Native American Fatality Review Team and Tribal State and Federal Collaboration – More than a Vision

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Outline

- Our collective goal: Quelling violence in Indian Country
- Overview of how agencies/entities/sovereigns work together in Montana from the perspective of the USAO
- Introduction of Montana's Fatality Review Team
- Utilizing collaborative relationships and Montana's Fatality Review Team's model to build a Native American Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

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Indian Country within Montana



Criminal Jurisdiction – 100 words or less!

- The Feds have jurisdiction in Indian Country over what Congress called the "Major Crimes" which includes crimes considered more felonious homicides, rapes, serious assaults.
- While tribal courts may have the ability to charge these crimes too, generally the Indian Civil Rights Act has limited a tribal court's ability to punish. Until recently, tribal courts can only sentence up to a year of imprisonment and \$5000 fine.
- CSKT is PL 280 concurrent jurisdiction with the State.

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USAO - IC Unit

The Indian Country Unit is comprised of six AUSAs and is responsible for fulfilling one of the Department's top priorities – the improvement of public safety in Indian Country. To that end, the unit focuses on timely, effective prosecutions and liaison work that includes bi-weekly meetings with the tribal prosecutor and law enforcement, and monthly attendance at MDT meetings.

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WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

- FBI/BIA/IHS
- Tribal law enforcement
- Tribal Prosecutors/SAUSAs
- Tribal Courts
- Tribal Probation
- Federal Courts
- Federal Probation
- Defending Childhood Initiative
- MDT team members
- SART team members
- Advocates
- County Attorneys
- Montana Department of Justice
- Montana Legal Services
- Montana Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Native American Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
- Montana Victim Advocate Academy
- Montana Board of Crime Control

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