

TJI Services

The Tribal Judicial Institute services include:

- * National, regional and local training*
- * On-site training and technical assistance*
- * Tribal court assessments*
- * Sample codes and constitutions*
- * Research for tribal judges*
- * Grant related technical assistance and orientation*
- * Resource materials on tribal justice issues*
- * Scholarships for tribal judges and court personnel for training events*

TJI Staff



B.J. Jones
Director
Phone 701-777-6176
Fax 701-777-0178
jones@law.und.edu



Michelle Rivard Parks
Assistant Director
Phone 701-777-6192
Fax 701-777-0178
mrivard@law.und.edu



Wendy Ellis-O'Konek
Program Coordinator
Phone 701-777-3017
Fax 701-777-0178
wendy.ellisokonek@law.und.edu



Melissa Aaker
Administrative Associate
Phone 701-777-6306
Fax 701-777-0178
maaker@law.und.edu

Tribal Judicial Institute

O'Kelly Hall, Room 316
215 Centennial Drive, Stop 9003
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9003

Phone (701) 777-6306
Fax: (701) 777-0178

Web Address: www.law.und.edu/tji



Tribal Judicial Institute

at the
University of North Dakota
School of Law



**Working for
Tribal Justice
Systems**

Working for Tribal Justice Systems

The Tribal Judicial Institute (TJI) started in 1993 with a grant from the Bush Foundation. Since its inception, the Institute has focused its efforts on training and technical assistance to tribal courts and tribal judges.

TJI has expanded to become a source of support for Indian tribes nationwide as they create, implement, and enhance their justice systems. The Institute has received several grants to support tribal judicial systems.

- **The Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime** to provide trainings to federal and tribal judges on child sexual abuse in Indian country.
- **The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families** to assist Indian tribes to develop Title IV-D appropriate child support enforcement codes.
- **The STOP Violence Against Women Office** to assist Tribes in combating domestic violence in their communities.
- **Various tribal and non-profit organizations** to assist in a variety of specialized objectives for Indian tribes.

In addition to these projects, the Institute has participated in a variety of tribal-state forums in the Dakotas and Minnesota and has facilitated the improved relations between federal and tribal courts nationwide.

Training and Technical Assistance

Since 2001, the Institute has been working to assist tribes in the planning, implementation, and enhancement of tribal justice systems through the Tribal Court Assistance Program, a grant program from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. As a grant recipient, the Institute has received funds to provide and coordinate training and technical assistance to tribes as they seek to develop and enhance tribal courts. The Institute, in collaboration with its partners, has provided training and technical assistance at local, regional and national levels for more than 250 Tribes nationwide.

The Tribal Judicial Institute is comprised of Tribal Judges and Attorneys who are able to provide a hands on approach to the delivery of training and technical assistance in the area of tribal justice. TJI has a wealth of practical experience working with tribal courts and in the area of tribal court development.

The Institute has also provided more than 500 national and regional training events for tribal leaders, tribal judges and court personnel on various issues pertaining to tribal justice and tribal court development. The Institute remains committed to delivering quality training and technical assistance to tribal courts and tribal justice leaders.

Please contact us to provide hands-on regional and national training and to provide direct technical assistance to tribal courts.

National Events

In 2005, the Institute was charged with the responsibility of providing a forum for a gathering of tribal justice leaders where tribal leaders would be able to convey their nations' concerns, needs and aspirations with respect to tribal justice systems and issues.

The first of the gatherings, entitled "Pathways to Justice: Alaska Gathering of Tribal Justice Leaders" was held in Anchorage Alaska in April of 2005; the second gathering, entitled "Pathways to Justice: National Gathering of Tribal Justice Leaders" was held in Washington, DC in May of 2005.

Each gathering was intended to create a series of recommendations for tribal, state and federal policy makers and leaders for the development and support of tribal justice systems.

Following the gatherings, which were attended by more than 500 tribal, state and federal representatives, an Executive Summary and Report of the gatherings was drafted and is currently awaiting final publication.

The Institute is a component of the Northern Plains Indian Law Center at the University of North Dakota School of Law.

