

April 2021



National Tribal Trial College April 2021 Newsletter

The NTTC is Growing!

Read on to Meet Our New Staff
and
Learn about Our New Online Courses



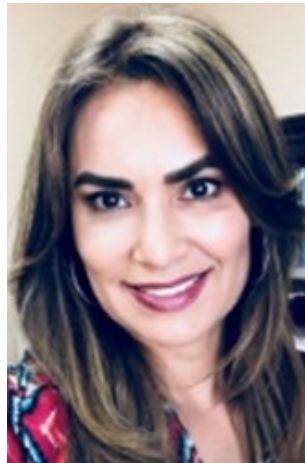
Thank you for joining us once again. We are so thankful to share this space with our readership. It has been a busy time here at the NTTC. We are in the middle of our 2021 Certificate in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy course after returning from spring break. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, our UW-Madison 40-hour Onsite Training will again be fully online this summer. The NTTC Class of 2021 boasts our largest class yet with the highest retention rate ever. We hope you will reach out to and welcome

our new grads into our NTTC family with us. Come graduation, look out, world!

In other exciting news, advanced courses are coming soon (COVID-19 conditions permitting and pending Office on Violence Against Women final approval)! The Advanced Course in Tribal

Court Legal Advocacy is tentatively scheduled for 5 weeks online and 3 full days of skill based, court room training delivered by our amazing NTTC faculty. Successful completion of the first Certificate is prerequisite for enrollment. More details will be coming this fall.

NTTC STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Angela de los Santos

Domestic Violence Advocate, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Class of 2020

AFTER graduating the NTTC in 2020, Angela de los Santos advocated for a Tribal citizen of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians in an attempted murder/domestic violence assault case off of reservation lands in the neighboring state of California. A year into the criminal case, de los Santos and the victim, Joanna Saubel, learned that the charges were going to be dropped because of erroneous documentation that Joanna was not willing to testify. According to de los Santos, "I told them that this was unacceptable and that Joanna would be willing to testify, along with her children."

With the help of the Morongo Legal Department, de los Santos was also able to gather all of the defendant's criminal records from other jurisdictions (including the Morongo Reservation) and deliver them to the La Paz County Attorney's Office. Angela was able to revive the criminal charges that successfully led to the defendant pleading guilty. De los Santos worked with NTTC faculty and the victim to develop a powerful victim impact statement delivered to the court at the sentencing hearing. The defendant received a sentence of 7 ½ years in prison.

Throughout the criminal proceedings, de los Santos encouraged Joanna to attend trauma informed counseling and women's healing circle sessions. As a result of the legal advocacy by de los Santos, Joanna applied for her own admission to NTTC and is on track to graduate with her Tribal Court Legal Advocacy Certificate in July 2021. As an added bonus, Joanna recruited yet another student in the Class of 2021, Ciana Wyant (Torres Martinez Desert Coahuila Indians). Wyant works as a victim advocate for her neighboring tribe, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, with de los Santos. The work of one powerful victim advocate will now result in three NTTC graduates increasing safety and justice for Indigenous women and children in tribal courts.

Recently, Joanna was awarded \$45,000 at the restitution hearing as a result of her and Angela's hard work locating the original vehicle loan paperwork, the Kelly Blue Book value of her destroyed SUV, and mechanic's estimates of repair costs. Congratulations Angela and Joanna on a successful conviction. Thank you for continuing the NTTC legacy and recruiting powerful Indigenous advocates to our

Meet Our New Staff



Martha "Martie" Simmons, SHRM-CP, J.D.
Director of Tribal Legal Education

Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin

Martie Simmons is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin. She graduated in 2020 with her Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona and went on to finish her LL.M in 2021. Martie is also an Army veteran and has an HR professional license. From 2019-2021, she served on the governing board of Water Protector Legal Collective. In the past, Martie worked as a contributor to *Edge of Morning: Native Voices Speak for Bears Ears* and had Op-Eds in *Indian Country Today*. She has also contributed to various social media campaigns that work to protect Indigenous sovereignty and inclusivity. Currently, Martie lives with her two children & mother in Arizona and is very excited to join this team!



Dana Wilcox
Administrative Assistant/Teacher Assistant

Navajo (Diné) Nation

Dana Wilcox is Salt Clan of the *Navajo Nation* and born for the Winter Clan of *Ohkay Owingeh* Pueblo of New Mexico. Raised in northern Arizona in the community of Leupp, she also has extended family members in Winslow. Dana received a Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Arizona in Family Studies and Human Development. She has worked in the areas of Public Health, Case Management, Education Administration and has volunteered with the University of Arizona's American Indian Alumni Executive Board for ten years. She is excited to work with the Southwest Center for Law and Policy and is dedicated to its mission.

Did you know? The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%.^[1]

Learn more on how tribal court legal advocates can collaborate with federal, state, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors at our upcoming, free NTTC legal webinar:



Federal Firearms Prohibitions in Domestic and Sexual Violence Cases

This one-hour informational webinar is geared towards state, local and tribal law enforcement officials to provide an overview of federal firearms laws, the different categories of individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms including those convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence and/or those who are subject to certain domestic violence protective orders. The goal of this presentation is for participants to learn investigative tips on how to build a strong case for federal referral and prosecution.

Presented by: Charisse Arce (Dena'ina Athabaskan, Aleut), Assistant U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office-District of Alaska and Sarah Foreman, Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

[1] J.C. Campbell, D.W. Webster, J. Koziol-McLain, et al., "Risk factors for femicide within physically abusive intimate relationships: results from a multi-site case control study." 93 Amer. J. of Public Health 1089-1097 (2003).

[Register here](#)



NTTC t-shirts, vinyl stickers, coffee mugs, etc. will be available for purchase Summer 2021. . .

**ADVANCED COURSES WILL BE
AVAILABLE 2022.**

**HELP US RAISE MONEY
TO ADD MORE COURSEWORK FOR OUR
TRIBAL ADVOCATES**



DONATE

Moving? Changing jobs? Please keep your information up to date. Send to:
info@NTTOnline.org

In The News



On March 17, 2021 the U.S. Senate
Confirmed

Deb Haaland

as

**Madam Secretary
of the
US Interior
Department**



The Honorable Deb Haaland is the
first Native American woman to be
confirmed as a cabinet member
and the first Native American to
hold the seat of Secretary of the
Interior Department

photo credit: [@RepDebHaaland](https://twitter.com/RepDebHaaland)



House of Representatives passes the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021

On March 17, 2021, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 1620, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021. The bill now goes to the United States Senate for consideration.

*National Tribal Trial College is a project of the Southwest Center for Law and Policy (www.swclap.org)
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Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations
expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect
the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*