

AUGUST 2022



## **National Tribal Trial College August 2022 Newsletter**

### **NTTC EVENTS**

### **Free NTTC Webinars in August**

# Webinar: Investigating Domestic Violence Against Elders in Indian Country and Alaska



**What:** This webinar is designed to enhance interviewing skills, evidence collection, and Tribal justice responses to the crimes of elder abuse and neglect in Indian Country and Alaska. **One hour of Free Continuing Legal Education Units is available upon request.**

**Presented by:** Brenna Hanley, Senior Prosecutor, Navajo Nation Office of the Prosecutor

**When: Tuesday, August 23, 2022**  
9 am AKT / 10 am PT / 10 am MST / 11 am MT / 12 pm CT / 1 pm ET

**Who:**

First responders and allied professionals serving American Indian/Alaska Native survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse including tribal law enforcement, VPSOs, VPOs, victim advocates, prosecutors, National Tribal Trial College alumni and SAFESTARs.

**Cost:** Free



**Registration Link:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tk8dXVG0RIKCmITWIBa6tw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tk8dXVG0RIKCmITWIBa6tw)

*National Tribal Trial College is a project of the Southwest Center for Law and Policy ([www.swclap.org](http://www.swclap.org))*

*This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GK-02337-TRIB, awarded by the Office on Violence Against 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.*

## Webinar: Utilizing Domestic Violence Expert Witnesses in Tribal Courts



**What:** Tribal law enforcement, advocates and elders can often be qualified to testify as experts on domestic violence in federal, state and tribal courts. Learn how utilizing a domestic violence expert witness can greatly increase safety, justice and accountability in criminal and civil trials as well as in protection order hearings. **One hour of Free Continuing Legal Education Units is available upon request.**

**Presented by:** Brenna Hanley, Senior Prosecutor, Navajo Nation Office of the Prosecutor

**When:** Tuesday, August 25, 2022  
9 am AKT / 10 am PT / 10 am MST / 11 am MT / 12 pm CT / 1 pm ET

**Who:** Tribal prosecutors, judges, law enforcement (including VPSOs and VPOs), legal services providers (including NTTC legal advocates), and victim advocates.

**Cost:** Free



Registration Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TuNeMpAFQyy8Y2pXIXn4Gg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TuNeMpAFQyy8Y2pXIXn4Gg)

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## 2022 Tribal Court Legal Advocacy



The National Tribal Trial College congratulates our 28 new graduates in **Tribal Court Legal Advocacy!** The course took place for 5 days from July 18 to July 22, 2022 at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison, Wisconsin. This course encompassed **20 weeks of online learning and 5 days of in-person training.**

## 2022 Advanced Class in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy



The National Tribal Trial College would like to announce the **Advanced Class in Tribal Court Legal Advocacy.** This class encompassed **5 weeks of online learning and 3 days of in-person training.**

The online portion of the course was held from **June 6 to July 10, 2022** The in-person training was held from **July 25 to July 27, 2022** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School.



10 Advocates graduated from the Advanced class on July 27, 2022.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



### **Ramona Eason**

Dispatch & Records Supervisor, Pima County Sheriff's Department and Pima Community College Police Department  
Navajo Nation  
Class of 2021

Ya'a'teeh, Shikee doo' Shidine'e. My name is Ramona Eason (Thompson). I am of the Honey Combed Rock People clan (Tséńjíkini) born for the Deer Spring clan (Bijh bitoodnii). My maternal grandfather is The Towering House clan (Kiyaa'áanii) and my paternal grandfather is the Manygoats clan (T'ízi lání). This is how I identify myself as a Navajo woman.

I am originally from Birdsprings, Arizona and I currently reside in Tucson, Arizona. I graduated from the National Tribal Trial College in July 2021. My background includes twenty plus years of experience working in law enforcement in the Dispatch and Records Units for the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the Pima Community College Police Department. I am currently taking paralegal courses at Pima Community College and I aspire to someday graduate from law school.

My experience with NTTC was amazing, from start to finish. Due to COVID-19, all instruction was provided virtual, but the material and the sessions were engaging and kept me on my toes. I learned a great deal, where I expect to use what I've learned to assist in passing the Navajo Nation bar exam. All the instructors were phenomenal in my education and I can never thank them enough!

The certification has had a major influence and will enhance my ability to fight for victim rights when I am able to prosecute on the Navajo Nation. I want to represent my Navajo community and assure them I am here for them, for their good and to fight for their rights. I will continue to look forward to sharing my learning experience, my perspective of "all things are



possible!" My advice to incoming NTTC classes is to be proud of WHO you are and WHAT you do. Never be ashamed that you are from the reservation. This field isn't for everyone, but know that you are taking that step to represent your Indian Communities speaks volumes. Take pride in protecting our people and all that we stand for!

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

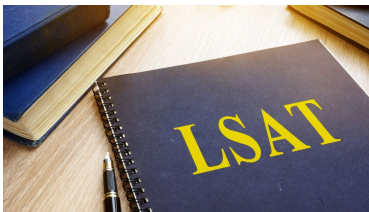


Beth O'Keefe is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Indigenous Women's Society (MIWS). She has served as the director since 2014. She is an enrolled member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community. Her maternal side is Mdewakanton Dakota, and Mexican, and her paternal side is Irish. Beth also serves as a member of the NTTC team by supporting the advocates in the program by using her talents as an actor to role play as a witness during the moot court trials.

Beth is a 2019 graduate of the National Tribal Trial College (NTTC). She lives in Minnesota, a Public Law 280 state. This law can cause many jurisdictional barriers and sometimes complicates the lives of Native people living in Minnesota. She recalls having a difficult time finding a training for procedure in Tribal Court that addresses the many jurisdictional issues that Indigenous people face every day. She credits the NTTC staff in supporting her learning to better serve relatives living in or around the Upper and Lower Sioux Tribal communities where she works and lives.

## RESOURCES

### LSAT Preparation



#### **What is the LSAT?**

The LSAT is an important part of law school admission. The LSAT is designed to test your reading comprehension, reasoning, and writing skills. The test results help admission decision makers and candidates gain valuable insight on law school readiness.



#### **Why is it important to prepare for the LSAT?**

LSAT scores provide an accurate prediction of a candidate's first-year performance in law school. LSAT scores are used as a predictor of first-year law school performance.

## Free study guides and resources:

Khan Academy LSAT Prep  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/prep/lsat>

Kaplan Free LSAT Practice Test  
<https://www.kaptest.com/lsat/free/free-lsat-practice-test>

LSAT Center: Free LSAT Prep  
<https://www.lsat-center.com/>

LSAC Tools & Resources <https://www.lsat.org/lsat/prep>

Free LSAT Hacks & Explanations <https://lsathacks.com/explanations/>

UW Law School admissions priorities webpage  
<https://law.wisc.edu/prospective/criteria.html>

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## ADVANCED COURSE WILL BE AVAILABLE AGAIN IN 2024.

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

DONATE

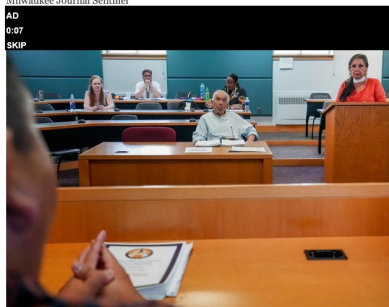
## IN THE NEWS

EDUCATION

Wisconsin 'tribal college' gives Indigenous advocates the skills to work in tribal

courts

Kelly Meyerhofer  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



## Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

**National Tribal Trial College** was spotlighted in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel with an article titled, "Wisconsin 'tribal college' gives Indigenous advocates the skills to work in tribal courts". Kelly Meyerhofer the writer of the article visited the classroom at the University of Wisconsin School of Law during the 5-day certificate training in July of 2022.

Click here for complete article: [Text Link](#)

## Jaci McCormack Highlighted in the Film, "Rise Above"

Jaci McCormack (Nez Perce) is a 2019 NTTC graduate. She works as a Victims Services



Coordinator for the Tulalip Prosecutor's Office. Jaci is also the founder of the non-profit organization, Rise Above. Rise Above aims to invest in Indigenous youth by empowering them to lead healthy lives through education, mentorship, and prevention skills. They work closely with Tribal Nations and partners to create tailored education programs with basketball clinics. Through her work with Rise Above and her experience as a collegiate basketball player, Jaci's work has been highlighted in the film "Rise Above" which highlights her inspirational journey as a Native American woman navigating trials and tribulations.

[To read the news article, click here](#)



### **2023 Tribal Legal Advocacy Course Application Coming Soon!**

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**

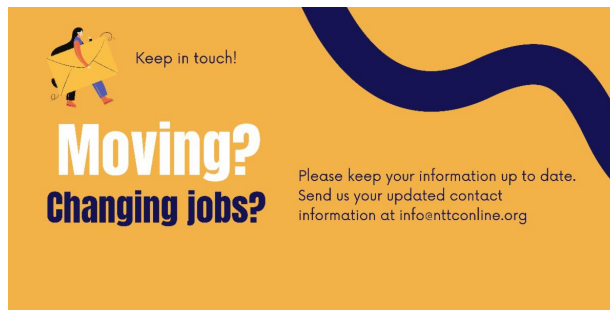
Applications Due: January 16, 2023

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](http://www.nttconline.org)



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