



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

December 8, 2022  
12:15-1:15 p.m.

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**Advisory Body Members Present:** *Hon. Abby Abinanti, Co-chair, Hon. Suzanne Kingsbury, Cochair, Hon. Richard Blake, Hon. Ana España, Hon. Joni Hiramoto, Hon. Joni Hiramoto, Hon. Winston Keh, Hon. Lawrence King, Hon. Kristina Lindquist, Hon. Devon Lomayesva, Ms. Merri Lopez-Keifer, Hon. Nicholas Mazanec, Hon. Dorothy McLaughlin, Hon. Stephen Place, Hon. Mark Ralphs, Hon. Dean Stout, Hon. Allen Sumner, Hon. Alison Tucher, Ms. Stephanie Weldon, Hon. Christine Williams, Hon. Joseph Wiseman.*

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** *Hon. April Attebury, Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.), Mr. Christopher Haug, Hon. Patricia Lenzi, Hon. Gilbert Ochoa, Hon. April Olson, Ms. Andrea Pella, Hon. Delia Sharpe, Hon. Victorio Shaw, Ms. Christina Snider, Hon. Mark Vezzola.*

**Others Present:** *Ms. Vida Castaneda, Ms. Charli Depner, Ms. Audrey Fancy, 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 12:18 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Forum approved the October 19, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Judge Alison Tucher, seconded by Judge Lawrence King. The motion carried.

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DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-3)

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**Item 1**

**Cochairs Report**

The co-chairs updated members on the status of the annual agenda development process.

**Item 2**

**Rules and Forms: Discretionary Tribal Participation in Juvenile Cases Involving Tribal Children**

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

Ann Gilmour provided committee members with an overview of changes made to the proposal following comments by the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee. Members were then invited to express any comments, questions, additions, or revisions. An updated version of documents will be reviewed by the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee on December 12, 2022.

**Item 3**

**Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Court Conference**

*Presenter: Honorable Kristina B. Lindquist, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento*

Judge Kristina Lindquist gave the committee a report of the ICWA court conference she and others from the Sacramento ICWA court attended in New Mexico early that month. The conference provided information and examples of how courts implement ICWA laws and make native children more comfortable and included in their court. Also highlighting how state courts are collaborating with tribes. Materials from the conference can be shared on request.

**New Item**

**Judicial Privacy and Security:**

*Presenter: Hon. Richard Blake, Chief Judge of the Redding Rancheria, and Hoopa Tribal Courts.*

Judge Blake raised a concern that the personal information of tribal court judges is not protected in the same way that the personal information of state and federal court judges and their families is protected. The committee held a discussion regarding the safety of tribal court judges and potential action to protect their personal information. This would mirror protections already provided to state court judges. The committee agreed that this will remain an open item for further discussion.

**New Item**

**Tribal Dependency Representation**

*Presenter: Ms. Stephanie Weldon, Director California Department of Social Services, Office of Tribal Affairs.*

Ms Stephanie Weldon proposed a new discussion item for the next committee meeting in February 2023 to present updated information on the state's tribal dependency program.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on February 9, 2022.