Review of NCSC Tribal Projects

December 2009

Since the early 1980s, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has provided expertise in over twenty projects involving various aspects of tribal courts including:

A. **Caseflow Management**

In 2007 NCSC participated in a project that analyzed the caseflow, workflow and business systems for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Court and tribal justice agencies, including the prosecutor, defense advocate, public safety, jury management, corrections, probation, mental health, tribal finance, and tribal enrollment offices. The project focused on streamlining processes and procedures prior to the implementation of a new automated case and cash management system.

Also in 2007 NCSC provided assistance to the Navaho Nation Supreme Court in Arizona including a general evaluation of the case management system regarding its usability, efficiency, security, and the modifications that have been made over time. In addition the project gave an evaluation of the case management systems ability to provide current and recommended future performance measurement reports including case timeliness, age and status of pending caseload, time from final hearing to decision, decision authorship, public feedback, and fine and fee collection effectiveness.

B. **Child Welfare**

NCSC has contributed to the field of Indian Child Welfare for over a decade:

In 2004 NCSC, in partnership with the North American Indian Legal Services (NAILS) was appointed as the independent reviewer to perform the ICWA compliance analysis for South Dakota. Factors reviewed included: intervention, transfer of jurisdiction, "best practices" to be used to serve the needs of Indian children, and the means by which the Indian tribes can assist in pursuing the policies, procedures, spirit, and intent of ICWA.

Earlier reports include:

http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cqi-bin/showfile.exe?CISOROOT=/accessfair&CISOPTR=16

C. Full Faith and Credit

NCSC has over two decades of experience in addressing the issue of full faith and credit:

Covering the Nation: Extending Project Passport (2007) This regional meeting report focused on the goal of extending project passport to improve recognition and enforcement of orders of protection within and between states and tribes.


This report provides information on a series of regional meetings held around the country between 1999 and 2002 with the goal of improving enforcement of protection orders within and across state and tribal jurisdictions. Appendices http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cgi-bin/showfile.exe?CISOROOT=/famct&CISOPTR=65


D. Jurisdictional Disputes

During the 1990s a great deal of work was done in the area of jurisdictional disputes:


E. Tribal Courts Comparative Data
NCSC has served as a clearinghouse for comparative data on tribal court systems:


A Survey of State and Tribal Courts (2001) [http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cgi-bin-showfile.exe?CISOROOT=/spcts&CISOPTR=170](http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cgi-bin-showfile.exe?CISOROOT=/spcts&CISOPTR=170) This report is based on a survey completed in July 2001 to which 45 states responded. It looks at the various tribal court systems present within the states and territories and examines the interactions between the state and tribal court systems and provides insight into these relationships.


(Links are provided to the NCSC Library’s Digital Archives where available.)