



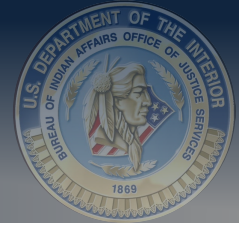
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services

Tribal-Interior Budget Council (TIBC) **Tribal Justice Support Directorate (Tribal Courts)**

August 6, 2015
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Office of Justice Services

Tribal Justice Support Directorate



Who We Are

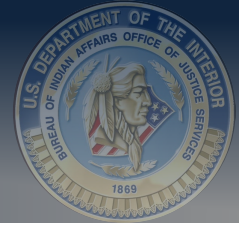
- Associate Director: **Tricia Tingle** (*Choctaw Nation*)
- Deputy Associate Director: **Natasha Anderson** (*Yankton Sioux/Ponca*)
- Civil Law Specialist: **Katherine Scotta** (*Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa*)
- Diversion & Re-Entry Deputy Associate Director:
Rodney Robinson (*Northern Cheyenne Tribe*)
- National Tribal Court Review Coordinator: [pending]
- Administrative Tribal Court Review Coordinator:
Savannah Joe (*Navajo Nation*)
- Staff Assistant: **Simone Toya** (*Pueblo of Jemez*)
- Law Enforcement Assistant: **Wanda Brunson**



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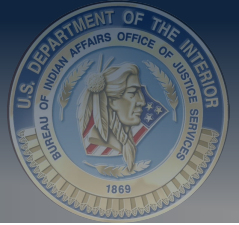
What We Do

- The Tribal Justice Support Directorate (**TJS**) provides guidance, technical support, and advisory services to tribal courts and CFR Courts (Code of Federal Regulations; also known as Courts of Indian Offenses), including:
 - providing funding to tribal courts;
 - training directed to specific needs of tribal court personnel;
 - promoting cooperation and coordination among tribal justice systems and Federal and state judiciary systems; and
 - providing oversight for the continuing operations for the Courts of Indian Offenses.



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Tribal Justice Support Directorate



What We Do *continued*

- Statutory Directive: Tribal Court Assessment Program
 - As mandated by **25 U.S.C. § 3612**, TJS works with Tribes to conduct tribal court assessments by using a modified model of the [Trial Court Performance Standards](#) (TCPS).

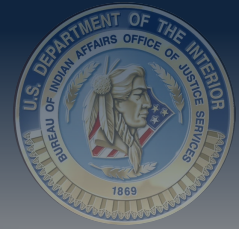


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Tribal Court Assessment Program



In using a modified model of the [Trial Court Performance Standards](#) (TCPS), TJS works with non-federal contractors to assist tribal courts in identifying existing problems and formulating strategies for improvement of tribal courts and provides an outcome-oriented conceptual framework of tribal court performance areas, standards, and measures.

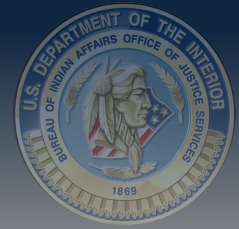


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Tribal Court Assessment Program



The result is a **strategic action plan** which is part of the overall **assessment report**.

- It is up to the Tribe to prioritize the needs identified.
- TJS will then work with the Tribe to identify available one-time funding as well as training/technical-assistance opportunities.

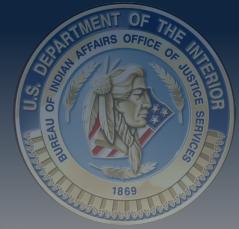


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Tribal Court Assessment Program



Why an Assessment?

- An Overview of the entire Tribal Court;
- Driven by the Tribe's stated needs;
- Expenses of the Assessment Team (i.e., non-federal contractors) are of no cost to the Tribe.

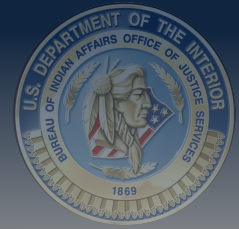


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Tribal Court Assessment Program



The benefits of a tribal court self-assessment include possible one-time funding for services such as:

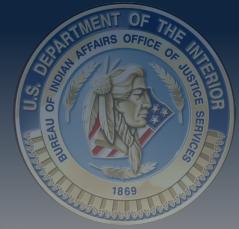
- Court management system;
- Alcohol monitoring system;
- Court equipment;
- Training for tribal court staff;
- Consultant services to work with tribe and court on specific projects (e.g., code development, manuals, bench book).



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Tribal Court Assessment Program



After a letter from a tribe requesting to participate ...

Five-Step Tribal Court Assessment Process:

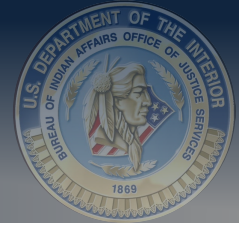
- **Step 1:** Documentation Gathering;
- **Step 2:** Initial Visit;
- **Step 3:** Three-Day Onsite Assessment;
- **Step 4:** Present Findings and Recommendations;
- **Step 5:** Follow-up and Next Steps.



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TJS also tracks and works on other policy areas, initiatives and issues concerning Tribal Courts including:

- Tiwahe Initiative
- Indian Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Diversion and Re-entry
- TLOA's Enhanced Sentencing Provisions
- VAWA's Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction

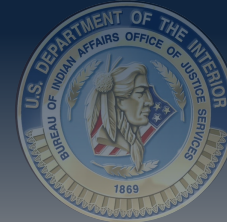


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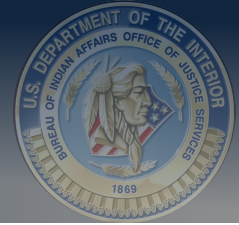
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References



- **Email TJS:** bia_tribal_courts@bia.gov
- **Call TJS:** (202) 208-5787
- Visit the TJS **webpage:**
<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OJS/ojs-services/ojs-tjs/index.htm>
- **Download** the Tribal Court Assessment Brochure here:
<http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xojs/documents/document/idc1-030470.pdf>
- **Download** a sample Court Assessment Request Letter here:
<http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xojs/documents/document/idc1-031263.doc>



Thank you!

Please do not hesitate to reach out and let TJS know how we can better support Tribal Judicial Systems.

