

TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California

Forum E-Update

July 2025

TRIBAL COURT—STATE
COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the
Judicial Council of California

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IN THE NEWS

[Oklahoma Supreme Court rules 'McGirt' precedent doesn't apply in state income tax protest](#)

KOSU – July 1, 2025

A Muscogee citizen who works for her tribe and lives on its reservation still must pay income tax to Oklahoma, despite her tribal nation's redefinition as Indian Country after the *McGirt* case.

[Washington state allows state, local police to execute tribal arrests](#)

Courthouse News Service – July 1, 2025

A change in state law will allow tribes certified by the attorney general's office to avoid extradition proceedings to have wanted individuals returned to tribal lands.

[University of Montana Clinic Preserves Legal History of Montana's Tribes](#)

Missoula Current – July 4, 2025

The Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic at the University of Montana has embarked on an ambitious project to create the Indian Law Portal – a comprehensive digital archive of legal documents from each of Montana's tribal nations.

[Tribal Sovereignty Institute Unveiled at OCU Law School](#)

News9 – July 7, 2025

Oklahoma City University is presenting a unique opportunity for attorneys and law students to learn more about tribal government and law.

[Choctaw Nation Chief Reflects on the Impact of McGirt Ruling, Five Years Later](#)

Native News Online – July 8, 2025

It has been five years since the July 9, 2020, ruling that the U.S. Supreme Court handed down in the case of *McGirt v. Oklahoma* – a generational win for Native American rights.

['McGirt' decision has reshaped Indigenous sovereignty in Oklahoma. KOSU has been here along the way](#)

NPR KOSU – July 9, 2025

Indian Country in Oklahoma was redefined five years ago today through the U.S. Supreme Court's *McGirt v. Oklahoma* ruling. The ruling determined that much of Eastern Oklahoma is, in fact, an Indian Reservation.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
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Tribal/State Programs Link:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-tribal>

FORUM LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS
Visit the Forum's home page
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/3065.htm>

'Indigenous lives matter': Arizona's Turquoise Alert for missing Indigenous people goes live

Arizona Mirror – July 10, 2025

An alert system established to issue statewide alerts for missing Indigenous or endangered persons is now officially online, offering a vital tool to assist law enforcement agencies in addressing an ongoing crisis within the state.

Members of Congress Call on Justice Officials to Restore the 'Not Invisible Act' Findings, an Accounting of Missing and Murdered Native People

The Imprint – July 11, 2025

In perhaps one of the oddest ironies of the political era, 13 members of Congress are calling on the U.S. Justice Department to return the visibility of its own "Not Invisible Act" Commission and final report — the government's prior commitment to finding missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Oklahoma Supreme Court: McGirt Doesn't Extend to Civil and Regulatory Law

OPCA – July 14, 2025

The U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 ruling in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, which held that the pre-statehood reservation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was never formally disestablished for purposes of federal criminal law, created vast uncertainty regarding regulatory issues across most of eastern Oklahoma. A recent decision issued by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, in a case centered on whether American Indians living in eastern Oklahoma still have to pay state income tax, also addressed whether the *McGirt* decision gave tribes civil regulatory authority over all individuals living in eastern Oklahoma.

Judge cites fewer 'civil rights protections' for tribes in Tulsa woman's suit

2 News Oklahoma – July 14, 2025

Three years after Bobby Barrick died after an incident that involved being hogtied in McCurtain County, a federal judge is dismissing the case, while admitting the case may have "far-reaching implications for tribal citizens."

Tribal judge aims to Indigenize the bench

Buffalo's Fire – July 15, 2025

Megan Treuer's plan to improve Native justice is being realized with help of Bush Fellowship.

Who prosecutes who? Explaining Tulsa's agreement with Oklahoma tribe

The Oklahoman – July 20, 2025

Muscogee Nation and Tulsa officials say the proposed deal is a way for the tribe and city to work together to enforce laws and keep people safe.

Feds Want Input on ICWA, Family First Clearinghouse

The Imprint – July 24, 2025

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is seeking input on how to best support Indian Child Welfare Act implementation and approvals for foster care prevention services.

These programs are supported with funds from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice that are administered through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Court Improvement Program, and the California Department of Social Services.

PUBLICATIONS

[The Cartographic Court](#), Erica Liu, New York University Law Review, Volume 100, Number 2 (May 2025)
 Over the past few decades, the Supreme Court of the United States has adopted an exceedingly narrow view of tribal civil jurisdiction, establishing doctrines that restrict the circumstances in which Native Nations can exercise their regulatory and adjudicative powers.

[Don't Throw the Book: Customary Tribal Laws Can Heal Rather Than Punish Addiction](#), Coleman Griffith, Tribal Law Journal 24, 1 (2025)

It is no secret that there is an addiction problem in Indian Country. The roots of this problem are manifold. It is common for Tribal communities to suffer from the same socio-economic factors that contribute to the American addiction crisis overall, but Tribal people have also suffered a long, traumatic history that has often been intertwined with addictive substances.

[Navigating Tribal Law Research: A short guide for Washington Attorneys](#), Amanda K. Stephen, Washington State Bar News (June 2025)

In law school, you probably learned how to find both state and federal law in your legal research and writing classes. But did you know that there is an important third source of law? It's Tribal law. (And, yes, you should capitalize "Tribal".).

[Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities, 2025](#), NCJ Number 310484, Steven W. Perry, BJS Statistician, July 2025, Publication Series Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities

This report fulfills the requirement of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA; P.L. 111-211, 124 Stat. 2258, § 251(b)) to report annually on BJS's activities to establish and enhance a tribal crime data collection system. It summarizes BJS's tribal data collection activities during 2024 and planned through July 2025. It also describes BJS's efforts, in consultation with Indian tribes, to develop and implement the Tribal Justice Statistics Program. These efforts involve creating a 10-year strategic plan and consulting with tribal nations and federal partners on the implementation of a tribal justice data collection system to include the Census of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies (CTLEA) and Census of Tribal Court Systems (CTCS).

[2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), July 28, 2025

Conducted annually, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides nationally representative data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs; substance use disorders; mental health conditions; suicidal thoughts and behavior; and receipt of substance use and mental health treatment among the civilian, noninstitutionalized population aged 12 or older in the United States. NSDUH estimates allow researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and the general public to better understand and improve the nation's behavioral health.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Federal Register Notice was published July 22, 2025. The Administration for Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) is seeking public comment, in particular from State and Tribal title IV-B agencies and Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations and consortia (Tribes), and State and Tribal courts in response to requirements in the Supporting America's Children and Families Act, [Public Law 118-258](#). The Notice can be viewed [here](#). The comment period is open for 60 days and closes on September 22, 2025. You may submit written comments, identified by [Docket Number ACF-2025-0038](#), through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> on or before the due date of September 22, 2025. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

New List of [Designated Tribal Agents for Service of Notice under the Indian Child Welfare Act](#) published in the Federal Register July 11, 2025

[Save the Date for NAICJA's 56th Annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference!](#)

The [National American Indian Court Judges Association](#) (NAICJA) is pleased to announce that the 56th Annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference will be held at the [Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass](#) in Phoenix, AZ on October 13-16, 2025.

NAICJA's Annual Conference offers innovative and timely tribal justice information through high quality presentations by national experts. The theme of this year's conference is, "Tribal Courts: A Bulwark for Tribal Sovereignty."

Save the Date: The 32nd Annual California State ICWA Conference, October 28 – 30, 2025

- Registration Fee: \$250
- Hosted by: The Pechanga Band of Indians Tribe
- Location: Pechanga Resort Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, CA 92592
- Conference flyer and registration information to come.
- For more information, including vendor opportunities, contact: ICWA2025@PECHANGA-NSN.GOV

The Capacity Building Center for Tribes closed in September 2024 and a new technical assistance center, the [National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement](#), is now open to provide training and technical assistance to Tribal child welfare programs and professionals. The Center's goal is to assist Tribes in achieving comprehensive, long-lasting transformation that enhances the safety, stability and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children, youth and families through the provision of quality, effective technical assistance to Tribal child welfare programs that respects their beliefs, traditions, and customs.

Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women Tribal Leaders Council

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) established the Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women Tribal Leaders Council (OVW TLC or Council) to facilitate the exchange of views, information, and advice concerning the management or implementation of federal programs established pursuant to statute, including the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and its reauthorizations. The OVW TLC will provide a forum for discussion between OVW and federally recognized Tribal Government leaders, acting in their official capacities, further upholding Tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations. This newly established OVW TLC consists of 12 Tribal government leaders (either elected or appointed), one from each of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Regional Areas.

SUN Bucks Summer Food Program Renewed For Kids in 2025!

California's Summer EBT program, known as SUN Bucks, is returning in 2025. This food program provides families \$40 per month for food in June, July, and August (\$120 total) when children do not have access to school meals. For cardholder assistance, the SUN Bucks helpline is available at (877) 328-9677. The helpline provides automated support 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Live agents are available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Part 1: Human Trafficking's Nexus and Impact on the Tribal Community (Live Webinar taped July 15, 2025)

U.C. Davis Human Services Continuing and Professional Education

Native Americans have been historically and systemically isolated by geographic, legal, and multi-jurisdictional complexities, heightening their vulnerability to human trafficking. Native Americans face a confluence of victimization, oppression, and poverty, making them particularly susceptible to this modern-day form of slavery. Jurisdictional confusion and underfunded law enforcement, education, and training have created the potential for a de facto haven for traffickers, allowing traffickers to operate with little concern of detection or prosecution.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, AND TRAININGS

August 6, 2025, 10:00am (Virtual)

[Problem-Solving Skills for Tribal Court Personnel](#)

August 6 – 8, 2025 (Hybrid)

[7th Annual Noojimo'iwewin: The VAWA and ICWA Training](#)

August 11, 2025, 8:00am (Virtual)

[Monday Morning Moments - Vicarious Trauma in the Judiciary](#)

August 14, 2025, 11:00am-12:00pm (Virtual)

[Public Information Officers and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies](#)

August 19 – 20, 2025 (S. Paul, MN)

[Child Welfare Training for Tribal Court Judges](#)

August 20, 2025 at 10:00am (Virtual)

[Judicial Connection Series](#)

August 26 – 29, 2025 (Puyallup, WA) National Judicial College
[Essential Skills for Tribal Court Judges](#)

August 28, 2025 (Valencia, CA)
[Domestic Violence in Review: Considerations for Appellate Courts](#)

September 9, 2025 at 10:00am – 11:00am (Virtual)
[AMBER Alert in Indian Country and Missing in Alaska](#)

October 13-16, 2025 (Chandler, AZ)
[Native American Court Judges Association \(NAICJA\) 56th Annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference](#)

October 28-30, 2025 (Temecula, CA)
[32nd Annual California State ICWA Conference](#)

October 30, 2025 (Virtual)
[Responding to Sextortion Related Offenses Against Children](#)

November 3-6, 2025 (Kohler, WI)
[Mindfulness for Judges](#)

April 21-23, 2026 (Las Vegas, NV)
[National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference](#)

COVID-19 SPECIFIC GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

[FEMA COVID-19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE](#)

FEMA will continue to provide funeral assistance until Sept. 30, 2025, to those who have lost loved ones due to this pandemic.

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

***Please check the direct links to the grants regularly, as the status, closing dates, and availability may change in time. At this time, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has removed previously posted grants and webinars. For a complete list of funding opportunities available at this time, here are links to consult: [Grants.gov](#), [Office of Justice Programs](#), [Bureau of Justice Affairs](#), and [U.S. Department of Justice](#).**

[Services for Victims of Crime](#)

Department of Justice
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2025-172427

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 15, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: August 20, 2025

This NOFO supports the development, expansion and strengthening of victim service programs for all victims of crime throughout the United States and its territories. Award recipients will increase the quality and quantity of victim services in the following categories: · Category 1: Services to Child and Youth Victims (Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$500,000) Awards under this category will be made to entities to serve child and youth victims of crime. Child and youth victims are persons who were age 17 or younger when the victimization took place. · Category 2: Services to Elder Victims of Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation (Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$500,000) Awards under this category will be made to entities to serve victims of elder fraud, abuse, and exploitation. For purposes of this NOFO, victims of elder fraud, abuse, and exploitation are persons who were age 55 or older when the victimization took place. · Category 3: Services to Other Crime Victims (Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$500,000) Awards under this category will be made to entities to serve other victims of crimes (not child or elder victimization), excluding human trafficking. Victim services may include, but are not limited to, emergency assistance, case management, shelter and housing, medical and dental care, victim advocacy, transportation, childcare, legal services, and employment assistance.

Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence Program

U.S. Department of Justice
 Office of Justice Programs
 Office for Victims of Crime
 O-OVC-2025-172432

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 15, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: August 20, 2025

Under this NOFO, OVC will provide funding for shelter and transitional housing and other assistance to victims of domestic violence and their companion animals, which under this program means pets, service animals, emotional support animals, and horses.

Services for Victims of Technology-Facilitated Abuse

U.S. Department of Justice
 Office of Justice Programs
 Office for Victims of Crime
 O-OVC-2025-172431

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 15, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: August 20, 2025

In May 2025, President Trump signed the TAKE IT DOWN Act into law, setting federal penalties for the non-consensual distribution of intimate imagery online. The acts defined in TAKE IT DOWN and other acts or patterns of behavior that intend to harm, threaten, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor another person using any form of technology are collectively known as technology-facilitated abuse (TFA).¹ This NOFO will support victim services to address TFA. TFA includes, but is not limited to, crimes commonly referred to as image-based sexual abuse, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, sextortion, synthetic intimate images (“deepfakes”), online stalking, harassment, and abuse. The harm caused by TFA is pervasive and persistent and can affect every aspect of a victim’s life, impairing a victim’s physical, emotional, and economic well-being.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program Development and Operation Guide (Second Edition)

U.S. Department of Justice
 Office of Justice Programs
 Office for Victims of Crime
 O-OVC-2025-172434

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 15, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: August 20, 2025

Under this NOFO, OVC will support updates to the OVC SANE Program Development and Operation Guide (“the Guide”). The Guide serves as a comprehensive resource for developing, expanding, or improving SANE programs to help communities enhance the quality and scope of services provided to victims. The Guide provides a structured approach for setting up a forensic nursing program dedicated to providing care to survivors of sexual assault. Significant advances in forensic nursing practice, as well as changes in national standards and evolving protocols, necessitate an update of the Guide to ensure it remains an effective and relevant tool for SANE programs across the country.

Technology to Support Services for Victims of Crime

U.S. Department of Justice
 Office of Justice Programs
 Office for Victims of Crime
 O-OVC-2025-172430

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 15, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: August 20, 2025

This NOFO will support projects to use technology to enhance services to all victims of crime. This NOFO has two funding categories (applicants can apply to only one category): Category 1: Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime Awards under this category will be made to support innovative strategies to create, expand, or enhance the use of technology by victim service organizations to improve interaction with crime victims, elevate service quality, and ensure accessibility and responsiveness.

Category 2: Building State Technology Capacity to Serve Victims of Crime Awards under this category will be made to SAAs to support statewide technology programs to enhance victims’ access to services, foster innovation and efficiency in the provision of services, and improve the quality of services.

National Crime Victim Crisis Hotlines

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2025-172435

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 20, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: August 25, 2025

Under this NOFO, OVC will fund existing national hotlines for crime victims to expand their response capacity.

Increasing Availability of Medical Forensic Examinations for Victims of Sexual Assault

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
O-OVC-2025-172433

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 29, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: September 8, 2025

Under this NOFO, OVC will support sites in providing specialized medical forensic services for survivors of sexual violence by Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs).

Training and Technical Assistance Initiative

U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women
O-OVW-2025-172426

Deadline to submit Standard Form/SF-424 in Grants.gov: September 9, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: September 11, 2025

The purpose of the OVW Training and Technical Assistance Initiative (TA Initiative) is to provide direct training and technical assistance (TTA) to current and potential OVW recipients and subrecipients to enhance their efforts to successfully implement projects supported by OVW grant funds. OVW's TA Initiative is designed to strengthen and build the capacity of civil and criminal justice system professionals and victim service providers across the nation to respond effectively to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (i.e., the four VAWA crimes) and foster partnerships and collaboration among organizations to address these crimes.

Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program

U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women
O-OVW-2025-172403

Deadline to submit Standard Form/SF-424 in Grants.gov: September 23, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: September 25, 2025

The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (TSASP) provides funding to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and nonprofit Tribal organizations for the operation of sexual assault programs or projects in Indian Tribal lands and Alaska Native villages to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of programs and projects to assist those victimized by sexual assault.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Tribal Homekey+ 2024 Notice of Funding Availability

California Department of Housing and Community Development

Deadline: Application portal opens late January 2025 and open until all funds are awarded

Tribal Homekey+ is the Permanent Supportive Housing component of the BHIBA. This funding represents the Department's ongoing investment in Tribal housing opportunities and continues a statewide effort to sustain and rapidly expand permanent supportive housing for households and individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and are living with a behavioral health challenge. Rather than utilizing a set-aside within the standard Homekey+ Program, this NOFA operates independently and is tailored to meet the specific affordable housing needs of California Tribes. Website: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/homekey/tribal-program> Homekey Tribal Program Email: HKTribal@hcd.ca.gov.

Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Program

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women
O-OVW-2025-172415**

Deadline to submit Standard Form/SF-424 in Grants.gov: August 7, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: August 12, 2025

The Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Program (Cybercrimes Enforcement Program) supports efforts by States, Indian Tribes, and units of local government to prevent, enforce, and prosecute cybercrimes against individuals with a focus on adult and young adult cybercrime victims. Cybercrimes against individuals are defined as criminal offenses that involve the use of a computer to harass, threaten, stalk, extort, coerce, cause fear to, or intimidate an individual, or without consent distribute intimate images of an adult, except that use of a computer need not be an element of the offense. (See 34 U.S.C. § 30107(a)(2)). Cybercrimes against individuals do not include the use of a computer to cause harm to a commercial entity, government agency or nonnatural person. Note: The term computer includes a computer network and an interactive electronic device.

NIDA Research Center of Excellence Grant Program

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health**

PAR-23-076

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): August 25, 2023

Deadline: November 18, 2025

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to provide support for research Centers that (1) conduct substance use and addiction research in any area of NIDA's mission, including the intersection of substance use/addiction and HIV, (2) foster outstanding innovative science, (3) are multidisciplinary, thematically integrated, and synergistic, and (4) serve as national resource(s) to provide educational and outreach activities to relevant research communities, educational organizations, the general public, and policy makers.

NAGPRA Repatriation Grants

**Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P25AS00474**

Deadline: May 8, 2026

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to museums, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the purposes of assisting in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (25 U.S.C. 3008). NAGPRA Repatriation grants assist museums, Indian Tribes, and NHOs to defray costs associated with the packaging, transportation, contamination removal, reburial, and/or storage of NAGPRA human remains or cultural items. Project activities may include, but are not limited to: travel, transportation, testing or decontamination, building containers for transport, ceremonial materials, or Staff time.