



Judicial Council of California

Tribal Court-State Court Forum

www.courts.ca.gov/forum.htm

forum@jud.ca.gov

TRIBAL COURT-STATE COURT FORUM

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

April 10, 2025

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Virtual

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Abby Abinanti, Cochair, Hon. Joyce Hinrichs, Cochair, Hon. Lucy Armendariz, Hon. Yvette Ayala Henderson, Hon. Leonard Edwards, Hon. Michele Fahley, Hon. Lawrence King, Hon. Patricia Lenzi, Hon. Kristina Lindquist, Hon. Nicholas Mazanec, Hon. Mark Ralphs, Hon. Victorio Shaw, Ms. Christina Snider-Ashtari, Hon. Dean Stout, Hon. Alison Tucher, Hon. Juan Ulloa, Hon. Christine Williams.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Richard Blake, Ms. Laila DeRouen, Hon. Ana España, Hon. Devin Flesher, Hon. Christopher Haug, Hon. Winston Keh, Hon. Dorothy McLaughlin, Hon. April Olson, Ms. Andrea Pella, Hon. Stephen Place, Hon. Zeke Zeidler.

Others Present: Ms. Vida Castaneda, Ms. Ann Gilmour, Ms. Tracy Kenny, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Christy Simons.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 13, 2025, Tribal Court-State Court Forum meeting. Motion to approve by Judge Lucy Armendariz, seconded by Justice Alison Tucher,

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 3)

Item 1

Government Accountability Office Public Law 280 Study

Presenter: Judge Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribal Court, Cochair of the Tribal Court – State Court Forum

Judge Abinanti briefed committee members on the status of the pending GAO study on Public Law 280 and its impact on public safety in tribal nations and Alaska native villages. She is concerned that the law causes a large resource gap in California and would like it to ensure this issue is reviewed to possibly provide tribes and the state additional resources.

Item 2

Agenda Items for the September 18 Forum In-person meeting

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

Ms. Gilmour updated the committee on items of interest and requested members to send any ideas for topics for discussion at the in-person Tribal Court-State Court Forum meeting on September 18, 2025, held at the Judicial Council's Sacramento office.

Item 3

September 19 Event Recognition and Enforcement of Tribal Court Orders

Presenter: Ann Gilmour

Ms. Ann Gilmour informed committee members of an event on September 19, 2025, that immediately follows the in-person Forum committee meeting. It will be an all-day symposium discussing a number of items that have been previously addressed in past Forum meetings. All tribal court judges, administrative staff, and those working in the system that work in recognition and enforcement, as well as state judges from counties with Tribal Courts within them are invited. She also requested input from committee members and volunteers to assist in creating content or facilitating sessions.

The Center for Families, Children & the Courts will be having Beyond the Bench in November 2025 in Los Angles.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Item 1

Legislative Update

The Forum received a briefing in closed session on bills that are currently moving in the 2025 Legislative session that impact tribal courts. The bills that were presented were: AB 31, AB 32, AB 562, AB 1097, AB 1378, ACR 39, and SB 4.

Adjourned closed session at 12:41 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on June 10, 2025.