



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

[www.courts.ca.gov/forum.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forum.htm)  
[forum@jud.ca.gov](mailto:forum@jud.ca.gov)

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

June 11, 2020  
12:15-1:15 p.m.

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**Advisory Body Members Present:** *Hon. Abby Abinanti, Co-chair, Hon. Suzanne Kingsbury, Cochair, Hon. Erin Alexander, Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.), Ms. Heather Hostler, Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Kristina Kalka, Hon. Lawrence King, Hon. Devon Lomayesva, Hon. Michael Sachs, Hon. Cindy Smith, Ms. Christina Snider, Hon. Sunshine Sykes, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Hon. Mark Vezzola, Hon. Christine Williams, Hon. Joseph Wiseman.*

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** *Hon. April Attebury, Hon. Richard Blake, Hon. Hilary Chittick, Hon. Leona Colegrove, Hon. Gail Dekreon, Hon. Gregory Elvine-Kreis, Hon. Patricia Guerrero, Commissioner Jayne Lee, Hon. Patricia Lenzi, Hon. Gilbert Ochoa, Hon. Robert Trentacosta, Hon. Claudette White.*

**Others Present:** *Ms. Vida Castaneda, Ms. Audrey Fancy, Ms. Ann Gilmour, Ms. Andi Leibowitz, 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 12:20 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Forum approved the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes.  
Judge Williams abstained from voting due to not attending the meeting.

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DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)

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**Info 1**

**Co-Chairs Report**

Nominations period was extended and just closed on June 5, 2020.

Forum Annual Agenda was approved on April 24, 2020.

ICWA conference on June 24/25, 2020 (virtually). Registration fee is \$50. Open to anyone who wants to attend. Contact Ann Gilmour with questions.

**Info 2**

**Legislative and Rules and Forms Proposals:**

The comment period for the below four proposals ended on June 9, 2020 and JCC staff are drafting responses.

- Proposal for Judicial Council–Sponsored Legislation (Family Law): Recognition of Tribal Court Orders Relating to the Division of Marital Assets, Item Number: LEG20-03
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Consent to Temporary Custody of an Indian Child, Item Number: SPR20-29
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Tribal Information Form, Item Number: SPR20-30
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Remote Appearance by an Indian Child’s Tribe in ICWA Proceedings, Item Number: SPR20-3

### **Info 3**

#### **Legislative Update**

*Presenter: Ms. Andi Liebenbaum, Attorney, Judicial Council Office of Governmental Affairs*

There are no ICWA specific bills currently moving forward in the Legislature. As a result of the Legislature’s need to reduce their bill load and focus on COVID 19 relief, many bills were withdrawn from consideration this year.

### **Info 4**

#### **Proposed Southwest Regional Cross-Jurisdictional Conference to address common topics of concern in order to promote collaboration and inspire new ideas across state, tribal, and federal jurisdictions.**

*Presenter: Hon. Lawrence C. King, Chief Judge of the Colorado River Indian Tribal Court*

Judge King informed the Forum members of a conference potentially being held on September 25/26, 2020 with Tribal courts from Arizona, California, Utah and Nevada to share ideas and experiences. He will be providing the conference information to Ann Gilmour to distribute to Forum members.

### **Info 5**

#### **Discussion of COVID-19 & Court Continuation of Operations and Reopening**

*Presenters: Discussion All*

Forum members discussed positive and negative experiences had while continuing operations during the COVID 19 pandemic. Topics raised included employees testing positive for COVID 19, utilizing Zoom and other distance services, litigant access to internet and phone services, opening plans for courts and complying public access to hearings.

Next Forum call is August 13, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on August 13, 2020.