



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
**U.S. Department  
of the Interior**

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# Media Advisory

## **Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform to Hold Seventh Public Meeting Aug. 19 in Anchorage, Alaska**

**WASHINGTON** – The Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform will hold the seventh in a series of public meetings on Aug. 19, 2013, in Anchorage, Alaska, as part of the Commission’s comprehensive evaluation of the Department of the Interior’s management and administration of Indian trust assets. The meeting also will be accessible by teleconference and Webinar.

Commission members will hear from speakers knowledgeable about the Federal-Indian trust relationship, other trust models and trust reform. They also will be looking at aspects of the trust relationship that are unique to Alaska under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The meeting will include a panel session on trust land and the U.S. Government’s trust responsibility in Alaska.

In addition, the management consultant firm Grant Thornton LLP will be present to gather attendees’ perspectives on how federal Indian trust administration currently operates. In March 2013, the company was awarded a contract in partnership with Cherokee Services Group, a Cherokee Nation-owned business, to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the Department’s management of the trust administration system in support of the Commission’s efforts.

“The Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform is very interested in learning about the Alaska Native community’s views of the Interior Department’s trust management in Alaska,” said Commission Chair Fawn Sharp. “We welcome all input, perspectives and recommendations on how to improve the Department’s overall management of its trust responsibilities, and strongly encourage attendees and others to share their views and suggestions with the management consultant working with us, Grant Thornton, who also will be present to accept such information.”

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Members of the public who wish to attend the Commission's meeting in person should RSVP by Aug. 18 at [trustcommission@ios.doi.gov](mailto:trustcommission@ios.doi.gov). To participate via teleconference and Webinar, register by Aug. 18 at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/358286632>. Teleconference and Webinar participation is limited to 100 participants.

For more information about the Aug. 19 meeting and the Commission's work, visit <http://www.doi.gov/cobell/commission/index.cfm>. Submissions to Grant Thornton may be emailed to [Trust.Commission@us.gt.com](mailto:Trust.Commission@us.gt.com).

The Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform was established in 2011 to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Department's management and administration of nearly \$4 billion in American Indian trust assets over two years and to offer recommendations on improvements in the future. Building on progress made with the historic Cobell Settlement, the accountable, transparent and customer-friendly management of these substantial funds and assets. All of the Commission's meetings are open to the public.

**WHO:** Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform Members to be Present:

- Fawn Sharp (Quinault), Chair
- Tex G. Hall (Three Affiliated Tribes), Member
- Stacy Leeds (Cherokee Nation), Member
- Dr. Peterson Zah (Navajo Nation), Member
- Robert Anderson (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe-Boise Forte Band), Member

Sarah Harris, Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and Designated Federal Officer for the Commission, DOI

**WHAT:** DOI Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform public meeting.

**WHEN:** Monday, Aug. 19, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (ADT).

**WHERE:** Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Spa, Kuskokwim Ballroom, 401 East 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501; Phone: 907-276-8700.

**CREDENTIALS:** This invitation is extended to credentialed media representatives, who must display sanctioned media credentials for admittance to the event.

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