Training to focus on domestic violence cases, includes roundtable discussion on Violence Against Women Act

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WASHINGTON – The Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services will offer the next in its series of training sessions for tribal court personnel on Aug. 6-9, 2013, in Philadelphia, Miss., with presentations that focus on domestic violence.

Because of a high level of interest, the Office of Justice Services (OJS) has continued to provide legal training it successfully held in 2012 to new groups of tribal court prosecutors, defenders and judges to improve their trial advocacy skills. The training focuses on cases involving the trafficking of illegal narcotics, domestic violence and sexual assault on children and adults.

The 2013 Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program sessions already held took place on May 14-16 in Missoula, Mont., with a focus on domestic violence cases; June 17-20 in Grand Forks, N.D., with cases concerning sexual assaults on children; and July 22-25 in Reno, Nev., with cases concerning illegal narcotics. The last session in the 2013 series will take place Dec. 2-5 in Oklahoma City and focus on cases concerning sexual assaults on adults. All of the sessions include a roundtable discussion on the Violence Against Women Act.

Tribal court trial advocacy training is mandated by the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and is being conducted under the Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program – a joint effort of the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that furthers the mandate of the Act to strengthen tribal sovereignty over criminal justice matters on federal Indian lands by sharpening the skills of those who practice within the tribal court system.

The program is the result of a collaborative effort by the OJS and the DOJ's Access to Justice Initiative to offer trial advocacy training with courses designed specifically for tribal courts and

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free training to the judges, public defenders and prosecutors who work in them. Training is being conducted by working law professionals using instructional materials prepared by experts knowledgeable about tribal court issues. The program is unique for its public defenders training.

President Obama signed the Violence Against Women Act on March 7, 2013. It includes important provisions for federally recognized tribes to combat violence against Native women such as homicide, rape, assault and battery in the home, workplace and on school campuses throughout Indian Country.

WHO: Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services.

WHAT:	The fourth of five 2013 Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program sessions mandated under the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 to improve the trial advocacy skills of tribal court prosecutors, defenders and judges.
WHEN:	**Aug. 6-9, 2013 (CDT)** Tuesday, Aug. 6: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
WHERE:	Pearl River Resort, 13541 Highway 16 West (13541 Mississippi 16), Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350; Phone: 601-663-0656.

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

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