



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

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## TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

### NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

Open to the Public Unless Indicated as Closed (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c), (d), and (e)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

OPEN PORTION OF THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

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**Date:** April 13, 2023  
**Time:** 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.  
**Public Call-In Number:** <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/2636> (Listen Only)

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Meeting materials for open portions of the meeting will be posted on the advisory body web page on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the open meeting portion of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be e-mailed to [fourm@jud.ca.gov](mailto:fourm@jud.ca.gov).

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

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#### **I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))**

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##### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

##### **Approval of Minutes**

Approve minutes of the February 9, 2023, Tribal Court–State Court meeting.

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#### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K)(1))**

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This meeting will be conducted by electronic means with a listen only conference line available for the public. As such, public may submit comments for this meeting only in writing. In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be e-mailed to [Forum@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Forum@jud.ca.gov). Only written comments received by 12:15 p.m. will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

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**III. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)**

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**Info 1**

**Cochairs Report**

**Info 2**

**Missing in California Indian Country Regional Events**

*Presenter: Merri Lopez-Keifer, Director, Office of Native American Affairs, Office of Attorney General Rob Bonta, California Department of Justice*

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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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**Adjourn to Closed Session**

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**V. CLOSED SESSION (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(D))**

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**Item 1**

**Legislative Update**

*Closed session under rule 10.75(d)(10) proposed legislation, rules, or forms*

**Adjourn Closed Session**



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OF CALIFORNIA

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TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

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

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**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.*

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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 12:16 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.

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DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)

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**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.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Pending approval by the advisory body on April 13, 2023.

DRAFT

**From:** [Office of Native American Affairs](#)  
**To:** [Office of Native American Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** Missing in California Indian Country – Northern California Region Event – April 22, 2023  
**Date:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 4:52:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[ONAA Flyer MMIP Reg 23.02.pdf](#)

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Dear Respected Tribal Leaders and Partners in Justice,

On behalf of Attorney General Rob Bonta, you are invited to attend and/or participate at the upcoming ***Missing in California Indian Country - Northern California Region*** event that will be held at Blue Lake Rancheria's Sapphire Palace, at 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake, California on **April 22, 2023 from 10 AM to 4 PM.**

This event, which has been developed in collaboration with Northern California tribal leadership, tribal community members and community service providers, is the first of four regional events occurring within the state. *Missing in California Indian Country* events, serve as critical public safety events for tribal communities and aim to elevate the state's response to the Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) crisis. These events will allow for loved ones to report an individual missing, receive an update on an active missing person's case, and/or provide a DNA sample for inclusion in the California Department of Justice's Unidentified Persons Database.

**Attached please find an event flyer for *Missing in California Indian Country - Northern California Region*.** The flyer contains specific information about the event, such as date, time, and location, but also guidance on what families should bring with them to the event, in the event they would like to report someone missing or provide/receive information on an open missing person report. For instance, families are encouraged to bring photos of their loved ones (by themselves and with immediate family member), military records, and medical & dental records, if possible.

The flyer also has a QR Code at the top of the page. This QR Code will direct individuals to the CA DOJ website where they can learn more about the event. Here is a link to the DOJ website: <https://oag.ca.gov/nativeamerican/mmipevent>. A registration link is available both on the flyer and the DOJ website. Registration is not required for the event; however, we are respectfully requesting that individuals and/or families register for the event to ensure that there will be enough food for elders and attendees. The registration link can also be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/missing-in-california-indian-country-northern-california-region-tickets-588321654907>.

On behalf of the California Department of Justice and all of our tribal planning partners, we ask that you please share the attached flyer with your entire community.

Your partner in justice,

**Merri Lopez-Keifer**  
**Director, Office of Native American Affairs**  
**Office of Attorney General Rob Bonta**  
**California Department of Justice**  
*1300 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814*

Office: 916-210-6259

Cell: 916-639-1438

[Merri.LopezKeifer@doj.ca.gov](mailto:Merri.LopezKeifer@doj.ca.gov)

Pronouns: *She, Her, Hers*



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# CA DOJ MMIP EVENT: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION



SCAN ME



[oag.ca.gov/  
nativeamerican/  
mmipevent](http://oag.ca.gov/nativeamerican/mmipevent)

10 AM TO 4 PM

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 22, 2023**

777 Casino Way  
Blue Lake, CA

This event is being developed in collaboration and partnership between CA DOJ and the Northern California tribal community to bring awareness about the Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons Crisis and provide an opportunity for tribal families to:

1. Report a loved one missing.
2. Receive an update on an active missing person's case.
3. Provide a DNA sample to potentially bring closure for a family and allow for the return of their loved one.

Families are encouraged to bring photos of their loved ones (by themselves and with immediate family member), military records, and medical & dental records, if possible.

Although registration is not required for this public event, to have enough food available for all elders and attendees, it is respectfully request that you register.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS IN JUSTICE:

