

Tribal Court Website and Library Development

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"Perhaps the most basic principle of all Indian Law... is the principle that those powers which are lawfully vested in an Indian Tribe are not, in general, delegated powers granted by express acts of Congress, but rather inherent powers of a limited sovereignty which has never been extinguished. ... What is not expressly limited remains within the domain of Tribal Sovereignty."

- Felix S. Cohen, *Handbook of Federal Indian Law* 122 (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1945)
- Printed upon the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Court webpage.

Where to Find Tribal Court Websites: tlpi.org

www.tribal-institute.org

Tribal Court CLEARINGHOUSE
a project of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Tribal Law Federal Law State Law Topics Program Resources Native Resources

13th National Indian Nations Conference
Justice for Victims of Crime
December 6 – 8, 2012

[You Can Now Register Online for the Conference.](#)

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, within the U.S. Department of Justice is pleased to announce the 13th National Indian Nations Conference for Justice for Victims of Crime. The Conference will be held **December 6 – 8, 2012**, on the reservation of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in Southern California.

The purpose of the 13th National Indian Nations Conference – the largest U.S. Department of Justice sponsored Indian Nations conference – is to bring together Native American victims, victim advocates, tribal leaders, victim service providers, community volunteers, prosecutors, judicial and law enforcement personnel, family violence and sexual assault specialists, medical providers, social services and mental health personnel, probation/corrections, criminal justice and juvenile justice personnel, as well as

QUICK LINKS
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tlpi.org – List of Tribal Courts and Tribal Court Webpages

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Tribal Courts

This page provides general information on the justice systems of tribal nations and links to official tribal court websites. Find more information on tribal justice systems, please see [Tribal Constitutions](#) and [Tribal Codes](#).

Tribal courts and justice systems are critical components of the tribal government. They are empowered to resolve conflict and controversy. Prior to European contact, native people practiced various forms of meaningful and productive conflict and dispute resolution. Tribal member participation in debate of issues and in defense of the alleged was not just allowed, it was expected. Unfortunately, these tribal methods were unfamiliar to the settlers and were often discounted and even discouraged.

"Courts of Indian Offenses," or "Courts of Federal Regulations" ("CFR Courts") were the first modern iteration of tribal courts. They were established by the Department of the Interior in 1882 in part to handle less serious criminal actions and resolve disputes among tribal members. However, many judges were non-Indian BIA superintendents with express objectives of assimilating Native people into western society and [abolishing "barbarous" practices such as ceremonial dances](#). Some tribes still operate CFR Courts today (see below).

In 1934, with the enactment of the Indian Reorganization Act ([25 U.S.C.A. § 461, et. seq.](#)), Indian tribes were allowed to exercise their inherent sovereignty to establish their own justice codes and operate court systems enforcing those laws. The Act authorized tribes to organize and adopt constitutions. However, many of the tribally-enacted constitutions were boiler-plate templates, requiring Secretary of the Interior approval for many tribal government actions. Nevertheless, despite its flaws, the Act is considered a "success" in providing a framework for and first-step towards expanding tribal self-government.

Today, tribal justice systems are diverse in concept and character. While some are extensively elaborate, others are just beginning to develop a "modern" judicial system within the context, conditions, and circumstances of their individual nations. Some tribes prefer the adversarial process, while others utilize traditional dispute resolution. Many courts apply large bodies of written or positive law and others apply custom and tradition to address controversy and settle disputes.

Below is a list of known Tribal Courts organized by the court's state location. [CFR Courts](#) are listed separately below. Links include official Tribal Court websites, Tribal Court directories, official Tribal websites, or third-party provided contact information of the Tribal Court. Additionally, we have included known Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts.

[Alabama](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Florida](#), [Idaho](#), [Iowa](#), [Kansas](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi](#), [Montana](#), [Nebraska](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York](#), [Nevada](#), [North Carolina](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#), [South Dakota](#), [Texas](#), [Utah](#), [Washington](#), [Wisconsin](#), [Wyoming](#).

Alabama

[Boarch Band of Creek Indians](#)
[Boarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Court](#)
 5811 Jacksprings
 Atmore, AL 36502
 Phone: (251) 368-9136, ext. 2652
 Fax: (251) 446-6086

Tribal Court Websites

- Most Tribal Court websites exist as part of the overall Tribe Website.
 - Notable exceptions include the Navajo Judicial Branch, and the Tribal Court of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa.
- Many Tribal Court websites currently provide only limited information, such as address and hours of operation.

Tribal Law and Order Act Considerations

- Tribal courts intending to implement TLOA's enhanced sentencing provisions must, among other due process considerations, **make publicly available its criminal laws, including**
 - Regulations
 - Interpretive documents (criminal case law)
 - Rules of Evidence
 - Rules of Criminal Procedure
 - Including rules governing the recusal of judges in appropriate circumstances
- 25 U.S.C. § 1302(b)(4)

Tribal Law and Order Act and VAWA Reauthorization Considerations

- “Make publicly available” is not defined, and thus posting the tribal laws on a website is not necessarily required.
- However, if Congress enacts the Senate-version of the VAWA Reauthorization (permitting limited tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian domestic violence offenders), then the TLOA due process protections will also apply to those defendants, including the need to make criminal laws available.

Tribal Law and Order Act Considerations – Tribal Bar

- TLOA’s due process protections also require the provision of defense attorneys and judges that are licensed to practice law **“by any jurisdiction in the United States .”** 25 U.S.C. § 1302(b)(2)-(3)
 - For defense attorneys, the jurisdiction must apply “appropriate licensing standards and effectively ensure the competence and professional responsibility of its licensed attorneys.”
- Tribal Bar Associations presumably qualify as permissible licensing jurisdictions.
- The Tribal Court Website is a perfect location to detail the Tribal Bar Association requirements.

Tribal Court Webpage Components

- Tribal Code
 - Tribal Ordinances
 - Tribal Constitution
- Tribal Cases
- Court Forms
- Tribal Court Rules
 - Rules of Civil Procedure
 - Rules of Criminal Procedure
 - Rules of Professional Conduct
 - Rules of Evidence

Tribal Court Website Components

- Type of Cases Adjudicated
 - Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, Family, Probate, Traffic, etc.
- Court Docket
- Admission to Practice
 - Bar List
 - Bar Admission Forms and Requirements
 - Tribal Bar Exam

Tribal Court Webpage Components

- Different Arms of the Court
 - Family Court, Juvenile Court, Traffic Court
 - Appellate Court
 - Specialty Courts, e.g. Healing to Wellness Court, DWI Court, Community Court, Teen Court
 - Peacemaking Court

Tribal Court Webpage Components

- List of Tribal Court Staff and Judges
 - Judge and Staff Biographies
- Contact Information for the Court
- Other Contact Information
 - Prosecutor's Office
 - Public Defender's Office
 - Clerk's Office
 - Probation Department
 - Family Court Support Office
 - Civil Office

Tribal Court Webpage Components

- Schedule of Court Days
- History of the Tribal Court
 - E.g. Mashantucket Pequot
- Directions
 - Many tribes include a photo of the Courthouse
- Schedule of Court Fees
- Court News
- Jury Information
- Sex Offender Community Notification
 - Though some tribes maintain a list elsewhere

Tribal Court Webpage Examples

- Mission Statement
 - Hoopa Valley Tribal Court



Mission

To provide fair, impartial, efficient and effective resolution of civil cases through the application of Tribal Laws and community standards.

- Yurok Tribal Court



Our Mission

To support the traditional village values of the people, and to have those values inform the development of the Court as a modern institution. The Court's role is to protect the values of the people, to support the development of those values within each member of the community, and to ensure that our responsibility to protect our traditions and traditional lands are carried out.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court Website

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

User name: [input] Password: [input] Login

Forgot your password? Forgot your username? Create account Remember me

Home / Government / Tribal Court

Tribal Court

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court can hear a wide range of civil matters, including divorces, child custody disputes, and various small claim issues. The Court can issue a personal protection order to help someone in an abusive relationship.

Tribal Court exists for the benefit of the members. Pro se litigants (people representing themselves) will be treated with respect. Our court can provide efficient, inexpensive solutions to the problems of Tribal members. We have a pamphlet available with the meanings of the

- Tribal Court Documentation
- Tribal Court Administrative Orders
- Tribal Court Docket
- Tribal Court Opinions

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court Website

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS

[LTBB Home](#)
[Odawa Register](#)
[Court Home](#)
[Weekly Docket](#)
[Case List Report](#)
[Waabshki-Migwan](#)

Court Opinions
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Probation
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[Tribal Code](#)

Peacemaking
[Introduction](#)
[Anishnabe Justice & Peacemaking Traditions](#)

NOTICE: The Tribal Court is relocating to 911 Spring Street, Petoskey, MI on September 18th & 19th 2012.

Judicial Branch Tribal Court


The mission of the Tribal Court is to implement the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians judicial system, consistent with self-determination and the sovereign powers of the Tribe, by building on the community values of respect, culture and spirituality, that allows for unity, fairness and due process in resolving issues, conflicts and disputes within the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' jurisdiction.


The Tribal Judiciary is a separate branch of tribal government established by the tribal constitution. It decides questions concerning the scope and existence of tribal power and gives definition to the substantive law governing the tribe. It is responsible to protect the procedural and individual rights of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indian people and entities subject to tribal jurisdiction.

The judicial power of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is vested in a tribal court system composed of a court of general jurisdiction, called Tribal Court, and an appellate court, called Tribal Appellate Court.

The chief judge and associate judge preside over all civil and criminal cases in Tribal Court arising under the tribal constitution, statutes, regulations, or judicial decisions of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Tribal Court's jurisdiction is based upon the Tribe's inherent sovereignty, traditional custom, and federal law.

Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Website





Alááji Hashkééji Nahat'á
The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

[NAVAJO GOVT](#) • [GOVT DIRECTORY](#) • [BRANCH REPORTS](#) • [EMAIL](#) • [HUMAN RESOURCES](#) • [QUERIES](#)

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SELECTED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

SEARCH THE SITE

Press Releases/Announcements This page was last updated on 11/21/2012

Judicial Branch courts and offices closed for holiday
 The courts, programs and offices of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch will be closed beginning November 21, 2012, at 12 p.m., through November 23, 2012, to observe the Thanksgiving holiday and Family Day. The Judicial Branch will resume normal business hours on November 26, 2012.

Supreme Court Publishes Opinion in James v. Window Rock Family Court
The Supreme Court has released for publication its opinion in James v. Window Rock Family Court, No. SC-CV-06-12, that was issued

— Chief Justice Herb Yazzie

Hualapai Tribal Court Webpage

The Hualapai Tribe Website

"People of the Tall Pines"



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[Photo Gallery](#)

[Services](#)

[Employment](#)

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[Community](#)

[Government](#)

[About Hualapai](#)

Tribal Court



MISSION

"To promote Justice to all in a fair and impartial manner by providing quality and courtesy services with integrity and confidentiality; we further give our utmost respect to cultural values, customers and traditions."

Contact Tribal Court
 960 Rodeo Way
 P.O. Box 275
 Peach Springs, AZ 86434
 Phone: 928.769.2338
 Fax: 928.769.2736

Court Documents

- [Change Your Name Application \[PDF-262KB\]](#)
- [Hualapai Court Practitioner Application and Information Sheet \[PDF-52.1KB\]](#)

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Outline of the Tribal Court Process

The following steps outline the Tribal Court process.

1. Petition

If you wish to have a case heard by the Court, you must first complete a petition and file it with the Clerk of Courts in Norfolk.

Members are allowed to file their own form of petition with the Court; however, they may use the standard forms provided online or at any service area office.

Fees:

\$60 - For all juvenile and civil cases
 \$100 - For all divorce specific cases

Please Note: If you are unable to pay the required fees and still want the Court to hear your case, you are required to complete a signed affidavit that states the reasons why you cannot pay the required fees. The Court will then decide whether or not they will hear the case without the filing fee.

2. Notification

After a case is filed, the Court notifies and serves all appropriate parties, allowing them 30 days to send a response. After the Court receives the response, it schedules a Court hearing date.

3. Tribal Court Hearing

From the hearing process, the Court renders a decision on the case presented. The Ponca Tribal Court does not provide legal representation to those involved in the court process. Those involved are allowed to represent themselves or use their own legal counsel.

4. Appeals

If the parties involved do not agree with the decision of the Court, they have the option to appeal the case to the Northern Plains Intertribal Court of Appeals.

Fort Peck Court Schedule



- Home
- Court News
- Court Docket
- Court Schedule
- Licensed Advocates
- Court Personnel
- Civil Form Book
- C.C.O.J.
- Appellate Opinions
- Filing Fees
- Sex Offender
- Community
- Notification
- Contacts
- Links
- Employee Email
- Public Defender Program
- Tribal Bar Exam

FORT PECK TRIBAL COURT SCHEDULE ASSINIBOINE & SIOUX TRIBES									
The Public May Transact Court Business Between the Hours of 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM									
CR=Criminal Court CV=Civil Court FC=Family Court YC=Youth Court									
	MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY		
	Court #1	Court #2	Court #3	Court #1	Court #2	Court #3	Court #1	Court #2	Court #3
8:00 AM	DO NOT SCHEDULE								
8:30 AM	No filing allowed before 9:00 AM								
9:00 AM	CV 103	FC X 304-a Hearing	YC IX-305 or IX-309	CR Jury Trial	FC IX-505 IX-506 IX-509 Hearings	YC IX-305 Hearings	CR Pre-Trials	Open Court Room	YC Review Hearing
9:30 AM									
10:00 AM									
10:30 AM	CR Arraign.			CR Arraign.		YC IX-303	CR Arraign.		CV Trial
11:00 AM									
11:30 AM									
12:00 PM									
12:30 PM									
1:00 PM									
1:30 PM	CV Trials	FC X-403a Hearing	YC Renew or Disposition	CR Jury or Bench Trial	FC X-304a Hearings	YC IX-305 Hearings	CR Bench Trial	FC IX-505 IX-506 IX-509 Hearings	YC IX-305 Hearings
2:00 PM		CV Ex. Writs	FC IX-503				CV Ex. Writs		FC IX-503
2:30 PM									
3:00 PM									
3:30 PM									
4:00 PM									
4:30 PM									

E-Filing



E-Filing

Parties filing documents by electronic mail may send court documents to tribalcourtfilings@sanmanuel.com in .PDF format with the case number and the name of the document in the subject line. The Clerk of the Court shall deliver written confirmation to the filing party of the date and time the email program recorded receipt of the filing. All parties filing electronically are required to deliver the original documents and any applicable filing fees to the Tribal Court within five (5) business days of the date the Acknowledgement of Electronic Filing Receipt is provided by the Clerk of the Court. Electronic Filings received after the Court's scheduled business hours shall be deemed to have been received as of the next business day.

Court Forms

- Adobe Acrobat - Simple PDFs or Fill-In Forms
 - Overwhelming majority of tribal courts use PDFs.
- Court forms will depend entirely upon the type of cases your court adjudicates.
- Typical Court Forms include
 - Complaints and Answers
 - Divorce
 - Parent-Child Relations and Judgments
 - Probate Proceedings
 - Protection Order
 - Fee Waiver Applications
 - **Instructions**

Court Forms

- E.g. Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community – Fill-In Adobe Acrobat Forms



- Amendment to Answer
- Answer
- Authorization and Release
- Change of Judge Request/Notice
- Summons-Civil Case

- Tribal Court of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa



- Petition for Child Support
- Petition for Divorce
- Motion to Establish Paternity
- Custody Forms

Fill- In Court Forms – Salt River Pima-Maricopa



IN THE COMMUNITY COURT OF THE
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

(Print Full Name)

Petitioner/ Plaintiff,

v.

(Print Full Name)

Respondent/ Defendant.

Case No.:

(See Petition or Complaint)

AMENDMENT TO ANSWER

(SRP-MIC Civ. Rules 5-14 and 5-14.1)

Number _____ of _____

COMES NOW, the Respondent/ Defendant, *(print full name)* _____,
and amends his/her Answer as follows:

Sources for Tribal Case Law

- There is no comprehensive source for all tribal courts. Many tribes' decisions may not be published at all.
- Available resources include
 - Tribal Court Website
 - Commercial Sources
 - Non-Profit/Non-Commercial Sources
 - Printed Reporters

Tribally Posted Court Opinions

- Tribal Court of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
 - Organized by subject matter, and updated by at least 2007.
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
 - PDF of Administrative Orders from 1999 to 2010
 - Court Opinions from 1999 to 2011, organized by year
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
 - Some Court Opinions, organized by Appellate, Civil, and Criminal
 - Administrative Actions

Tribally Posted Court Opinions

- Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Gun Lake Tribe
 - Currently lists their one and only court opinion
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
 - Lists seven court opinions
- Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
 - Appellate Opinions only
- Navajo Nation
 - Supreme Court cases 2012-2006 available online
 - Navajo Reporter – Available for Purchase: Supreme Court Opinions, and selected district court and family court opinions: 1969-2005

Commercial Online Sources

- [LexisNexis](#)
- [Westlaw](#)
 - There are no flat rates available for either Westlaw or LexisNexis, but are rather derived based on the status and size of the user. A small law firm package might be \$500-\$800 a month.
- [VersusLaw](#)

Commercial Online Sources

- There are several major advantages towards pursuing a commercial resource
 - Available court opinions from multiple jurisdictions, including other tribes, states, and federal
 - Cross-referenced capabilities
 - Key Notes

● But...



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All Content Tribal Cases

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Tribal Cases

See specific court for coverage information. Search all Tribal Cases above or navigate to specific content below.

Oklahoma Tribal Court Reports
West's Mashantucket Pequot Reports

West's American Tribal Law Reporter

West's American Tribal Law Reporter	Inter-Tribal Court of Appeals of Nevada
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Cheyenne River Sioux	Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community	Mohegan
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Navajo Nation
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
Fort Peck Tribes	Sac & Fox Nation
Grand Traverse Band	Tulalip Tribes
Ho-Chunk Nation	
Hopi	

VersusLaw – Available Tribal Court Opinions

VersusLaw – Typical Search Results

Jurisdiction	Case Description	Date
NANN	In re the Estate of Nat N. Benally v. Kim, No. SC-CV-49-08 (Navajo 06/25/2009) SUPREME COURT OF THE NAVAJO NATION 2009.NANN.0000007 < http://www.versuslaw.com> No. SC-CV-49-08 ...petition to vacate a final probate decree regarding the estate ofwith the filing of a probate petition by Ms. Lucinda HenryMs. Henry filed a final probate report and proposed distribution list ...	06/25/2009
NANN	In re Estate of Kinello, No. SC-CV-46-05 (Navajo 05/19/2006) SUPREME COURT OF THE NAVAJO NATION 2006.NANN.0000017 < http://www.versuslaw.com> No. SC-CV-46-05 ...concerns the dismissal of a probate case by the Shiprock FamilyCourt's dismissal of a probate action filed by Appellant Harry.....Appellees moved to dismiss the probate as barred by the concept ...	05/18/2006
NANN	In re Estate of Kinello, No. SC-CV-38-99 (Navajo 09/02/2001) SUPREME COURT OF THE NAVAJO NATION 2001.NANN.0000009 No. SC-CV-38-99 ...Family Court which dismissed a probate action on the ground ofhad no jurisdiction over the probate of Amy Kinde's grazingfiled a petition for the probate of Amy Kinde's estate ...	08/02/2001
NANN	Bessy v. Keedah, No. A-CV-09-91 (Navajo 11/26/1991) SUPREME COURT OF THE NAVAJO NATION 1991.NANN.0000007 No. A-CV-09-91 ...of Indian Offenses entered a probate decree for the estate ofDistrict Court entered an intestate probate decree awarding a one-thirdshare of the permit. The probate decree is silent about the ...	11/26/1991
NANN	In re Estate of Bessy, No. A-CV-11-01 (Navajo 07/17/1991)	07/17/1991

VersusLaw – Payment Plans (assuming no posting agreement)

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Products and Services

VersusLaw offers three different online legal research plans to address your legal research needs. Click on each plan's link below for an understanding of each plan's subscription details. Be sure to check out other VersusLaw legal research tools [below](#).

Need to check our library coverage? Look through our [Complete Library Directory](#).

••• [Subscribe now!](#) or [Subscribe by fax](#) ••• Current subscribers, [Upgrade now!](#)

Standard Plan - \$13.95/mo; \$167.40/yr	Premium Plan - \$24.95/mo; \$299.40/yr	Professional Plan - \$39.95/mo; \$479.40/yr
<p>The Standard Plan offers online access to archive and current opinions from the following courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ U.S. Supreme Court ▪ U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals ▪ Federal District Courts (current) ▪ State Appellate Court ▪ Tribal Courts ▪ Foreign Courts ▪ AdvanceLinks 	<p>The Premium Plan builds on the case law access of the Standard Plan, plus access to selected state content such as statutes and regulations. This plan also offers additional search capabilities and add-on products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to Standard Plan Case Law plus Federal District Court opinions back to about 1950. ▪ Links to State Statutes and Regs ▪ Increased Search Engine Functionality, including a Citation Search Feature ▪ AdvanceLinks 	<p>The Professional Plan includes the online case law access, additional state content and online search capabilities of the Premium Plan. Also included is access to the U.S. Code, CFR and selected Special Practice Collections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to Premium Plan Case Law Search Capabilities and additional State Content plus Federal District Court opinions back to about 1950. ▪ AdvanceLinks ▪ U.S. Code and CFR ▪ Specialty Practice Collections

Agreement to Post on Versus Law

Join Versus Law's Tribal Court Database

Is your court interested in joining the VersusLaw Tribal Court Database? VersusLaw offers the most comprehensive database of Tribal Courts, State, and Federal Appellate court decisions available online. Receive free access to VersusLaw Case Law Research in exchange for sending VersusLaw your court's decisions. Please take a moment to read the Top Ten reasons for participation listed below.

- Access.** Increased access to tribal court opinions allows cases to be argued before the courts based on the case's merits.
- Research precedents.** A national database enables your court to research precedents already decided by other tribal courts. Participation with VersusLaw's Tribal Court Database in turn gives your court unrestricted access to VersusLaw's U.S. Federal and State appellate court databases.
- First of its kind.** Currently, there are only a limited number of individual Tribal Court websites, and just a few regional tribal court sites. Our tribal court database is the first-ever, electronic compilation of tribal court opinions on a national level.
- Extensive experience.** While the Tribal Court Database might be relatively new (March 30, 2000), VersusLaw already has several years of experience with database management.
- Individual considerations.** VersusLaw will accommodate your tribal court's needs. VersusLaw is willing to consider any of your court's concerns when drafting our [VersusLaw Publishing Agreement](#) ^(PDF).
- Privacy.** Concerned about protecting the privacy of parties involved in a particular case? VersusLaw will accept opinions with deletion of party names.
- Non-exclusive.** The Cooperative Publishing Agreement is a non-exclusive agreement. VersusLaw asserts no claims to the copyright of your opinions.
- Limited number of archived opinions?** No problem. VersusLaw wants to include tribal courts of all sizes, regardless of the number of opinions you have on record.
- New and developing courts.** The Tribal Court Database has been an invaluable resource for new and developing courts. It affords courts the opportunity to research other opinions - this also gives new courts the ability to integrate their participation with the Tribal Court Database from the start.
- NAICJA.** VersusLaw is developing the Tribal Court Database in cooperation with the [National American Indian Court Judges Association](#). VersusLaw also shares opinions with the Tribal Court Clearinghouse and the [National Tribal Justice Resource Center](#).

First read the [VersusLaw Publishing Agreement](#) ^(PDF). If you agree with all of the terms and conditions, print a copy and complete the contract. Please send two (2) signed copies to:

VersusLaw, Inc.
Attn: A.D. Acton
8383 185th Ave N.E.
Redmond, WA 98052

If you have any questions, contact VersusLaw Customer Service via email (CustomerRelations@versuslaw.com) or call toll free (888) 377-8752.

Available at: <http://www.tribal-institute.org/lists/decision.htm>

Non-commercial online sources

- [Tribal Court Clearinghouse](#). Includes cases from VersusLaw.
- National Tribal Justice Resource Center (site currently inactive).

In 2012, the National Indian Court Judges Association announced that the Resource Center would be reestablished in Boulder, CO. See [Tribal Judges Revive National Tribal Justice Resource Center](#)

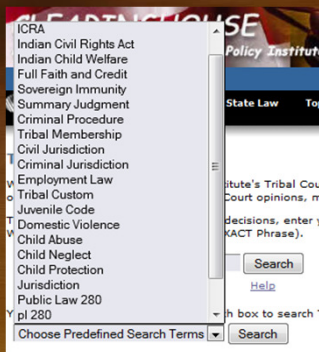
- Tribes' websites.

Tribal Court Clearinghouse

- Linked to Versus Law
- Internal Search Engine

The screenshot shows the Tribal Court Clearinghouse website. The browser address bar displays www.tribal-institute.org/lists/decision.htm. The page header features the title "Tribal Court CLEARINGHOUSE" and identifies it as "a project of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute". A navigation menu includes links for Home, Tribal Law, Federal Law, State Law, Topics, Program Resources, and Native Resources. The main content area is titled "Tribal Court Decisions" and contains a welcome message: "Welcome to the Tribal Law & Policy Institute's Tribal Court Opinion search page. Thanks to our cooperative agreement with VersusLaw®, we now have a searchable database of over 2046 2008 fully annotated Tribal Court opinions, memorandums and orders from [Tribal Court Tribal Courts](#)." Below this is a search instruction: "To search for Tribal Court or Appellate decisions, enter your search terms in the following text box and use the drop down list to select your search criteria (i.e.: Search ANY Word, Search ALL Words, and Search EXACT Phrase)." The search interface includes a text input field, a "Search" button, a "Find ANY word" dropdown menu, and a "Main" link. A secondary search option is provided: "You may also use our predefined search box to search Tribal Court opinions for specific, pre-selected words and phrases." This includes a "Choose Predefined Search Terms" dropdown and another "Search" button. On the right side, there is a logo for the Tribal Law and Policy Institute and a "QUICK LINKS" section with links to "Tribal Law and Policy Institute" and "Institute Publications".

Tribal Court Clearinghouse



- Pre-Defined Search Term List


Tribal Court Clearinghouse – Available Tribal Case Law

1. Chitimacha Tribal Court (LA)
2. Colville Confederated Tribes Court of Appeals (WA)
3. Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (OR)
4. Coquille Tribal Court (OR)
5. Coshatta Tribal Court (LA)
6. Crow Court of Appeals (MT)
7. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (NC)
8. Fort McDowell Yavapai Tribal Court (AZ)
9. Fort Peck Tribal Court - Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes (MT)
10. Hopi Tribal Court (AZ)
11. Hualapai Tribal Nation (AZ)
12. Makah Tribal Court (WA)
13. Mashantucket Pequot (CT)
14. Mohegan Gaming Disputes Court (CT)
15. Mohegan Tribal Court (CT)
16. Navajo Nation Court (AZ)
17. Oneida Appeals Commission (WI)
18. Passamaquoddy Tribal Court (ME)
19. Puyallup Tribal Court of Appeals (WA)
20. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court (NY)
21. Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Court (LA)
22. Turtle Mountain Tribal Court (ND)


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- ***Tribal Court Appellate Decisions: Northwest Intertribal Court System (v. 1-5) and Tribal Appellate Court Opinions: Northwest Regional Appellate Courts (v. 6-)***
 - Publication is slow. As of July 2012, the most recent published was volume 9 (2009-10).
 - More recent decisions are [here](#).

Other Resources: NARF.org

No case law, but good resources and research tips

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- BETA -

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- Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah (not recognized)
- Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, California
- Ak Chin Indian Community of the Maricopa (Ak Chin) Indian Reservation, Arizona
- Akiachak Native Community
- Akiak Native Community
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Alafna Tribal Office
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- Constitutions
- Court Opinions
- Court Rules
- Compacts & Agreements
- Treaties
- Legal Histories

Final Considerations for Developing Tribal Case Law Library

- Consider *who* should have access
 - Some websites have portions that require passwords
- Organization
 - Organize by *Date* and *Subject Matter*
 - Internal Search Engine
- Update Regularly
- Confidentiality
 - Juvenile names should be redacted or substituted for a placeholder, such as "Doe"

Tribal Law and Policy Institute

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