



# A Holistic Approach to Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance

May 27-28, 2014 | Tulalip, WA



## Agenda | Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Location: Tulalip Resort & Casino | Chinook 1 Room | 10200 Quil Ceda Blvd. | Tulalip, WA

8:00 AM Registration

8:30 AM Welcome & Road Map for the day

Judge Richard Blake, Vice President, National American Indian Court Judges Association  
Ye-Ting Woo, Assistant United States Attorney, Western District of Washington  
Robin Steinberg, Founder and Executive Director, The Bronx Defenders

9:15 AM Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) Overview and TLOA in Practice

Judge Ron Whitener, Associate Judge, Tulalip Tribal Court

This session provides an overview of the TLOA of 2010. The enhanced sentencing of TLOA will be discussed along with the requirements for eligibility, when the enhanced sentencing can be utilized, and the standards that tribes must meet in order to exercise this enhanced sentencing. Meeting these standards involve far more than just providing legal representation to defendants, instead implementation often requires a system-wide response and effort.

9:45 AM Stretch Break

10:00 AM Importance of Collaboration and Communication in Tribal Justice Systems

Judge Gary Bass, Associate Judge, Tulalip Tribal Court  
Millie Kennedy, Senior Attorney, Native American Unit, Northwest Tribal Justice Project  
Molly Cohan, Tribal Court Public Defense Clinic, University of Washington School of Law

The key to providing a successful all-around services to indigent defendants and those seeking civil assistance is intra-tribal communication and collaboration. The panelists introduce their models of and describe the level of communication that takes place within tribal justice systems to ensure successful practices.

11:00 AM Roundtables 1 | Communication within Justice Systems and Tribes: Working Together

During this first roundtable session, the teams and individuals will work in groups defined by community. They will meet and work together to identify how they currently share information and communicate about the services they provide, identify the needs of their clientele and the resources available to them. They will then identify ways to improve or establish the communication processes and protocols between their respective departments, organizations, and tribes. This will entail coming to a consensus on types of information they should and could share, identifying obstacles to sharing and communicating, and devising a strategy to overcome any identified obstacles.

12:00 PM Lunch (on your own) | Participants may purchase their lunch from one of the food establishments in the Resort.

1:30 PM Criminal Indigent Defense in Indian Country - Holistic Defense Models

Robin Steinberg, Founder and Executive Director, The Bronx Defenders  
Ann Sherwood, Managing Attorney, Tribal Defenders, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

This session explores the holistic defense model and its application in the tribal setting. Holistic defense is an innovative, client-centered approach to public defense representation that addresses both the *circumstances* driving people into the criminal justice system as well as the *consequences* of that involvement by offering criminal, and related civil legal representation, social work support, and advocacy in the community. The benefits of this model will be explained, as well as, how this model of tribal defense comports with many traditional, tribal notions of justice.

2:30 PM Models of Civil Legal Assistance in Indian Country

Cody Nelson, Co-Executive Director, Anishinabe Legal Services  
Christina Parker, Staff Attorney, Tulalip Office of Civil Legal Aid

This panel session presents a number of innovative approaches taken by tribal communities to ensure that the civil legal

assistance needs of their community members are met. In this discussion, the panel will highlight how creative collaborations enabled these communities to identify their priorities and needs, leverage their resources, and work together as partners to meet the legal assistance needs of community members.

3:30 PM **Stretch Break**

3:45 PM **Roundtables 2 | The Importance and Need for Criminal Indigent Defense & Civil Legal Assistance in Indian Country: Brainstorming Strategies**

During this roundtable, teams and individuals will take time to figure out how they can work together collaboratively to raise awareness within their communities and with their community leaders regarding the need for criminal and civil legal assistance. This will mean examining how they currently share this information within their service population and with their community leadership, as well as analyzing the effectiveness of their current process. Then the teams will explore how they can, collaboratively, work to raise this awareness. This will entail the needs, current services and gaps in legal assistance services

5:00 PM **Recess**

## Wednesday, May 28, 2014

**Location:** Tulalip Resort and Casino | 10200 Quil Ceda Blvd. | Tulalip, WA

8:30 am **Reconvening & Road Map for the Day**

Judge Richard Blake, Vice President, National American Indian Court Judges Association

9:00 am **Identifying Resources and Collaborating for Successful Programming**

Jeff Tomave, Tomhave Group, Inc.

David Wertheimer, Deputy Director, Pacific Northwest Initiative, Gates Foundation

Christina Parker, Staff Attorney, Tulalip Office of Civil Legal Aid

Leona Colgrove, Chief Judge, Quileute Tribe and Round Valley Tribe

This panel addresses methods for identifying financial resources and how organizations and tribes might be able to leverage their current funding to help sustain their current programming. This panel will also highlight how the community teams could use their current resources to assist with funding their legal assistance programs.

10:15 am **Stretch Break**

10:30 am **Identifying Resources and Collaborating for Successful Programming, *Continued***

The second half of this panel will discuss the importance of identifying useful resources and contacts within their tribal, community and network in order to improve access to legal assistance. The panelists will discuss how their organizations have teamed together with others within their network to provide a collaborative approach to addressing issues related to providing legal assistance in their communities.

12:00 PM **Lunch (on your own)** | Participants may purchase their lunch from one of the food establishments in the Resort.

1:30 pm **Roundtables 3 | Identifying Resources and Opportunities for Collaboration**

During this roundtable session, the community teams and individuals will work as groups to identify the current resources they utilize in their departments and organizations, as well as those in the community or surrounding areas that could be used to provide or improve access to legal assistance within their community. The team members will work together to explore how those opportunities could be leveraged through collaboration. The teams will be tasked with developing a plan or strategy for collaborating with each other and with the identified, untapped or underutilized resources that currently exist in their community or surrounding area.

2:30 pm **Stretch Break**

2:45 pm **Roundtables 4 | Action Planning & Next Steps: Keeping the Momentum Going**

During this final roundtable session, the community teams will be tasked with pulling their earlier roundtable efforts together to draft an action plan to implement upon their return to their communities. The teams will be asked to map out their goal(s) and objectives from each of the prior three roundtables. They will be charged with developing a timeline for meeting those objectives and related tasks naming responsible team membership for each. Start and end dates will need to be provided for each major objective. Each team member will be emailed a copy of the action plan after the training to keep the momentum going. For those attending as individuals, they will be asked to also develop an action plan and timeline based on the brainstorming sessions.

3:45 pm **Wrap Up & Next Steps**

4:00 pm **Meeting Adjournment**

