

TRIBAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT



Things are progressing regarding the research and development of a proposed plan for the Tribal Court. The Project Advisory Team Committee has been diligently learning about what components will be necessary for the initial start-up of the Tribal Court and are currently working on that proposal.

In addition, the Project Advisory Team Committee is also researching various Codes that the Tribe will need to implement upon the start-up of the Tribal Court. At the first Informational Meeting for the tribal members, many excellent suggestions were made for code development consideration. These suggestions are being researched to determine what ones might be necessary to implement immediately and which ones should be addressed by the new Tribal Court when the time comes.

The last week of August, I attended the Tribal Court Development Training Conference; however, at the time of this writing, I have not yet attended, but I am very excited about the conference. I believe that the information gleaned from this conference will help the Project Advisory Team Committee take what they have been learning during the past 9-months and fine tune a basic proposed plan for the initial set-up of the Tribal Court. Training topics covered are below:

- 📌 Tribal Courts as an Act of Sovereignty
- 📌 Tribal Court Management
- 📌 Fundamentals of Tribal Code Development and Revision
- 📌 Evaluating Your Court for Effective Performance
- 📌 Wellness to Healing Programs
- 📌 And so much more!

I am eager to report back to the membership on this conference as I believe it is going to really help set the stage for our Tribal Court.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the **Annual Membership Meeting on November 1, 2008**, at the **Luella Collins Community Center**. This is a great opportunity for you as members to learn about what has been accomplished on your behalf during the past fiscal year regarding all departments, to hear what the projected goals are for the upcoming fiscal year for all departments, and to offer your input as a tribal member. The Justice Department will have lots to share! So please plan on attending and encourage other members to attend as well!

In addition, if you have not checked out the Tribal Court link on the Tribe's website, please do! A lot of interesting information is available to you and is updated regularly. Judge Michael Petoskey's bio and picture is now available as well. Judge Petoskey did a fantastic job addressing questions of the membership at the Informational Meeting, and we hope to have him back again as we continue in this process.

If you are having troubles logging in on the website, please contact Andrew Sprague, IT Specialist, at 616.681.9510, and he will be able to assist you so that you can utilize the site.

As always, if you would like to discuss the progress of the Tribal Court research, please feel free to contact me at the office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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