



Colville Tribal Court of Appeals Tribal Court Spotlight February 2020

TSCC UPDATES

Welcome to the first *TSCC Updates*, a bimonthly updates email for the TSCC listserv that includes a spotlight on tribal courts, TSCC workgroup updates, opportunities, and other relevant information. You will continue to receive important information regarding time sensitive opportunities directly through the listserv emails.

This bimonthly email will expand knowledge and understanding of tribal courts, workgroup progress and be archived on the TSCC website to orient new members and interested parties

Judges Cindy K. Smith and Lori K. Smith, TSCC Co-Chairs

Tribal Court Spotlight: Colville Tribal Court of Appeals

Located at 3 Joe Moses Road, in Nespelem, WA, the Colville Tribal Court of Appeals has been hearing cases formally since 1981. In 1990, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation voted to approve a separate branch of government consisting of the Tribal Court of Appeals (COA), with appellate jurisdiction over cases litigated in the Colville Tribal Court, the Tribal Court, and additional courts as the Business Council determines appropriate. The current bench was formally appointed

in 1995 and has been serving continuously since then.

Combined, COA justices have over 150 years' experience at the Court. Currently, all COA justices are attorneys, though in the past, there have been 4 non-lawyer justices serving on the bench. The Court Administrator has been with the Court system since 1981, the court clerk since 1985, and both started at the Trial Court.

The COA has enacted Court of Appeals Rules and in 2019, the COA had 20 cases. The COA has also taken several cases to Gonzaga School of Law for oral argument

hearings to expose the students to tribal law cases.

Court of Appeals decisions are published in VersusLaw and Westlaw/Thompson-Reuters, as well as its own Reporter system, available online at the Colville Tribes' website.

The COA facility includes one courtroom, a conference room, robing room and several offices. There is also a small limited library, open to the public, with Tribal Law and Order Code and Court of Appeals decisions from 1982 to present. People who need to research cases but don't have access to the online Reporter can use the library index card system.

PERSONNEL

Anita Dupris, Chief Justice
Rebecca M. Baker, Associate Justice
Gary F. Bass, Associate Justice
David C. Bonga, Associate Justice
Dennis L. Nelson, Associate Justice
Mark W. Pouley, Associate Justice
Theresa M. Pouley, Associate Justice
R. John Sloan Jr., Associate Justice
Michael Taylor, Associate Justice
Jane M. Smith, Court Administration
Supervisor
Alberta "Birdee" Thomas, Court Clerk

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mail: P O Box 150, Nespelam WA 99155
E-mail: jane.smith@colvilletribes.com or
Alberta.Thomas.coa@colvilletribes.com
Phone: 509-634-2467 (Birdee)
509-634-2507 (Jane)
Fax: 509-634-2513
Website:
www.colvilletribes.com/court-of-appeals

TSCC Workgroup Progress

DV PO Enforcement

This workgroup kicked off on February 6th. The first meeting was to review plans for 2020, including a survey of protection order enforcement key issues and rollout of the 2018 AGO opinion on full faith and credit for tribal court protection orders. The first round of the survey will be for Tribal Justice Systems to help pinpoint where the biggest problems in the system are.

Spring Regional Meeting Planning

This workgroup has met 3 times since November and plans are underway for the May 15th Spring Regional Meeting. The meeting will be held in the morning at the Temple of Justice in Olympia and then convene in the afternoon at Nisqually Tribal Court. Invitations to Tribal Court Judges, statewide, and State Court Judges in the Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Pierce counties area will be sent out soon.

Branding & Messaging

This workgroup has met several times and produced a TSCC information sheet for the national directory of tribal state court forums, approved the 2019 Annual Report, and has kick started the bi-monthly *TSCC Updates* with tribal court spotlights.

2019 Annual Report Now Available

We are working on updating the website to provide more resources to you. On the landing page, you can now find the [2019 TSCC Annual Report](#) with a summary of last year's key activities.

To receive this update and regular TSCC related news, sign up for the TSCC Interested Parties email listserv by emailing Kathryn Akeah, kathryn.akeah@courts.wa.gov