



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

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[forum@jud.ca.gov](mailto:forum@jud.ca.gov)

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

June 9, 2022  
12:15-1:15 p.m.

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**Advisory Body Members Present:** *Hon. Abby Abinanti, Co-chair*, Hon. Erin Alexander, Hon. April Attebury, Hon. Richard Blake, Hon. Gregory Elvine-Kreis, Hon. Ana España, Mr. Christopher Haug, Hon. Joni Hiramoto, Hon. Lawrence King, Hon. Patricia Lenzi, Hon. Devon Lomayesva, Hon. Nicholas Mazanec, Hon. Victorio Shaw, Ms. Christina Snider, Hon. Dean Stout, Hon. Allen Sumner, Hon. Sunshine Sykes, Hon. Mark Vezzola, Hon. Christine Williams, Ms. Stephanie Weldon.

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** *Hon. Suzanne Kingsbury, Cochair*, Hon. Leona Colegrove, Hon. Gail Dekreon, Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.), Hon. Patricia Guerrero, Ms. Merri Lopez-Keifer, Hon. Gilbert Ochoa, Hon. Michael Sachs, Hon. Delia Sharpe, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Hon. Joseph Wiseman.

**Others Present:** Ms. Vida Castaneda, Ms. Ann Gilmour, Ms. Anne Hadreas, Ms. Andi Liebenbaum, Ms. Amanda Morris.

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OPEN MEETING

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**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The co-chairs called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Forum approved the April 14, 2022, meeting minutes Motion by Judge King Second by judge Lenzi, motion carries.

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DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)

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**Item 1**

**Cochairs Report**

Planning in-person meeting

**Item 2**

**Review of the New Amnesty International Report: "The Never-Ending Maze: Continued Failure to Protect Indigenous Women from Sexual Violence in the USA" & Discussion on Education and Prevention Efforts in California.**

*Presenter: Vida Castaneda, Senior Analyst, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Judicial Council of California*

Ms. Vida Castaneda provided an overview of the recently released [report](#) from Amnesty International focusing on four specific areas that the Forum has been concerned with over the years including issues of legal jurisdiction under the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Violence Against Women Act; issues surrounding policing including resources for tribal police, interagency coordination and investigation responses; healthcare and services to victims; and problems related to prosecutions including federal restrictions on tribal authority to prosecute crimes, declination rates for U.S. Attorney Office prosecutions and cooperation among agencies regarding Indian Country crimes.

New committee members asked if this is the first time the DV issue has been brought to the forum's attention and were advised that it has been a continuing topic of discussion. The Forum collaborates with the CSEC Action Team and the VAWEPC committee on these issues. A committee member was part of a committee that offered a week long training for judges on DV issues, it's nationally available to all including tribal court judges and would highly recommend the training.

A member of the Forum has been BIA to put together a training for DV and VAWA reauthorization to give the tribes a base line understanding of what is required if tribes in California want to exercise the expanded jurisdiction providing for in the VAWA reauthorization.

Several tribal court judges expressed interest in partnering on such a training and plans for their courts to expand jurisdiction.

**Item 3**

**Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report: Relevance for Child Welfare and Courts**

*Presenter: Ann Gilmour, Attorney, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Judicial Council of California*

This item was deferred to the August meeting due to lack of time.

**Item 4**

**Rules and Forms: Family Law: Recognition of Tribal Court Orders Relating to Division of Marital Assets**

*Presenter: Ann Gilmour, Attorney, Center for Families, Children and the Courts, Judicial Council of California*

Proposal to adopt two new forms AB 627 went to public comment, only 4, only minor suggestions and revisions. Commenters said rules for implementation would be helpful. In the future.

Members had no additional comments or edits to the proposal.

Motion to approve sending the proposal to the rules committee: Judge Stout, seconded by Judge King. No discussion. Motion carries

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## **A D J O U R N M E N T**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on August 11, 2022.