



National Tribal Trial College December 2022 Newsletter



NTTC EVENTS

Office for Victims of Crime 17th National Indian Nations Conference December 6 - 9, 2022

National Tribal Trial College faculty presented a workshop on Creative Tribal Court Protection Orders at this year's 17th National Indian Nations Conference on the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Reservation in Palm Springs, California. Many of you stopped by our



NTTC information booth to update us on your lives and your success!

This Office for Victims of Crime, United States Department of Justice conference is held every 2 years and provides an excellent opportunity to both learn new skills and to network with other Indian Country and Alaska legal professionals. Full scholarships (registration/ lodging/ travel) are often available (with application deadlines normally in June), so mark your calendars to attend during the first full week of December 2024!



2023 Tribal Court Legal Advocacy Course Applications Are Now Being Accepted!

The National Tribal Trial College is proud to announce it's 9th year of the Certificate in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy Course. Please share with your colleagues and those who may be interested in applying!



Dates & Deadlines

Applications Due: January 16, 2023

Online Course Begins: February 6, 2023

Online Course Ends: July 2, 2023

On-site Course: July 17-21, 2023

For more information please visit
www.nttconline.org

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Skeet

**Victim Specialist
Investigative Services Branch
National Park Service
Class of 2016**



Melissa Skeet [Dine'] is a 2016 graduate of the National Tribal Trial College. While attending the NTTC, Melissa worked as a Victim Advocate for a non-profit Victim Assistance agency located in Northern Arizona. Since graduation, Melissa has worked hard building her legal advocacy skills and to bring more awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons cases (especially to "cold cases"). Melissa now serves as a Victim Specialist for the Investigative Services Branch (ISB) of the National Park Service (NPS) and is based in Yellowstone National Park. She assists victims of crime throughout the North Central Region of the United States and works closely with other FBI, BIA, Tribal and local Victim Specialists, and advocates. Her work includes training law enforcement and Special Agents on identifying and assisting victims on Tribal lands. Melissa also trail skates to bring awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. She has completed 192 miles on roller skates across the Navajo Nation and 300 miles in different areas of the United States. Each skating awareness event has brought donations to Indigenous non-profit agencies in both Canada and the U.S. to bring education, awareness and resources to victims, survivors and any person

interested in Indigenous knowledge, history, and MMIP. The Navajo Times recently featured Melissa's trail skating for MMIP awareness in a recent article:
<https://navajotimes.com/ae/community/roller-skating-for-a-cause-victim-specialist-raises-awareness-of-missing-murdered/>

Terrie Chavarria **Tribal Social Case Worker** **Santa Clara Pueblo** **Class of 2020**



Terrie Chavarria [Santa Clara Pueblo] has been working hard to advance safety, justice, healing and sovereignty at Santa Clara Pueblo since graduating from the National Tribal Trial College. Terrie was a top student in the “COVID class of 2020” during a time when all instruction was held on-line. She currently serves as the Tribal Social Worker for her Pueblo and is most proud of having used the skills learned in the Certificate course to qualify and then testify as an expert witness in Indian Child Welfare Act cases. Her testimony has been key to holding family members accountable for their bad actions and bad choices while at the same time leading to healing from the cycle of intergenerational trauma for the families, children and for the entire Pueblo.



Terrie's testimony was also key to obtaining a criminal conviction in a child endangerment and distribution case where the perpetrator was providing drugs and alcohol to vulnerable youth. Because of Terrie's hard work, the perpetrator was held accountable for her criminal actions and was provided the opportunity to heal through a sentence of supervised probation with 1 year of in-patient and 1 year of out-patient treatment. Terrie was also able to successfully advocate for fully funded treatment for the child victims in the case.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Tribal Trial College Awarded Funding for New Certificate Courses

The Office on Violence Against Women, United States Department of Justice has

awarded funding to the National Tribal Trial College to develop and deliver a new catalog of courses. The NTTC plans to host the Certificate in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy in July 2023 and again in July 2024 at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison, Wisconsin. An Advanced Certificate in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy will be offered in July 2024 in addition to new, specialized Certificate coursework for Tribal Clerks of the Court, Tribal Prosecutors, and Tribal Law Enforcement. Stay tuned!

Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction



Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act on March 15, 2022. Importantly, “VAWA 2022” now recognizes “special Tribal criminal jurisdiction” (STCJ) over an expanded list of “covered crimes” that includes, in addition to the VAWA 2013 crimes, assault of Tribal justice personnel, child violence, obstruction of justice, sexual violence, sex trafficking, and stalking. VAWA 2022 also specifies that Tribes in the state of Maine may be covered and establishes a pilot program to designate up to five Alaska Tribes per calendar year as participating Tribes to exercise STCJ over all persons present in the Tribe’s Village. VAWA 2022 went into effect on October 1, 2022 and provides excellent opportunities to expand your Tribe's exercise of criminal jurisdiction.

<https://www.justice.gov/tribal/2013-and-2022-reauthorizations-violence-against-women-act-vaawa>

Fundraising and Donations

The National Tribal Trial College is a small, 501c (3) non-profit organization funded entirely by federal grants and donations. All Certificates and coursework are offered free of charge to our Indian Country and Alaska students. Have any ideas for fundraising and/or donations to help sustain and expand our work? Let us know! info@nttconline.org

[DONATE](#)

New Funding Opportunities

Want to expand legal services to victims in your community?

Consider applying for these new Office on Violence Against Women grants:



Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program Expanding Legal Services Initiative - Solicitation

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1559096/download>

This grant program funds domestic or sexual violence direct services providers who currently **do not** provide victims with legal services. Your tribal shelter or dv program could apply for this grant and fund YOU to provide legal services for victims. A planning period is built into the design of this grant with up to 5 years of funding for your new legal services program. The deadline for submission is March 6th - Hallie's birthday so maybe that's a lucky, positive sign!

Justice for Families Program - Solicitation

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1557636/download>

This new OVW grant program funds culturally specific legal services for victims that advance racial equity as an essential component of ending violence against women. Tribal programs that currently provide legal services to victims are eligible for funding under this solicitation. Deadline for submission is February 13, 2023.



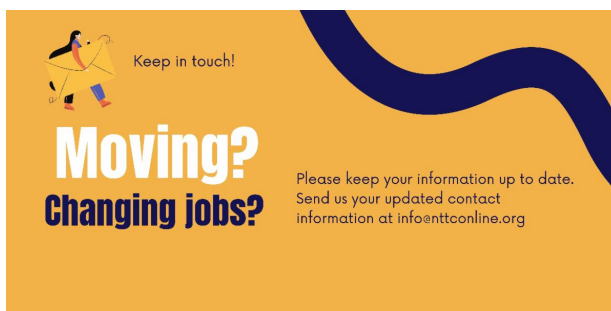
Legal Assistance for Victims – Solicitation

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1559106/download>

This highly competitive OVW grant program also funds civil legal services for victims in your community. Deadline for submission is February 21, 2023.

Questions on Designing a Legal Services Program Based in Your Shelter or DV/SA Agency?

A limited number of 30-minute appointments are available with Hallie White to discuss the design of your application to fund a successful tribal legal services program for victims in your community.



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