



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

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TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

February 9, 2023
12:15-1:15 p.m.

Advisory Body Members Present: *Hon. Abby Abinanti, Co-chair, Hon. Joyce Hinrichs, Cochair, Hon. April Attebury, Hon. Richard Blake, Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.), Hon. Tara Flanagan, Mr. Christopher Haug, Hon. Winston Keh, Hon. Lawrence King, Hon. Patricia Lenzi, Hon. Kristina Lindquist, Hon. Devon Lomayesva, Ms. Merri Lopez-Keifer, Hon. Nicholas Mazanec, Hon. Dorothy McLaughlin, Hon. April Olson, Hon. Mark Ralphs, Ms. Christina Snider, Hon. Dean Stout, Ms. Stephanie Weldon, Hon. Christine Williams.*

Advisory Body Members Absent: *Hon. Ana España, Hon. Joni Hiramoto, Hon. Gilbert Ochoa, Ms. Andrea Pella, Hon. Stephen Place, Hon. Delia Sharpe, Hon. Victorio Shaw, Hon. Allen Sumner, Hon. Alison Tucher, Hon. Mark Vezzola, Hon. Joseph Wiseman.*

Others Present: *Ms. Jo Carrillo, Ms. Vida Castaneda, Ms. Audrey Fancy, Ms. Ann Gilmour, Ms. Anne Hadreas, Ms. Andi Liebenbaum, Ms. Mica Llerandi, Mr. Ray Mata, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Aviva Simon, Ms. Christy Simons.*

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The co-chairs called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Forum approved the December 8, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Judge Lawrence King and seconded by Judge Winston Keh. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)

Item 1

Cochairs Report

Ms. Ann Gilmour introduced new Judicial Council Staff that will be working with the committee. Judge Abby Abinanti sends her appreciation to staff who have left.

Judge Abby Abinanti updated the committee on new legislation that would give tribal courts and tribal law enforcement access to the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System.

Item 2

Legislation to Address Issue of Foster Children Missing from Placement

Presenter: Honorable Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribal Court

Judge Abby Abinanti briefed the committee on Assembly Bill 273 that would set standards and procedures that agencies and courts would be required to follow when children go missing from foster care. Currently procedures are not standardized and are not always followed. Parents, tribes, and others concerned with the child are sometimes not notified when children go missing from foster care. This creates a safety risk to these children.

Item 3

Tribal Dependency Representation Program

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

Ms. Stephanie Weldon presented the Tribal Dependency Representation Program from the Office of Tribal Affairs to committee members. The program allocates 4.1 million dollars of California state general funds to providing juvenile dependency representation to federally recognized tribes. The Office of Tribal Affairs is visiting tribes to urge them to sign up for the program and utilize these funds.

Item 4

Tribal Legal Development Clinic: UCLA School of Law

Presenter: Mica R. Llerandi, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Director of the Tribal Legal Development Clinic

Ms. Mica Llerandi provided a background of the Tribal Legal Development clinic from the University of California system and is looking for more projects that could utilize this program. The clinic can work on a broad spectrum of projects and is at no cost.

Multiple Forum members commented that they have utilized this clinic in the past and have found it very useful.

Item 5

UC San Francisco Law: Indigenous Law Center

Presenter: Professor Jo Carrillo, Faculty Director

Professor Jo Carrillo informed the committee on a new summer program from the UC San Francisco Indigenous Law Center that provides stipends for students to be placed in rural areas of northern California to offer low-cost legal services to tribal communities.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on April 13, 2023.