



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA

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## FACT SHEET

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### Tribal/State Programs

Established in November of 2009, as part of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, this unit assists the state judicial branch with the development of policies, positions, and programs to promote the highest quality of justice and service for California's Native American communities in all case types and implements tribal-state programs that improve the administration of justice in all proceedings in which the authority to exercise jurisdiction by the state judicial branch and the tribal justice systems overlaps.

#### Goals

The goals of the Tribal/State Programs Unit are to:

1. Conduct community outreach to California's Native American citizens who reside on reservations or rancherias and in urban communities to provide information about the judicial branch—the state courts and court-connected services;
2. Collaborate with tribes in California and California's Native American communities, organizations, and service providers to gather information about the justice-related needs of California's Native American citizens;
3. Develop and promote strategies and programs that are responsive to identified justice-related needs;
4. Provide education and technical assistance to state courts and court-connected services on Public Law 280, Indian law issues relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and indigenous justice systems;
5. Act as a liaison between the state and tribal courts to build professional relationships and to improve access by tribal courts to education, technical assistance, and other resources;
6. Promote mutually beneficial intergovernmental cooperation among tribal courts, state courts, and appropriate tribal, state, and local agencies; and
7. Develop and disseminate justice-related information and reports needed by tribal and state agencies to work together effectively.

### **Recent Activities**

The unit's activities include:

- Tribal Court–State Court Forum projects listed in its annual agenda;
- Judicial education and resources on federal Indian law;
- State/Tribal Education, Partnerships, and Services–Child Welfare;
- State/Tribal Education, Partnerships, and Services– Domestic Violence.
- Clearinghouse of information on California's tribal communities and tribal justice systems.

### **Tribal Court/State Court Forum (forum)**

The forum, established by the Chief Justice, comprised of tribal court judges and state court judges and justices, makes policy recommendations to the Judicial Council for improving the administration of justice in all proceedings in which the authority to exercise jurisdiction by the state judicial branch and the tribal justice systems overlaps.

[www.courts.ca.gov/3065.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/3065.htm) and [www.courts.ca.gov/forum.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forum.htm)

### **Education and Legal Services on Federal Indian Law**

This unit provides education and legal services to judges on federal Indian law as it applies to all civil and criminal cases.

[www.courts.ca.gov/27002.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/27002.htm)

### **S.T.E.P.S. to Justice- Child Welfare**

This unit provides education, technical assistance, and resources to comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act in juvenile dependency and delinquency cases, family custody and probate guardianship cases.

[www.courts.ca.gov/3067.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/3067.htm)

### **S.T.E.P.S. to Justice- Domestic Violence**

This unit provides local educational and technical assistance relating to domestic violence and focusing on tribal/state/county collaboration.

[www.courts.ca.gov/documents/STEPS\\_toJustice-DV.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/STEPS_toJustice-DV.pdf)

**Clearinghouse of Resources**

- California's Tribal Communities  
[www.courts.ca.gov/3066.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/3066.htm)
- Tribal Justice Systems  
Resources on tribal courts and for tribal courts  
[www.courts.ca.gov/3064.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/3064.htm)
- Family Violence and Tribal Communities  
Resources relating to domestic violence  
[www.courts.ca.gov/14851.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/14851.htm)
- Professional Resources
  - California Tribal Courts Directory ([www.courts.ca.gov/14400.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/14400.htm))
  - California Tribal Court Map (<http://g.co/maps/cvdq8>)
  - Statewide Directory of Native American Services  
([www.courts.ca.gov/5807.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/5807.htm))
  - California Toolkit for Tribal/State/Federal Court Administrators and Clerks  
([www.courts.ca.gov/documents/courttoolkit-tribalstatefederal-adminclerks.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/courttoolkit-tribalstatefederal-adminclerks.pdf))

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*Additional resources:*

[www.courts.ca.gov/programs-tribal.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-tribal.htm)