



Judicial Council of California

**TRIBAL COURT–STATE COURT FORUM
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION**

April 9, 2026

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Zoom

Members Present: Hon. Abby Abinanti, Cochair, Hon. Shama Mesiwala, Cochair, Hon. Yvette Ayala Henderson, Hon. Leonard Edwards, Hon. Benjamin Hanna, Mr. Christopher Haug, Hon. Patricia Lenzi, Hon. Kristina Lindquist, Ms. S. Lynn Martinez, Hon. Nicholas Mazanec, Hon. Dorothy McLaughlin, Hon. Stephen Place, Ms. Christina Snider-Ashtari, Hon. Dean Stout, Hon. Alison Tucher, Hon. Rebecca Wightman, and Hon. Zeke Zeidler.

Members Absent: Ms. Janet Bill, Hon. Richard Blake, Ms. Laila DeRouen, Hon. Ana España, Hon. Michele Fahley, Hon. Devin Flesher, Hon. Jennifer Lee, Hon. April Olson, Hon. Karen Riess, Hon. Victorio Shaw, Hon. Gary Slossberg, and Hon. Juan Ulloa.

Others Present: Mr. Alf Brant, Ms. Vida Castaneda, Ms. Sarah Davis, Ms. Anne Hadreas, Mr. Cyrus Ip, Ms. Tracy Kenny, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Terrie L. Robinson, and Mr. Rodney Trevino.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 6, 2026, Tribal Court–State Court Forum meeting. Justice Shama Mesiwala moved to approve, and Judge Rebecca Wightman seconded the motion. Judges Kristina Lindquist, Nicholas Mazanec, and Stephen Place and Ms. Christina Snider-Ashtari abstained from voting.

DISCUSSION (ITEMS 1–3)

Item 1

Tribal-State Collaboration Conference

(Presenter: Mr. Alf Brandt, Director, Justice Solutions and Innovation, The National Judicial College)

Mr. Alf Brandt spoke to committee members about the upcoming Tribal-State Collaboration Conference hosted by the National Judicial College, tentatively scheduled for fall 2026. After discussion, Forum members decided they will participate in the event and will provide topics for discussion and possible curriculum.

Item 2

Tribal Court-State Court Forum Ad Hoc Work Groups

(Presenter: Ms. Vida Castaneda, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council of California, Center for Families, Children, & the Courts)

The DUI on Tribal Lands ad hoc working group informed members that the attorney/lead staff position has recently been filled and therefore they will begin meeting to discuss new projects soon.

Judge Zeke Zeidler, on behalf of the ICWA ad hoc working group, provided committee members with an update on their education resources review project. Ms. Vida Castaneda compiled a comprehensive list of resources available on the courts website which the group is reviewing to identify items that require updating.

Judge Patricia Lenzi, on behalf of the Tribal Court Orders Enforcement ad hoc working group, provided committee members with an update on their ongoing projects. The group is in the early stages of developing a new universal coversheet for tribal court orders that are entered into the state's system. Ms. Kristen Schmit has been assigned to work on modifications to the California court form DV-600 Order to Register Out-of-State or Tribal Court Protective/Restraining Order. The group's plans to create an educational video addressing proper enforcement of tribal court orders are set to move forward in the next fiscal year.

Item 3

Legislative Update

(Presenter: Ms. Tracy Kenny, Attorney, Office of Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council of California)

Ms. Tracy Kenny presented on bills that are moving forward in the 2026 legislation session that are of interest to the Forum: AB 1389, AB 1574, AB 1581, AB 1824, AB 1881, AB 2115, AB 2478, ARC 163, and SB 891. Along with a summary of each bill, Ms. Kenny provided a timeline of the legislative process.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

C L O S E D S E S S I O N (C A L . R U L E S O F C O U R T , R U L E 1 0 . 7 5 (D) (3))

Item 1

Legislation Discussion

(Presenter: Ms. Tracy Kenny, Attorney, Office of Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council of California)

Committee members were given the opportunity to discuss the legislation presented during item 3 of this meeting's open session.

Item 2

Tribal Nominations

(Presenter: Ms. Vida Castaneda, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council of California, Center for Families, Children, & the Courts)

Members discussed the upcoming open nominations period for tribal judge positions on the Forum.

Adjourned closed session at 1:15 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.