



NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION
SERVING TRIBAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS SINCE 1969

1942 BROADWAY, SUITE 321 / BOULDER, CO 80302 | **PHONE** 303.449.4112 | **FAX** 303.449.4038

Statement regarding COVID-19 from the National American Indian Court Judges Association

Dear members of our tribal judicial communities:

First and foremost, the NAICJA Board of Directors, Steering Committee, and staff would like to offer our full support to your courts during this time. NAICJA's main goal is to serve as a resource for tribal courts, judges, and court personnel, and this remains our top priority. Fortunately, the NAICJA staff are able to work from our homes while remaining in constant contact with one another. NAICJA is up and running, albeit from separate spaces, and we are here for you just the same as always.

Second, we would like to take a look at the measures each of your courts is taking to mitigate the spread of the virus. While the CDC recommends "social distancing" and working remotely if possible, courts are faced with a unique set of challenges in trying to comply with these guidelines. Courts must continue to keep communities safe, especially during times of uncertainty.

With that said, we are developing a resource page that will be available on the NAICJA website that tribal courts can use when faced with the circumstances that we are currently in. **The amount of information circulating can be overwhelming. The resource page is being put together so that we can share resources with each other and support each other. It's important to remember that we are facing these circumstances together, and pooling our knowledge will benefit all.**

We are hosting a virtual discussion about the current situation with the NAICJA membership, and we invite all tribal court judges to join us this Wednesday at 1:00 MST. If you have time before the virtual discussion, please take a few moments to let us know how you are doing and to answer the following questions:

1. **Has your court implemented any announcement or change of policy, and if so, would you be willing to share that information?**
2. Are your courts shutting down?
3. How are you responding in light of this pandemic?
4. Is your court set up for telephonic or video conferencing?
5. How much can we do telephonically?
6. How are we assisting the elderly and pro se litigants in court?
7. What forms are you using?
8. What issues are you facing?
9. What else would you like to discuss?
10. Do you have any resources that you can share related to mindfulness and health?
11. How are you funded and/or do you have grants/638 funding?
12. Does your court permit e-filing? Do you have a court rule or procedures related to e-filing?

As we strive to adjust to this challenging time, know that you and the health and safety of your communities and courts will continue to be our priority. **Stay safe. Stay healthy.**

Sincerely,
NAICJA Board of Directors, Steering Committee, and Staff

NAICJA is a national association comprised of tribal justice personnel & others devoted to supporting and strengthening tribal justice systems through education, information sharing, and advocacy.

Region One

Hon. Greg Bigler
Hon. C. Steven Hager
Hon. Lisa Herbert-Otipoby

Region Two

Hon. Richard Blake
Hon. Claudette White

Region Three

Hon. Meredith Drent
Hon. Cindy Smith
Hon. Mark Pouley

Region Five

Hon. Brenda Claymore
Hon. Jessica Bear
Hon. Karen Jeffries
Hon. Danielle Finn

Region Seven

Hon. Carrie Garrow
Hon. Kevin Briscoe
Hon. Evelyn George Shongo
Hon. Tina Osceola

Region Eight

Hon. Adam Crepelle
Hon. Peggy Bird
Hon. Sheila Martinez

Region Nine

Hon. Alexandria Troxell
Hon. Virginia Wolf

Region Ten

Hon. Layatalati Hill
Hon. JoDeen B. Lowe
Hon. John Powless III

NAICJA Staff

Nikki Borchardt Campbell, Executive Director
Ansley Sherman, Program Attorney
Rebekah HorseChief, Program Coordinator
Elton Naswood, Program Coordinator