

TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California

Forum E-Update

September 2025

TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the
Judicial Council of California

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Forum News](#)
[In the News](#)
[Publications](#)
[Announcements](#)
[Online Resources](#)
[Upcoming Conferences, Webinars, and Trainings](#)
[New Grant Opportunities](#)
[Previously Reported Grant Opportunities](#)

FORUM NEWS

[Q&A with Justice Shama Mesiwala on the Tribal Court-State Court Forum](#)

By [Karen Datangel](#) – Oct 1, 2025

Justice Shama Mesiwala of the Third Appellate District, who started the first ICWA courtroom in Northern California as Sacramento judge, was appointed co-chair of council advisory body in September.

IN THE NEWS

[Alaska vowed to resolve murders of Indigenous people. Now it refuses to provide their names](#)

The Spokesman-Review – September 1, 2025

Leaders in Alaska and elsewhere have repeatedly promised action in recent years to address the nation's chronic failure to solve the murder or disappearance of Indigenous people.

[Native American Voters Bring Voting Rights Act Case to the Supreme Court](#)

Native News Online – September 2, 2025

Today, the Spirit Lake Nation, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and several individual Native voters filed a petition for certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, formally requesting the Court to review their case in its upcoming term.

[Tanana Chiefs Conference dedicates bench space to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons](#)

Alaska's News Source – September 3, 2025

The impact of missing and murdered indigenous persons in the Fairbanks area was memorialized on Wednesday, as the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) dedicated a plaque and benches to those who have been lost. The memorial stands as a "permanent symbol of remembrance, love and resilience," said Brian Ridley, the Chief and chairman of TCC.

["Remaining Native": the challenge for native families who experienced Indian boarding schools](#)

WXXI News – September 8, 2025

The Little Theatre's [One Take Documentary series](#) will feature "Remaining Native" on Wednesday and Saturday this week.

The Judicial Council's Tribal Court—State Court Forum produces this newsletter to provide news and resources of interest to state court-tribal court collaborators. The views expressed are those of the authors and may not represent the views of the forum members, the Judicial Council of California, or the funders.

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FORUM LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Visit the Forum's home page

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/3065.htm>

Indian Child Welfare Act Conference Strengthens Training, Highlights Culture

RedHills News - September 9, 2025

Indian Child Welfare Act Conference strengthens training, highlights culture September 2, 2025. Judicial officials and child welfare workers from state and tribal courts gathered recently for an annual review of federal requirements related to temporary custody, foster care and adoption of Indian children.

Indigenous Peoples' Day: Everything To Know About the Holiday Largely Replacing Columbus Day

Parade – September 9, 2025

Indigenous Peoples' Day has been touted as a replacement for Columbus Day for decades, but the movement never got much traction on a nation-wide scale. Now, however, with increased awareness of colonizers' atrocities against Native Americans and [indigenous people](#) of what eventually became the United States, Indigenous Peoples' Day has seen a groundbreaking amount of support.

Fourth Circuit to Hear Winnebago Tribe's Appeal in Case Concerning Repatriation of Carlisle Indian School Remains

Native News Online - September 9, 2025

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit is set to hear arguments on Wednesday, September 10, in *Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska v. United States Department of the Army* (No. 24-2081), a case that could have significant implications for the enforcement of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Raising Voices for Incarcerated Native Peoples and Defending Indigenous Traditions

Native News Online – September 9, 2025

On September 3, 2025, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)-represented by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and general counsel—along with Huy and the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)—represented by Hobbs, Straus, Dean, and Walker LLP and general counsel—filed [an amicus brief in the U. Supreme Court](#). The brief argues for strong legal remedies for individuals whose religious freedoms are violated while incarcerated.

Native Groups File Supreme Court Brief Supporting Rights of Incarcerated Indigenous People

New Mexico Sun – September 8, 2025

Native organizations have submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Landor v. Louisiana Department of Corrections*, focusing on the rights of incarcerated Native people and the protection of Native religious practices. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), represented by the Native American Rights Fund and general counsel, along with Huy and United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund, represented by Hobbs, Straus, Dean, and Walker LLP and general counsel, filed the brief on September 3, 2025.

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.

[Proposed Federal Bill Seeks Better Care of Indigenous Kids](#)

The Imprint – September 10, 2025

Friday is the deadline for public comment on draft legislation that calls for increased funding and new programs aimed at improving the well-being of Indigenous children and their families. Proposed by Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the federal [Native Children's Commission Implementation Act of 2025](#) seeks to address a wide range of issues including health, housing and education.

[Sault Tribe opens MMIP training to law enforcement and community](#)

The Sault News – September 10, 2025

Tribal and local law enforcement, victims' services teams and community members are invited to attend a day of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) training and collaboration.

[Navajo Council Law & Order Committee Chair Charles-Newton, Tribal Leaders Press Federal Officials on Delayed Funding Reports, Public Safety Crisis](#)

Native News Online – September 15, 2025

On September 9, Law and Order Committee Chairwoman Eugenia Charles-Newton participated in a high-level meeting with the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) and Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Scott Davis. The meeting centered on critical tribal issues, including delays in releasing the federal "Green Book," internal challenges within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), persistent underfunding of public safety, and a lack of transparency in federal strategic planning.

[California State legislature passes bill aimed at keeping Native American children out of foster care](#)

Kron4 – September 16, 2025

A bipartisan bill to ensure Native American children and families receive culturally appropriate support services aimed at preventing foster care placements passed the California Legislature last week.

[North Dakota releases first updated tribal textbook, with more on the way](#)

North Dakota Monitor – September 16, 2025

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction has released the first of a series of updated textbooks on the five Native nations that share land with North Dakota. The book — titled "Journey to Understanding" — provides a brief introduction to the tribes' history and culture. It's the first time a new edition of the work has been released in more than two decades.

[How a profit-sharing agreement could be a new model for mining on Indigenous land](#)

Nevada Current – September 16, 2025

Historically, mining has been [ecologically costly](#) and even deadly to Indigenous peoples around the world. The industry is also notorious for ignoring meaningful [consultation](#) with Indigenous communities and outright ignoring human rights. Even in the United States, mining companies have often operated with [carte blanche](#) in Indian Country.

[Rural Voice: Tribal rights and sovereignty](#)

MPR News – September 17, 2025

[Rural Voice](#), the statewide town hall series amplifying perspectives from greater Minnesota, launched its 2025 season at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College on Sept. 3, with a robust conversation on tribal rights and sovereignty in rural Minnesota.

[House lawmakers advance tribal sovereignty, stock ownership bills](#)

PoliticoPro – September 17, 2025

Republicans say the bills boost flexibility while Democrats call them rollbacks of worker rights.

[Native America Calling: Tribes look to modernize the traditional practice of banishment](#)

Indianz.com – September 18, 2025

The [Gila River Indian Community](#) in Arizona is considering a [new law to banish tribal members convicted of violent crimes](#).

[California legislature passes bipartisan bill \(AB 1378\) allowing tribes & tribal orgs to provide culturally appropriate services to prevent foster care placements.](#)

Cal Coast Times – September 19, 2025

The California Legislature has recently passed a landmark bipartisan bill, Assembly Bill 1378 (AB 1378), aimed at expanding the role of Native American tribes and tribal organizations in preventing foster care placements for Native American children.

[New film follows five years of Alaska Native families seeking justice for murdered loved ones](#)

Alaska Beacon – September 19, 2025

The documentary film, “In the Wake of Justice Delayed” profiles two families, based in Teller and Point Hope, and premieres in Alaska this month and airing nationwide on PBS in November.

[1000 Ways to Heal: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)

CFJC – September 22, 2025

Through lived experiences, Ryan Deneault shares his unique story of being a functioning addict for 36+ years and his attempts to fit into society for nearly five decades, to help others find their healing path, teach about Canada's history and Truth and Reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Plus, he shares his journey through addiction to wellness and recovery.

[When is Native American Day? Here's how it's celebrated, what California offices close](#)

Record Searchlight – September 22, 2025

Shasta County Superior Court in Redding and other California courts will close on Friday, Sept. 26 in observance of the California Native American Day state holiday.

[North Dakota releases first updated tribal textbook; more on the way](#)

The Bismarck Tribune—September 22, 2025

The state Department of Public Instruction has released the first of a series of updated textbooks on the five Native nations that share geography with North Dakota.

[‘We went from invisible to visible’: Indigenous activist Leonard Peltier navigates changed political landscape](#)

MPR News – September 23, 2025

Leonard Peltier, 80, sits in his bedroom on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation in North Dakota on June 18. A campaign poster for Deb Haaland's 2026 New Mexico gubernatorial run hangs beside a painting of wolves. Peltier has described Haaland, the first Native American to serve as U.S. Interior Secretary, as a symbol of resilience and representation for Indigenous people.

[‘A bit of a conundrum’: Tribes facing new hurdles as self-determination law reaches major milestone](#)

Indianz.com – September 23, 2025

Fifty years into the self-determination era, tribal nations are running into new obstacles when it comes to managing programs that serve their people.

PUBLICATIONS

[The Selling of Our Sisters: Trafficking Native Women and Girls in the United States](#), Lisa Larae Atkinson, ABA Judges' Journal, Vol. 64, No. 3 (2025)

One of the primary factors specific to Native trafficked persons is the breakdown of culture caused by historical trauma. Data on trafficking prosecutions further demonstrate that the problem is not decreasing, even as awareness and education campaigns and resources over the past decade have increased. To effectively support survivors and those seeking to exit their exploitation, judges need to continue to educate ourselves about emerging issues in human trafficking and work toward being better able to identify persons who are or have been trafficked who appear in our courts.

[Rectifying Historical Wrongs: The Case for the Indigenous' Inherent Right to Self-Govern Child Welfare in Canada](#), Arian Kravetz, University of Miami Inter-American Law Review, Vol. 56, No. 2, Article 5 (2025)

“[C]ontinue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian in question and no Indian department.” This sentiment, as stated by a Canadian government official in the 1920s, undergirded the assimilationist and genocidal policies of Canada's colonial power towards the Indigenous peoples living on the land prior to the settlers' arrival.

[Homelessness in California Tribal Communities \(Policy Brief\)](#), California Interagency Council on Homelessness (September 2025)

California Tribes experience the most severe disparities of homelessness in the state. Additionally, they experience more barriers to addressing homelessness than local jurisdictions, have fewer resources to overcome those barriers, and often face exclusion from the coordination of local homelessness solutions.

[Uses and Abuses of Johnson v. M'Intosh in Native American Land Rights Cases: Investigative Insights from the Indian Law Justice Files](#), John P. LaVelle, 86 Mont. L. Rev. 281 (2025)

The 200th anniversary of the foundational Indian law decision *Johnson v. M'Intosh* has come and gone, with many scholars contributing criticism and commentary.

[Can Tribal Sovereign Immunity Undermine Judicial Review Under the APA: Maverick Gaming LLC v. United States](#), Bernard Bell, Yale Journal on Regulation (September 10, 2025)

Should a court dismiss a lawsuit challenging a federal agency's action because a tribal authority is a Rule 19 "required party," Fed. R. Civ. P. 19(a), not subject to mandatory joinder due to tribal sovereign immunity? This question is raised in a currently pending certiorari petition.

[Discovering the Doctrine of Discovery](#), Douglas Lind, 86 Mont. L. Rev. 227 (2025).

The doctrine of discovery is a concept in crisis. A principle of public international law associated with the so-called Age of Discovery, the doctrine of discovery is commonly said to have authorized European nations to claim the lands of indigenous peoples and establish settlements on the basis of "discovery" alone.

[Tribal Sovereign Immunity: Absolute Authority or Accountability](#), Kelek Jason Stark, 86 Mont. L. Rev. 173 (2025).

In the wake of the recent United States Supreme Court decision of *Trump v. United States*, the Court determined that the President as Chief Executive is immune from conduct associated with official acts. The question that emanates from this opinion is how will this decision affect Indian Country and tribal court determinations of tribal sovereign immunity? This article will attempt to address this question.

[Beyond the Reservation: Multijurisdictional Issues Affecting Tribal Communities](#)

Department of Justice, Journal of Federal Law and Practice, Volume 73, August 2025, Number 2

While American Indians and Alaska Natives are citizens of the United States, they also maintain distinct citizenships, cultural values, traditions, beliefs, and identities. Understand, also, that these values, traditions, and beliefs provide for a different mode of thought and communication that may be unfamiliar to non-Indians.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bureau of Indian Affairs publishes request for public comments ["Agency Information Collection Activities: Indian Child Welfare Act Proceedings in State"](#) in the Federal Register. Comments due Tuesday November 11, 2025.

Registration is now open for: [Beyond the Bench 2025](#)

November 17–19, 2025 (In-person Los Angeles, CA)

Beyond the Bench 25 is a multidisciplinary statewide conference focused on children, youth, and families in the California court system. The event will include multiple sessions related to the Indian Child Welfare Act. **Click [here](#) for registration.** If you have any questions about registration, please email beyondthebench@jud.ca.gov or call 415-865-7599. ***Deadline to reserve hotel rooms within the hotel room block is October 29, 2025.**

National Indian Child Welfare Association [2026 Protecting Our Children Conference](#) will take place in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from March 30-April 1, 2026. Be on the lookout for registration this fall!

[National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference - 2026 Service Award](#)

National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College

The National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College is accepting nominations for the 2026 - 17th Annual National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference (MUPC) Service Award. This award is presented to an individual who has taken extraordinary efforts in the search, investigation, recovery, identification and reunification of missing and unidentified persons cases. **Nominations due, December 5, 2025.**

[Justice Department Expands Tribal Access Program to Improve the Exchange of Critical Data with Federally Recognized Tribes](#)

The Justice Department has selected six federally recognized Tribes to participate in the continued expansion of the [Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information](#) (TAP), a program that provides Tribal governments with means to access, enter, and exchange data with national crime information systems, including those maintained by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division.

[New Website: CSEC Action Team, California](#)

Working together to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth. The CSEC Action Team brings together individuals with lived experience, advocates, community based organizations, and public agencies from across California to turn knowledge into action—working collectively to prevent and address the commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of children and youth.

[National Tribal Child Welfare Center: Honoring A National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30, 2025](#)

On September 30th, we honor Orange Shirt Day, a day of remembrance for the children who were removed from their families and communities and placed in residential and boarding schools in Canada, and all across North America. The day acknowledges the lasting impacts of these policies on Native families and communities, while affirming that “Every Child Matters.” We invite Tribal child welfare professionals and partners to join in recognizing this day by wearing orange, reflecting on the resilience of survivors, and renewing our shared commitment to protect and strengthen Native children, families, and cultures. Together, we remember the past, honor survivors, and continue the work of ensuring that every child is safe, loved, and connected to their community.

[Proposals for the 2026 National Conference on Juvenile Justice and the NCJFCJ’s 89th Annual Conference!](#)

Deadline to submit proposals: October 10, 2025

In 2026 the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) will hold the **2026 National Conference on Juvenile Justice** from **March 15-18, 2026**, at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The NCJFCJ’s **89th Annual Conference** will be held **July 19–22, 2026**, at the Grand Hyatt Nashville in Nashville, Tennessee. The NCJFCJ Curriculum Committee is **now accepting conference proposals for 60-minute breakout sessions for EACH of the conferences (please note: if your session is selected, it will be chosen for only ONE of the conferences)**. The committee is looking for sessions focused on current theories and promising practices for juvenile and family courts, as well as subject matters of professional interest to judicial officers in both state and tribal courts, court managers, attorneys, and probation officers. ***We will prioritize those sessions which include a judicial officer as co-faculty.***

[HHS Invests \\$35 Million to Bolster National Human Trafficking Hotline and Protect Survivors](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), today announced a five-year, projected \$35 million grant to Compass Connections — a leader in managing complex hotline systems across local, state, and federal levels to deliver rapid crisis response, coordinate high-impact referrals, and safeguard sensitive information — to operate the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The investment in a new Hotline provider will better serve survivors of human trafficking by improving responsiveness to crisis calls, texts, and chats, while strengthening coordination with survivor advocates, service providers, child welfare agencies, and law enforcement to ensure children and adults who experience trafficking receive the support they need.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[California Interagency Council on Homelessness – Tribal Affairs Resources](#)

State Tribal Calendar of Housing/Homelessness Events and Opportunities, with a goal of this being a one-stop shop for tribes to find state events and opportunities, and are working with state partners to add their opportunities to this calendar. Please see [Calendars – California Interagency Council on Homelessness](#), if interested. Search state grants at this site: [CA State Grants Portal](#).

[National Indian Child Welfare Association \(NICWA\):](#)

NICWA supports the safety, health, and spiritual strength of Native children. Grounded in Native values, we work to keep Native children with their families and their communities.

- [Resources for Parents Facing Incarceration, and Their Children, Families, and Caregivers:](#) The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) created this resource to compile and organize several resources for parents facing incarceration, and those who face challenges because a parent is

incarcerated, including children, their caregivers, and social workers who work with incarcerated parents and their families.

- [**Advocacy through Engagement: A Resource for Tribal Case Managers Involved in State Child Welfare Proceedings with Native Children and Families:**](#) The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) created this resource as a tip sheet for Tribal case managers involved in state child welfare systems serving Native children and families. This tip sheet provides guidance on how to advocate for improved services for Native children and families and compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).
- [**State ICWA Developments and Resources:**](#) This resource includes a range of state-based resources—state ICWA laws, intergovernmental agreements between Tribal Nations and states, and administrative tools that support ICWA implementation. While not exhaustive, this list will be updated regularly. Users are encouraged to research state-specific laws, resources, and case law to ensure consistent compliance. Updated Summer 2025.
- [**ICWA Quick Resource Guide:**](#) The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) has compiled the following resources to support the work and education of state and tribal child welfare workers and other professionals working with Native children and families in state child welfare systems. These resources are specific to the application of the Indian Child Welfare Act (24 U.S.C. § 1901 et. seq.), which applies in state child custody proceedings involving an Indian child (25 U.S.C. §1903(1), (4)). When a case is under tribal court jurisdiction, the tribe's child welfare code and policies apply.

[**Webinar Recording & Resources Now Available: Understanding Federal Government Shutdown Impacts on Tribal Nations**](#)

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hosted its Understanding Federal Government Shutdown Impacts on Tribal Nations Webinar yesterday. The discussion explored key topics including the impact on Tribal funding, the availability of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service personnel, and information on other critical services and programs. Speakers discussed what to expect, contingency planning measures, and how to stay informed and prepared.

[**Webinar Recording: Justice Reimagined: Healing Community and Improving Outcomes Through Joint Jurisdiction-Tribal Law & Policy Institute**](#)

Tribal, state, federal and local courts operate in a patchwork of overlapping jurisdictions, facing common challenges and limited resources. To address these concerns, a growing number of courts have come together in a joint jurisdictional model that acknowledges each other's autonomy, while sharing resources for better outcomes for everyone. During this webinar, retired Judge Korey Wahwassuck will tell the story of these joint jurisdiction courts, share lessons learned, and make recommendations for other jurisdictions considering a collaborative approach to heal their own communities and improve outcomes for the people they serve.

- [**Justice Reimagined: Healing Community and Improving Outcomes Through Joint Jurisdiction**](#) (PDF)
- [**TLPI – Walking On Common Ground – Joint Jurisdiction Court Resources**](#)
- [**TLPI Tribal-State Court Collaboration Publications Series**](#)

[**Grandfamilies.org: Kinship Legal Toolkit**](#)

Nearly 2.5 million children in the U.S. are growing up in kinship families being raised by relatives, or close family friends. Research is clear - when children can't stay with their parents, they do best with kin. Kinship families offer greater stability and permanency, stronger connections to cultural identity, better mental health and behavioral outcomes, and deeper community links than non-kin foster families. Unlike parents, kin do not have automatic legal rights—and they often step in unexpectedly, during a crisis, to raise a child they did not plan for. This kinship legal toolkit was created to assist legal professionals understand the value of kinship, the federal laws impacting kin, and the role of judges and attorneys in supporting kin. In this toolkit you will find resources and practical tips to assist in day-to-day work with families and kin involved with the child welfare system. Each topic listed below contains tips for improving legal practice, a downloadable quick guide which summarizes the key points, and helpful resources. Additionally, there is a judicial bench card and videos to help legal professionals understand the importance of their role in honoring and supporting kinship families.

[**National Missing and Unidentified Persons System \(NamUS\)**](#)

- [**Resources for Law Enforcement Investigators**](#)

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, or NamUs, connects law enforcement with no-cost tools and resources to resolve missing and unidentified person cases. This includes state-of-the-art technology to securely store, share, and compare case information with other criminal justice professionals.

- [Resources for Medical Examiners, Coroners, and Medicolegal Officers](#)

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, or NamUs, provides critical support resources to the medicolegal practitioner community, who is often challenged by limited resources within agencies, coordinating cases across agencies, and cross-referencing records among different jurisdictions.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, AND TRAININGS

October 6, 2025 (Virtual)

[Federal Rulemaking to Protect Survivors](#)

October 7-8, 2025 (Virtual)

[Being an Ally in Indian Country](#)

October 8, 2025 (Virtual)

[UC Davis: ICWA & Tribal Engagement](#)

October 13-16, 2025 (Chandler, AZ)

[Native American Court Judges Association \(NAICJA\) 56th Annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference](#)

October 20-21, 2025 (Virtual)

[Creating a Community Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse](#)

October 21-23, 2025 (Portland, OR)

[Gathering of Native Americans \(GONA\): Training of Trainers](#)

October 21, 2025 (Virtual)

[Introduction to the FBI Laboratory for Indian Country](#)

October 22, 2025 (Virtual)

[Lessons Learned: Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies to Support Youth and Families Impacted by Trafficking](#)

October 22, 2025 (Virtual)

[Beyond Offense: Recognizing and Responding to CSEC Victimization in Juvenile Justice](#)

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](#)

November 3 – 6, 2025 (Virtual)

[The Investigation and Prosecution of Non-Fatal Strangulation Cases](#)

November 17–19, 2025 (In-person, Los Angeles, CA)

[Beyond the Bench 2025](#)

Beyond the Bench 25 is a multidisciplinary statewide conference focused on children, youth, and families in the California court system. The event will include multiple sessions related to the Indian Child Welfare Act. **Click [here](#) for registration.** If you have any questions about registration, please email beyondthebench@jud.ca.gov or call 415-865-7599.

November 19-20, 2025 (Choctaw Landing in Hochtaw, OK)

Choctaw Nation-Healing Through Practice: Strategies for Addressing Domestic Violence

December 4-6, 2025 (Portland, OR)

Adults Working with Native Youth

December 15-17, 2025 (Appleton, WI)

Advanced Strategies for Investigating and Prosecuting Domestic Violence

April 7-9, 2026 (New Orleans, NV)

Empowering Change: Innovative Response Strategies for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

April 9-12, 2026 (Glen Ellen, CA)

Centering Ourselves for Leadership Conference (Judges Only)

April 21-23, 2026 (Las Vegas, NV)

National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference

June 10-12, 2026 (Garden Grove, CA)

Partnerships for Well-Being Institute-Navigating the Tide: Connecting Our Child, Youth & Family-Serving Systems for a Stronger Future

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](https://www.grants.gov), [Office of Justice Programs](https://www.ojp.gov/office-of-justice-programs), [Bureau of Justice Affairs](https://www.bja.gov), and [U.S. Department of Justice](https://www.dhs.gov).

Strengthening the Medical Examiner/Coroner System Program

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2025-172448

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 6, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: October 14, 2025

This funding opportunity addresses capacity challenges within the Medical Examiner/Coroner (ME/C) system brought on by strict industry caps on the number of autopsies that certified pathologists can perform in a calendar year. This perennial challenge has been exacerbated by extraordinary spikes in opioid-related fatalities and the COVID pandemic. This funding will strengthen the ME/C system by increasing the number of certified forensic pathologists and enhancing the quality of medicolegal death investigations nationwide.

Financial Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program

Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

O-OVW-2025-172414

Deadline to submit Standard Form/SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 21, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: October 23, 2025

Financial Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking (FAV) Program supports victim service providers, Tribal governments, and Tribal organizations to provide flexible financial assistance to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, alongside other victim services. Flexible financial assistance is intended to support survivors in achieving safety, stability, and healing by paying for necessities that are not easily met by traditional service providers and with the flexibility to meet self-identified needs quickly.

Multistate Mentoring Programs

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2025-172455

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 21, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: October 27, 2025

This funding opportunity will support mentoring organizations to enhance and expand mentoring services for children and youth who are at risk or high risk for delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement.

PostSecondary Education Opportunities for Child Protection Professionals

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2025-172457

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 21, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: October 27, 2025

This funding opportunity will support child advocacy training in undergraduate programming and continuing education (i.e., graduate level and professional licensing courses). Funds will support the training of future mandated reporters and child protection professionals and support efforts to train child protection professionals, including law enforcement officers, social workers, medical professionals, behavioral health professionals, and prosecutors.

Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2025-172451

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 21, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: October 27, 2025

This funding opportunity seeks to develop support services for children exposed to violence in their homes, schools, and communities; and to develop, enhance, and implement violent crime reduction strategies that focus on violent juvenile offenders. The goals of the program are to: 1) reduce the incidence of violence through accountability efforts for juvenile offenders; 2) respond to victimization of children whether because of violence that occurs in the school, community or family; and 3) increase protective factors to prevent juvenile violence, delinquency, and victimization.

Internet Crimes Against Children Data System Enhancements

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2025-172453

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 23, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: October 30, 2025

This funding opportunity will support the maintenance and enhancement of the Internet Crimes Against Children Data System (IDS), which assists credentialed law enforcement investigators in quickly and securely accessing information involving the online exploitation of children. Specific enhancements will focus on work reduction, deconfliction and deduplication of casework, and improving CyberTip management. Training and technical assistance will be provided to the ICAC task forces and their federal law enforcement partners on using the system.

Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Substance Use

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2025-172446

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 23, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: October 30, 2025

This funding opportunity will enhance and expand mentoring services for children and youth affected by opioids and other substance use, as well as their families. Mentoring services may include one-on-one, group, or peer mentoring—or a combination of these approaches. In addition to mentoring services, this NOFO may support supplemental activities that are consistent with the proposed mentoring model and have a clear connection to the mentoring program. Up to 20 percent of the total funds may be allocated for other non-mentoring direct services, such as mental health treatment, substance use treatment, or other supportive services identified and aligned with the project design.

Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2025-172461

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

The fiscal year (FY) 2025 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWCP) supports publicly funded law enforcement and correctional agencies in establishing or expanding body-worn camera (BWC) programs. Properly implemented BWC programs can strengthen the evidentiary foundation for criminal prosecutions, provide reliable documentation of officer-citizen encounters, and deter assaults on officers.

[Emergency Planning for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2025-172450

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

This funding opportunity will support the development, implementation and improvement of emergency planning activities for state, Tribal, county, and local juvenile justice residential facilities. Funding will help ensure that facilities are prepared to prioritize the safety and well-being of youth and staff, keep families informed, continue operations, and reduce risk to the facility during and after an emergency.

[Expanding Tribal Children's Advocacy Centers](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

O-OJJDP-2025-172463

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 03, 2025

This funding opportunity supports the expansion and enhancement of children's advocacy centers (CACs) serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities to improve investigative responses and treatment services for victims of child abuse and their families. The program will deliver coordinated information, resource development, and training and technical assistance (TTA) to assist Tribal communities in establishing facility-based multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse and deliver support to existing CACs serving and partnering with Tribal governments and Native communities.

[Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2025-172445

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

This funding opportunity seeks to enhance the capacity of regulatory and law enforcement agencies and public health officials to collect and analyze controlled substance prescription data and other scheduled chemical products through a centralized database administered by an authorized agency.

[National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative \(SAKI\)](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2025-172462

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

This funding opportunity seeks to reduce sexual assault and violent crime, hold violent offenders accountable, and deliver support and justice for victims resulting from significant backlogs of unsubmitted and partially tested sexual assault kits (SAKs). Funding will provide resources and support to criminal justice agencies in their efforts to improve their jurisdictional response to sexually motivated crimes.

[Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\)](#)

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Assistance

O-BJA-2025-172468

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

This funding opportunity supports law enforcement efforts to reduce violent crime and improve police-community relations through a range of cross-sector enforcement, prevention, and intervention strategies that leverage active collaboration with communities through sustained partnerships and engagement.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement – Competitive Grants Program

**U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Assistance
O-BJA-2025-172472**

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

This funding opportunity seeks to improve forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services, including services provided by laboratories operated by states and units of local government.

Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA

**U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Assistance
O-BJA-2025-172467**

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

This funding opportunity supports prosecutors in the investigation and prosecution of violent cold case crimes where a suspect DNA profile is already developed. This initiative aims to enhance public safety and ensure appropriate case resolution for victims and their families. Law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies may utilize this funding for investigative and prosecutorial activities, as well as crime and forensic analyses that could increase the rate of successful prosecutions and/or other appropriate resolution of cases.

Reducing Recidivism for Female Juvenile Delinquents

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
O-OJJDP-2025-172458**

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 03, 2025

This funding opportunity will support the development, enhancement, or expansion of intervention programs for female juvenile delinquents. Funding will be used to develop and implement direct service programs for female juvenile delinquents to reduce reoffending or enhance or expand existing programs to meet their specific needs.

Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Program

**U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Assistance
O-BJA-2025-172466**

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: October 27, 2025

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: November 3, 2025

This funding opportunity supports programs designed to prevent and reduce school violence by implementing training, developing school threat assessment teams and/or intervention teams to identify violence risks, introducing technologies like anonymous reporting tools, or applying other school safety strategies that assist in preventing violence.

Standing Announcement for Tribal Title IV-E Plan Development Grants

**Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families - ACYF/CB
HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-CS-0067
Deadline: January 12, 2026**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to provide one-time awards to eligible applicants for developing plans to implement the Tribal title IV-E foster care, adoption assistance, and guardianship assistance programs. Each recipient must submit a plan to the Department of Health and Human Services within 24 months of the project start date. Funds under this NOFO may be used for the cost of developing a title IV-E plan under section 471 of the Social Security Act (the Act) to carry out a program under section 479B of the Act. The award may be used for costs relating to the development of data collection systems, a cost-

allocation methodology, agency and tribal court procedures necessary to meet the case review system requirements under section 475(5) of the Act, or any other costs attributable to meeting any other requirement necessary for approval of a title IV-E plan.

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: HK Tribal@hcd.ca.gov.

[NIDA Research Center of Excellence Grant Program](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

PAR-23-076

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.