Training to focus on child sexual assault cases, include 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 June 17-20, 2013, in Grand Forks, N.D., with cases focusing on sexual assault on children.

Because of a high level of interest, the Office of Justice Services is providing 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 adults and children.

The first session in the 2013 Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program series took place on May 14-16 in Missoula, Mont., with a focus on domestic violence cases. Remaining sessions and topics are: July 22-25 in Reno, Nev. (illegal narcotics), Aug. 6-9 in Philadelphia, Miss. (domestic violence); and Dec. 2-5 in Oklahoma City (sexual assault 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 by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Justice 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 free training to the judges, public defenders and prosecutors who work in them. Training will be 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 second 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:	June 17-20, 2013 (CDT) Monday, June 17: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 18: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 19: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
WHERE:	Canad Inns Destination Center, 1000 S. 42nd Street, Grand Forks, N.D. 58201; Phone: 701-772-8404.

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

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