

## Tribal Court State Court Forum (TCSCF)

### Quarterly Meeting Summary

9/22/2023

Hosted by State Court at the Beltrami County Courthouse in Bemidji

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.

#### **1. Welcome, Blessing, and Introductions**

The Honorable Paul Day led a welcome and blessing.

Introductions of Forum members and special guests was led by Judge Wahwassuck, including the introduction of Judge Gaïtas from the Court of Appeals, who will be taking over the co-chair vacancy left when Judge Reilly retired.

#### **Agenda and Meeting Summary**

Review and approval of June 16, 2023 meeting summary was moved by Judge Buffalo and seconded by Judge Cooms. Motion passed

#### **2. Tribal Court Judge Jurisdictional Sharing of Practice and Initiatives**

Judge Wahwassuck introduced and lead this discussion. Notes on the what individual tribal courts shared is in the attached memo.

#### **3. Legal Services in Tribal Courts**

Cody Nelson from Anishinabe Legal Services presented about the services they offer.

#### **4. District Court Notification to Tribal Courts \*added item\***

This was added as a discussion item at the request of Judge Jones. Discussion included how these orders affect the child's relationship to the tribal community. Additionally, it would be helpful to notify tribal courts when child custody decisions are made for a Native American child in district court. Concerns

included the possibility of conflicting orders, along with the a child not being allowed at important tribal events and separated from extended family.

## **5. Updates and Future Plans**

A discussion was held on location and topic ideas for the March 2024 meeting. No decision was made. This would be a meeting hosted by a tribal court. Judge Treuer shared that Bois Forte will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their court in spring 2024 and suggested they'd like to host the June meeting. Future topic ideas included asking Justice Thissen speak about the paralegal program, and Indian Legal Aid.