Other Intertribal Court Models

Intertribal Court of Southern California
Northern California Tribal Court Coalition
Northwest Intertribal Court System
Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals
Intertribal Court of Southern California
Protecting Tribal Sovereignty

- The ICSC is an Intertribal Court System that works on a “circuit type” basis, where tribal judges travel from one reservation to the next presiding over cases based on the specific Tribes’ laws, ordinances, customs, and historical precedence.
- The Court provides member Tribes with judges, administration, court clerks, bailiffs, and case management.
Intertribal Court of Southern California

- Under the Inter-Tribal Governing Agreement, the Tribes established the Tribal Judicial Council of Southern California that oversees the administration of the Court.
- Under the governing agreement, independently elected Judicial Council members are appointed from each Tribe’s Tribal Council.
- The Judicial Council’s responsibilities include interviewing & hiring judges, reviewing budgets, hiring key staff, entering into agreements, ensuring the Court is properly funded, and policy review.
Intertribal Court of Southern California

www.icsc.us
Northern California Tribal Court Coalition
The NCTCC Mission is to: Promote and Strengthen Tribal Justice Systems to Restore Balance and Order in our Communities, While Honoring Sovereignty and Cultural Values

In December 2004, Hoopa Valley Tribe Chief Judge Richard Blake invited representatives from local Tribal courts to meet with him about shared interests.

Eventually, this informal group decided to incorporate, have bylaws and membership, and seek funding to strengthen and improve access to Tribal Courts in Northern California and beyond.

Today, the five voting members of the NCTCC are the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Smith River Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria and Yurok Tribe.
Northern California Tribal Court Coalitions

• Find the Inter-tribal Court Agreement at:
  ◦ www.calindianlaw.org under “Links”

• www.nctcc.org/
Northwest Intertribal Court System
Northwest Intertribal Court System

- The Northwest Intertribal Court System (NICS) is a consortium of tribes based in Washington.
- These tribes have joined their resources to ensure that each tribe is able to have its own court by sharing judges, prosecutors, and related court services.
- A non-profit organization established in 1979, NICS has a Governing Board composed of a representative from each member tribe. The Governing Board sets all policy for the organization and selects both the executive director and the judges.
Northwest Intertribal Court System’s Mission

- To assist the member tribes, at their direction, in a manner which recognizes the sovereignty, individual character, and traditions of those tribes in the development of tribal courts which will provide fair, equitable, and uniform justice for all who fall within their jurisdiction.
Northwest Intertribal Court System

www.nics.ws/
Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals
Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals

- AILC’s Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals (SWITCA) Program provides an appellate court forum for tribes located in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and West Texas.
- Since its inception in 1989, SWITCA has allowed tribal courts to bring cases before a panel of experienced judges to render decisions at the appellate level for those tribes that do not have the financial means or governmental infrastructure to administer a court of appeals for tribal court decisions.
- Appellate services are available without cost to member tribes.
- Additionally, SWITCA provides training, technical assistance, legal research, and support services to tribal courts, tribal judges, and tribal court staff in the region.
Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals

ailc-inc.org/SWITCA.htm