

August 2021



National Tribal Trial College August 2021 Newsletter

GRADUATION EDITION!

The National Tribal Trial College proudly presents
the Class of 2021



Certificate in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy Awarded to Thirty-Four Legal Advocates At The University of Wisconsin Law School

Madison, July 16th, 2021--The National Tribal Trial College, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Law, awarded Certificates in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy to 34 new Tribal Court Legal Advocates. The 6-month course is sponsored by the Office on Violence Against Women, United States Department of Justice and enables graduates to practice law and represent clients in Tribal courts.

The 34 graduates represent 26 different Tribes located in 16 different states. The intensive training enables them to represent clients in Tribal court divorce, child custody, child support, visitation, domestic violence protection orders and victim rights cases.

“Our graduates are actually more qualified to provide legal representation in Tribal Courts than most attorneys”, says the Dean of the National Tribal Trial College, Hallie Bongar White. “This is the only Certificate program in the country directly addressing the shortage of legal representation in tribal communities. Our graduates undergo more than 20 weeks and 200 hours of online study before completing 40 hours of trial skills training. The faculty all have practical, real world litigation expertise in advancing safety and justice in Indian Country and in Alaska Native Villages.”

Graduates are required to master legal research, writing, and analysis through a series of readings, online lecture videos, written assignments, and quizzes. Only the top students in the online course then qualify to attend the award winning, in-person courtroom training at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the University of Wisconsin-Madison cancelled all in-person meetings on campus for the summer. NTTC staff and faculty met this challenge by transforming the 40-hour in-person trial skills portion of the training (traditionally held on the UW Law campus) into a 100% online and interactive training with faculty. Now in its 7th year, the National Tribal Trial College has graduated 177 legal advocates representing clients in Tribal courts from Alaska to Massachusetts with the full and generous support of the University of Wisconsin system.

For more information about the National Tribal Trial College: please visit www.nttconline.org or contact bongarwhite@swclap.org.



CLASS OF 2021

Sage Trudell Balsz
 Faye Burson
 Erik Calderon-Diaz
 Terrie Chavarria
 Sarahanne Dalton
 Valerie Falls Down
 Adrina Duran
 Ramona Eason
 Leah Fortes
 Amy Gonzalez
 DeeAnn Goodwin
 Emma Greybull
 Anna Heiselman
 Nefititi Jette
 Tierra Johnson
 Rhonda Kampeska
 Kim Kelly



Andrea Kihega
 Vanessa Lavadinho
 Carol Limpy
 William Lucero
 Liza McGahey
 Lacy McGuffee
 Gerard Padgett
 Aline Pardilla
 Shani Parker
 Faith Roy
 Samantha Sandstrom
 Joanna Saubel
 Marchelle Seowtewa (not pictured)
 Thresa Stevens
 Lyndsey Warrior
 Jessica Wheeler (not pictured)
 Kristin Wyatt

CLASS OF 2021

CLASS OF 2021

Faculty

Dean of NTTC Hallie Bongar White
 Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. James D. Diamond
 Honorable Judge James White
 Honorable Judge David Voluck
 Attorney David Adams
 Tribal Court Legal Advocate Daniel Goombi
 Tribal Prosecutor Brenna Hanley
 Tribal Court Legal Advocate Beth O'Keefe
 Tribal Court Legal Advocate Tor Parker

CLASS OF 2021

Student Awards

NTTC 2021 AWARDS

Team Badgers

Rising Star

Liza McGahey

Outstanding Student

Aline Pardilla

Moot Court Award

Gerard Padgett

Team Wildcats

Rising Star

Joanna Saubel

Outstanding Student

Erik Calderon Diaz

Moot Court Award

Sage Trudell Balsz



NTTC Alumni Spotlight



Chastity Sandoval
Navajo Nation
Victim/Legal Advocate for Nambe Pueblo
Class of 2020

Leaning into your National Tribal Trial College network helps to overcome challenges

Chastity Sandoval works as a Victim/Legal Advocate for Nambe Pueblo (located in rural Northern New Mexico.) Nambe Pueblo citizens traditionally had little access to civil legal services or victim rights legal representation until Chastity completed her Certificate in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy last year. Although the entire course had to be moved online during the pandemic, Chastity still feels like she has built up a considerable legal skill set along with a powerful network of advocates and attorneys that she can rely on when challenges arise.

Since graduating with her Certificate in 2020, Sandoval has won 4 out of the 6 tribal court protection order cases including representation of a non-tribal victim against her tribal citizen abuser. It is common that victims who have experienced significant domestic violence and trauma fail to appear at initial court hearings. In this case, Chastity was undeterred when the victim failed to appear at the first protection order hearing and the case was dismissed. She continued to work with the victim to increase safety and resources, building trust all along the way. Eventually, the victim gained the confidence to refile for the protection order and, with Chastity's unsurpassed legal skills, won a permanent Order of Protection with expansive remedies for the victim in Nambe Tribal Court.

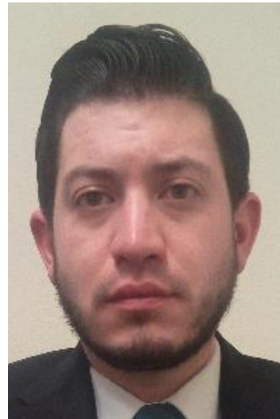
Without the help of her NTTC legal training and network of legal advocates and attorneys, Chastity believes she would not have been able to have won the contested protection order. She believes that the best part of her job is "empowering women and supporting them through these stressful times of their lives." She reminds survivors that the situation is temporary, and, with her help and the help of the courts, a brighter future lies ahead.

Sandoval highly recommends the NTTC to her peers in New Mexico and beyond. She believes that her strong note-taking skills and "leaning into your network" have been keys to her success. "There are still many difficulties working with BIA law enforcement and finding resources to keep the survivors safe." said Sandoval. Today, Sandoval continues to look for ways to improve conditions for Native women and children on Nambe Pueblo and is actively working to update and improve the Pueblo's legal codes, policies, and procedures related to violence against women.

Phyllis Smoke
Ho-Chunk Nation
Class 2019

Congratulations to Phyllis Smoke (NTTC)

Class of 2019) on her successful election as District I Legislator for the Ho-Chunk Nation. Phyllis was sworn in on June 30th, 2021 and joins the ranks of NTTC grads now holding higher office.



Gerard Padgett
Class of 2021

New NTTC Grad Successfully Advocates for Change in Tribal Code

Under federal law, all states, Tribes, and Territories must afford Full Faith and Credit to valid domestic violence protection orders issued by other jurisdictions. 18 U.S.C. Section 2265 applies to every federally recognized Tribe in the United States. However, many tribal codes do not contain specific language mandating that their Tribe fully enforce all valid, “foreign” protection orders.

During the NTTC course, Gerard Padgett (NTTC Class of 2021) recognized that his own tribal code was silent on Full Faith and Credit. This raised the very real possibility that victims could fall through the cracks in the system.

Immediately after graduating, Gerard and his supervisor proposed a revision to the tribal code and successfully advocated before Tribal Council to amend Blackfeet law. Full Faith and Credit for domestic violence protection orders is now firmly enshrined within their code.

Gerard is a descendent of the Blackfeet Nation where he serves as a Domestic Violence and Legal Advocate. He was the recipient of the NTTC 2021 Moot Court Award and credits the skills he learned in reading and dissecting tribal codes as the impetus for his advocacy before Tribal Council to update the code. Congratulations, Gerard!

We are currently raising money to expand our course offerings, if you would like to assist with the fundraising efforts, please let us know! Contact Hallie at bongarwhite@swclap.org with your ideas and suggestions!

Upcoming Webinars

Did you know? Stalkers kill 30% of the almost 4,300 women killed each year.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:

Investigating Stalking in Sexual Assault Crimes

Presented by: Scott Seifert, Attorney General for the Ho-Chunk Nation and Mike Ford, Law Enforcement Trainer

When: Friday, September 10, 2021
10 am AKT/11 am PT/ 12 pm MT/ 1 pm CT/ 2 pm ET

Webinar: Investigating and Prosecuting Stalking in Sexual Assault Crimes



What: Investigating and prosecuting stalking in sexual assault crimes in Indian Country brings about multi-dimensional challenges. This webinar is designed to understand the prevalence of stalking in Indian Country, jurisdictional and societal concerns, and how law enforcement officers, attorneys, first responders, and lay advocates respond to the crime of stalking. One hour of Free Continuing Legal Education Units is available upon request.

Presented by: Scott Seifert, Attorney General for the Ho-Chunk Nation and Mike Ford, Law Enforcement Trainer



When: Friday, September 10, 2021
10 am AKT / 11 am PT / 12 pm MT / 1 pm CT / 2 pm ET

Who: Those serving American Indian/Alaska Native survivors of sexual violence including tribal law enforcement, VPSOs, VPOs, victim advocates, prosecutors, National Tribal Trial College alumni and SAFESTARs.

Cost: Free

Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/1JAif-gg28Gdxox3bXFkoEABHMQvVXe5y>

[Register here](#)

Webinar: Investigation of Sexual and Domestic Violence Against American Indian/Alaska Native Elders and Vulnerable Adults



What: This webinar is designed to teach law enforcement and victim advocates how to recognize signs of elder and vulnerable adult sexual and domestic violence abuse cases. One hour of Free Continuing Legal Education Units is available upon request.

Presented by: Dr. Jolie Crowder, Senior Program Director of IA² and the National Adult Protective Services Association

When: Monday, September 13th, 2021
9 am AKT / 10 am PT / 11 pm MT / 12 pm CT / 1 pm ET



Who: Those serving American Indian/Alaska Native survivors of sexual violence including tribal law enforcement, VPSOs, VPOs, victim advocates, prosecutors, National Tribal Trial College alumni and SAFESTARs.

Cost: Free

Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tbcud-utTIIHNFawe73dVbcGgmIWYermt4>

Did you know? Seventy-nine percent of Elder and Vulnerable Adult abuse goes unreported?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:

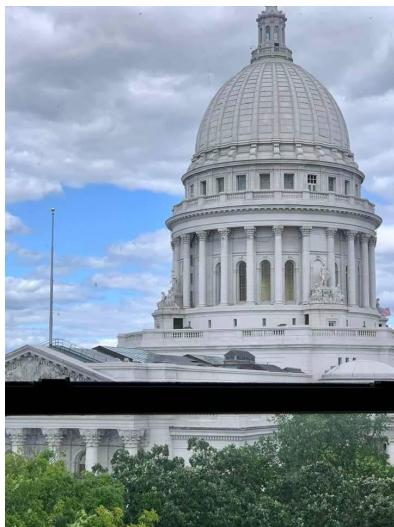
Investigation of Sexual and Domestic Violence Against American Indian/Alaska Native Elders and Vulnerable Adults

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NTTC News



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