

Tribal Court State Court Forum (TCSCF)

Quarterly Meeting Summary

December 8, 2022

Hosted by State Court Judges at the Annual Conference of Judges

The purpose of the Tribal Court State Court Forum is to enhance tribal court and state court relationships, provide an opportunity to address issues arising from the courts' concurrent jurisdictions, collaborate on development and delivery of judicial education and training, recommend revisions to Minnesota's procedural rules of court, and work on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Tribal Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Phil Brodeen and Hon. Vanya Hogen

State Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Denise Reilly and Hon. Korey Wahwassuck

1. Blessing and Welcome

The meeting began with a blessing by Judge Korey Wahwassuck and was followed by a welcome from state court hosts Judge Denise Reilly and Judge Korey Wahwassuck.

Introductions were made by forum members as well as by guests who were in attendance.

2. Review and Approve June 3, 2022, Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the September 16, 2022, Meeting Summary was made by Judge Juan Hoyos and seconded by Judge Lenor Scheffler. The Meeting Summary was approved without objection.

3. Membership Updates and Announcements

Judge Denise Reilly announced the following membership updates:

- Judge Korey Wahwassuck is the new TCSCF State Court Co-Chair.
- A Certificate of Appreciation signed by Chief Justice Lorie Gildea will be presented to outgoing State Court Co-Chair, Judge Sally Tarnowski, who isn't able to attend this breakfast meeting.
- Welcome to Judge Amy Lukasavitz who is the new state court member from the 6th Judicial District (Carlton County), who is joining us for the first time at this meeting.

4. Small Group Discussions: Connecting Tribal Court Judges and State Court Judges

This breakfast meeting is an abbreviated meeting preceding the start of the Annual Conference of Judges. Rather than having presenters and speakers, the co-chairs thought it would be a good opportunity to build relationships between state court and tribal court judges. Those present divided into groups based on geography so that, for example, the judges from Mille Lacs Tribal Court met with the state court judges from the surrounding areas. As “ice breakers,” the groups discussed:

- What are the two biggest challenges and the two biggest rewards in the work that you do?
- If you could change one thing about the court process in your jurisdiction, what would it be and why?

After the groups met for about 20 minutes, the large group debriefed ideas about how to continue the process of building relationships between tribal court and state court judges, including:

- Participating in “ride a-longs” where state court judges sit in on the hearings of tribal courts and tribal court judges sit in on the hearings of state courts.
- Encouraging state court judges to invite tribal court judges to attend quarterly bench meetings.
- Establishing a process for new tribal court and state court judges to meet and get to know each other.
- Inviting tribal court and state court judges to observe TCSCF meetings.
- Developing videos showing the layout and functioning of state courts and tribal courts.

5. Closing Remarks & Adjourn

TCSCF Tribal Court Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their presence and participation and shared that the co-chairs would follow-up by email with more information about the 2023 meeting schedule, including opportunities for further suggestions and conversation about possible agenda items.

[Click to see agendas and summaries from past meetings](#)

Future meeting dates:

- Friday, March 31, 2023 – Tribal Court Host (TBD)
- Friday, June 16, 2023– State Court Host (TBD)
- Friday, September 22, 2023 – Tribal Court Host (TBD)
- TBD (early December 2023) – State Court Host (Annual Conference of Judges Breakfast Meeting)

Respectfully Submitted

Judith Nord, State Attorney, State Court Administration