



ICWA and Juvenile Justice: Empowering Tribes in the Fight for our Children

**NCAI Mid Year Conference
June 29, 2015, 1:30pm to 4pm**

St. Paul RiverCentre

[Room]

(Agenda as of May 15, 2015)

1:30pm-2:15pm Indian Child Welfare: Improving Tribal ICWA Responses

Kathryn E. Fort, Staff Attorney and Adjunct Professor, Michigan State University College of Law

The BIA released regulations to assist state courts and agencies in uniformly applying the Indian Child Welfare Act on March 20, 2015. This speaker will briefly touch on ICWA compliance in state courts, followed by discussion of what tribes can do to improve their own ICWA systems to respond better to ICWA proceedings.

2:15pm-3:00pm Foster Care to Prison Pipeline

The Honorable Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Chief Judge, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians [Tentative – To Be Confirmed]

ICWA noncompliance has led to the placement of many Indian children in non-Indian, non-relative foster homes where their cultures are disrespected, ignored, or misunderstood. These placements have resulted in a disproportionately high rate of Native foster youth in prison. This panel will discuss how the foster system has failed our youth, with testimonial from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa tribal court.

3:00pm-4:00pm Modifying Juvenile Justice Systems to Meet the Needs of Tribal Youth

Ron Whitener, University of Washington Law School, Native American Law Center
Natasha Anderson, Deputy Associate Director, Tribal Courts, Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Interior and Justice Departments are updating the BIA's 1988 Model Indian Juvenile Justice Code. This panel will discuss some of the considerations that went into drafting, and gather input from tribal leaders on how to best address the diverse needs of the Native youth population.