



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

August 11, 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, Hon. Joseph Wiseman.

**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.

**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 12:17 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Forum approved the June 9, 2022, meeting minutes Motion by Wiseman Second by, Judge Espana motion carries.

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DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)

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**Item 1**

**Cochairs Report**

Reminder about the September 30<sup>th</sup> Tribal Safety training taking place in Sacramento. Funding is available to support attendance at the training. Please also make hotel reservations for October 19 in person meeting in San Francisco. Travel instructions for the October 19 meeting will go out by the end of the week.

Judge Abinanti advised members about hearings of the Congressional Commission on Native Children. The hearings will take place in Sacramento on August 25-26. This is the only hearing that will take place in California. Members are invited to attend. There is a virtual option as well available through the registration link in the flyer.

**Item 2**

**Background and context for Truth and Healing Initiatives**

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

Provided background and context for the Federal Boarding School Initiative in the United States and the Truth and Healing initiatives. Discussed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The background to that Commission, its work, its findings and its recommendations and outcomes.

**Item 3**

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

*Presenter: Judge Patricia Lenzi, Chief Judge of the Cedarville Rancheria and Washoe Tribal Courts*

Presented to the committee on the recently released U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report. Provided the history and background to the report, highlights, and personal connections to the atrocities of the boarding schools resulting in generations of trauma. Discussed how the repercussions of the trauma inflicted in the boarding schools can be seen today in the overrepresentation of indigenous peoples in the criminal justice and child welfare systems. Discussed the importance of judges and others within the justice system being aware of this history and trauma when dealing with Indian people in their systems.

Other members agreed that there is a real lack of understanding of this historical trauma generally, so this report will help with education.

**Item 4**

**California Truth and Healing Council: Update and Judicial Branch Issues**

*Presenter: Ms. Christina Snider, Tribal Affairs Secretary to Governor Gavin Newsom*

Discussed the work of the California Truth and Healing Council which was established by Governor Newsom. The California Truth and Healing Council is focused on addressing historical wrongs done to California's Indian population including through historical laws and governmental acts discriminating and enslaving Native Americans in the state of California. Governor Newsom apologized for this history and established the Council. The Council is native lead and community driven. The Council is holding listening sessions and meetings with individuals throughout the state. There will be an report and recommendations due in 2025.

Committee members recommend additional judicial training on these subjects and asked for copies of the PowerPoints to be distributed.

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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 1:16 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on October 19, 2022.