource Center (NPRC): <http://nationalparoleresourcecenter.org/>  
Resource Center for the Elimination of Prison Rape (PREA Resource Center):  
<http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/>  
Development of PREA Related Products for Indian Country: [https://www.appa-net.org/eweb/Dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=IV\\_ProjectDetail&wps\\_key=386afa46-0796-4e80-8aa6-73afdee32923](https://www.appa-net.org/eweb/Dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=IV_ProjectDetail&wps_key=386afa46-0796-4e80-8aa6-73afdee32923)