CAL DOJ ICWA Compliance Task Force

BEYOND THE BENCH
ANAHEIM, CA
DECEMBER 3, 2015

Task Force Background

- Establishment of the Attorney General's new Bureau of Children's Justice (BCJ).
- The new BCJ and it's goals highlighted at the annual ICWA conf in June 2015.
- Following the annual ICWA event AG's BCJ and ONAA asked tribal leaders for comment and ongoing information related to laws being violated and patterns of non-compliance with the Act.

Establishment of the Task Force

- ICWA advocates and Tribal Leaders requested additional meetings with Cal DOJ.
- Meeting notices were sent to all of California's federally recognized tribes.
- All tribes across US have been noticed of TF.
- Need for ICWA Compliance Task Force was established on September 8 and October 27, 2015.
- Task Force is independent of Cal DOJ.
- Task Force is autonomous and operates under the direction of Tribal leadership.
Mission of the Task Force

- To generate recommendations for Cal DOJ’s review of systemic failures impacting Indian children and their families.
- In order to present an accurate assessment of the tribal perspective on the ICWA laws being violated, the Task Force has established three dates for listening session calls.
- Soft deadline for report informing BCJ of laws violated and recommendations for best practices to improve ICWA compliance by February 1, 2016.

ICWA TF Report and Recommendations

My personal hope is the report and recommendations will be a compelling vision of compliance for the future of ICWA in California.

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