



NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Serving Tribal Justice Systems Since 1969

An IRS 501(c)(3) Corporation
Federal ID # 84-0611428

2016 National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference

“Tribal Justice Matters: Role of Tribal Courts in Upholding Indigenous Rights”

REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

The National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA) invites presentation proposals for the 47th Annual National Tribal Judicial and Court Personnel Conference which will be held October 18-21, 2016, at the magnificent Morongo Casino, Resort & Spa in Palm Springs, CA. NAICJA’s Annual Conference offers innovative and timely tribal justice information through high quality presentations by national experts. The theme of this year’s conference is, *“Tribal Justice Matters: Role of Tribal Courts in Upholding Indigenous Rights.”* NAICJA is featuring topics that highlight ways in which American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and First Nations justice systems are exercising and upholding tribal inherent rights. We are especially interested in presentations that focus on social justice and human rights, tribal sovereignty, international frameworks for understanding indigenous issues, promising Indian child welfare practices, court security and topics of interest to court clerks and court personnel.

This is your opportunity to share your expertise and display your creativity by developing an original program for presentation. Proposals specifically tailored to meet the needs of the 300-person NAICJA audience are strongly preferred. Proposals are due on or before **Friday, April 15, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. (MTN)**.

About NAICJA and Its Members

NAICJA’s members include tribal court trial and appellate judges, peacemakers, other tribal persons responsible for resolving disputes, attorneys, Indian law practitioners and professors, court administrators, court clerks, tribal government officials and other persons supportive of NAICJA’s goals. Audiences at NAICJA conferences include the full range of its membership, state and federal court judges, federal officials, and training and technical assistance providers to tribal justice systems.

NAICJA members are involved in the daily operation of tribal courts and other non-adversarial traditional methods of dispute resolutions, such as peacemaking. Tribal justice systems and NAICJA members handle a wide range of subject areas including criminal and juvenile matters, domestic relations, complex tort and contract claims, election and membership disputes and employment matters. NAICJA conference audiences are interested in learning about effective innovative approaches, national events and trends impacting tribal justice systems, and methods of adjudicating matters that provide due process while maintaining the integrity of tribal culture and traditions.

NAICJA conference attendees appreciate challenging topics and are noted for their high expectations of quality and culturally appropriateness. Like all adult learners, NAICJA members are eager to interact with presenters and especially appreciate educational programs that offer concrete ideas that can be adapted and implemented in their tribal justice systems.

NAICJA seeks a broad range of topical presentations for its annual educational

conference. Appropriate topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- International frameworks for understanding indigenous issues
- Social justice and human rights
- Tribal sovereignty, protecting and maintaining it
- Traditional justice concepts in the modern tribal court (including peacemaking)
- Promising Indian child welfare court practices
- Role of tribal courts in supporting tribal economic development
- Tribal court funding resources and strategies
- Indian Child Welfare Act implementation and enforcement efforts
- VAWA 2013 implementation and enforcement
- Serving Veteran's needs in tribal court
- Tribal Law and Order Act
- Best practices for new tribal judges
- Role of tribal appellate courts
- Maintaining judicial independence
- Innovative juvenile justice strategies
- Judicial opinion writing
- Healing to Wellness Courts
- Best strategies for pro se-involved cases
- Judicial and court personnel ethics in a tribal context
- Tribal-federal-state cooperative efforts
- Court security
- Best practices for court clerks and court personnel

Proposal Selection Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed and selected by the NAICJA Board of Directors. Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Extent to which the proposal is relevant to NAICJA members
- Experience and expertise of presenter/speaker(s)
- Definition and focus of the topic
- Adherence to the conference theme
- Practical application of the material
- Timeliness and importance of topic
- Overall presentation quality

Proposals must include providing written, substantive participant materials. When developing a panel presentation, speakers from multiple courts or organizations should be chosen. When feasible, presentations of differing viewpoints are encouraged.

Each program proposal should:

- Encourage active learning (what active learning strategies will be used to engage the audience—instead of having them passively listen to information. Examples include case study exercises, use of clickers, role playing, group discussion, facilitated brainstorming, action plans, quizzes, etc.)
- Demonstrate innovative thinking and strategies
- Present ideas, best practices and/or relevant research for positioning attendees as leaders within their tribal justice system or organization
- Present strategies for effective implementation of information learned once attendees are back at their courts and communities
- Include presenters who have significant expertise in the topic area, who can speak successfully in front of large groups

The proposal should include the following (a form is attached):

1. Title of presentation
2. Names and Title of Speaker(s) (contact information, biographical paragraph(s) must be attached; photos requested)
3. Primary contact person
4. Name of Tribal Justice System or Organization
5. Mailing address
6. Phone number, fax number and contact person's email address
7. Three to five paragraph presentation description
8. Intended Audience
9. Key issues to be addressed
10. Learning objectives
11. Instructional methods
12. Estimated length of time
13. Whether intended to be a plenary or smaller break-out session
14. Whether travel or lodging financial assistance is required for presenter(s)

Please provide enough detail so the NAICJA Board can understand how the session will be structured and what key issues will be covered.

SPECIAL NOTE: Individuals submitting proposals with multiple speakers should contact everyone included in the proposal to verify their interest and commitment in participating prior to submitting the proposal. When contacting potential speakers, be sure to indicate that the program is in the proposal stage only, and that final decisions about program acceptance will be made by the NAICJA Board, with notification by **May 6, 2016**.

Requirements for Speakers

All speakers must commit to the presentation of a program at designated times during the conference, October 18-21, 2016, and will be notified of the date(s) and time(s) of their presentations. Speakers must grant permission for hard copy and online distribution of written materials. Permission to distribute copyrighted information is the responsibility of the Presenter. NAICJA has determined that presentations with more than four speakers are ineffective. Please limit your proposal to less than four speakers.

Travel Support

In consideration of NAICJA's not-for-profit status, we encourage speakers to support some or all of their travel. If travel support is needed, please indicate that in your proposal.

Proposal Submission

Proposals must be **emailed** to 2016 Conference Committee Chair, Judge Susan Wells at susiewells@gmail.com. ***Microsoft Word format*** is strongly encouraged. Judge Wells may also be reached at 907-252-2903



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Title of Presentation			
Plenary or smaller Break-out Session		Estimated length of time	
Primary Contact Person	Name	Address	Phone and Fax
			Email
Name(s) of Presenter(s) Attach Biography & Photo	Name: Title: Contact Information (email & phone)		

Tribal Justice or Organization	Name	Mailing Address, phone//fax
<p>Three to Five paragraph</p> Presentation Description <p>Refer to Proposal Selection Criteria</p>		
Intended Audience		
Key issues to be addressed		
Learning Objectives		

Written Participant Materials	
Travel or Lodging Needs	

Email to Conference Committee Chair at susiewells@gmail.com
For additional questions email or call Judge Wells at 907-252-2903