



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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**Oregon Department of Justice Annual Government to Government Report 2024**  
Pursuant to ORS 182.166(3)

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ or Department) is pleased to submit this annual Government-to-Government Report to highlight the ways our attorneys interface and collaborate with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.<sup>2</sup> This government-to-government relationship is one that DOJ is honored to take part in building and sustaining. Each year presents opportunities for DOJ to address new, joint issues affecting numerous parties in Oregon and to continue to learn from the tribes and build resilient tribal partnerships.

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<sup>1</sup> DOJ's Key Contact is also referred to as Tribal Liaison or Native American Affairs Coordinator.

<sup>2</sup> The Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon will be referenced by the following:

Burns Paiute Tribe – Burns Paiute Tribe  
Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians – CTCLUSI  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation – CTWS or Warm Springs Tribe  
Coquille Indian Tribe – Coquille Tribe  
Klamath Tribes – Klamath Tribes  
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians – Cow Creek Tribe or CCBUTI  
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde – CTGR or Grand Ronde  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – Siletz Tribe  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – CTUIR or Umatilla Tribe

Unless noted otherwise, a reference to "Tribe" or "tribe" refers to one of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes. "Oregon Tribes" also refers to these nine tribes.

DOJ's commitment to a strong government-to-government relationship is reflected in its advice and legal counsel to Oregon state agencies and through the administration of its own programs. Through its role as general counsel to state agencies, assistant attorneys general (AAGs) advise and confer with client agencies regarding agency programs, policies, and decisions. Although DOJ does not set policy for client agencies, this role provides a unique opportunity to raise with client agencies the importance of respect for tribal sovereignty and potential program impacts to tribal communities. In addition to its role as general counsel, DOJ also administers its own programs that reach broad sectors of the community, including the Tribes. These programs include Crime Victim and Survivor Services, Consumer Protection, Child Support Enforcement, and more that are further described in this report. Please find an updated list of DOJ programs that interface with Tribes attached as Appendix A.

The Department's Tribal Relations Policy underpins all the work DOJ does for client agencies that may impact Tribes—specifically promoting the principle in Executive Order No. 96-30 that “[a]s sovereigns, the tribes and the State of Oregon must work together to develop mutual respect for the sovereign interests of both parties.” DOJ works diligently to facilitate clear communication and understanding among DOJ, state agencies, and the Tribes, and strives to prevent unnecessary conflict by involving tribal representatives in the development and implementation of programs that affect them. As agency advisors and as program administrators, DOJ values the opportunity to collaborate with the Tribes in furtherance of shared goals, as well as the many opportunities to learn and continue to strengthen government-to-government relationships.

## **II. TRIBAL RELATIONS POLICY**

The Attorney General has adopted the Tribal Relations Policy, attached as Appendix B to this report. The policy is grounded in promoting positive government-to-government relations with Oregon's federally recognized tribes by actively facilitating communication and understanding; striving to prevent unnecessary conflict; interacting with Tribes in a spirit of mutual respect; involving tribal representatives in the development and implementation of programs that affect them; and seeking to understand tribal perspectives.

Each year, the Department's Tribal Key Contact redistributes the policy and highlights its importance to all employees. Discussion of the policy has also been incorporated into DOJ's New Employee Orientation program.

## **III. TRAINING**

DOJ representatives have participated in a variety of seminars and Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs relating to federal Indian Law and Native American culture and heritage.

## **A. External Trainings**

### **1. Division of Child Support Trainings and Opportunities**

During 2024, Division of Child Support (DCS) employees attended both regional and national conferences in virtual and in-person formats.

In February, Deputy Director and DCS key contact Dawn Marquardt, Director Kate Cooper Richardson, Field Services Chief Ana Potter, and Policy Analyst Lori Woltring attended the National Child Support Engagement Association (NCSEA) Policy Forum in Washington, D.C., which included attendees from tribal child support programs. Other DCS staff attended virtually.

On May 7 and 8, Dawn Marquardt attended and presented at the Federal Office of Tribal Support Services Tribal Directors Meeting in Tulalip, Washington, which included Tribal Child Support Directors from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska as well as Federal Office of Child Support Services employees and the Washington State Tribal Relations Manager. The meeting included a tour of the Tulalip Tribe Hibulb Cultural Center & Natural History Preserve.

On May 14 and 15, the Oregon Child Support Program and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians hosted the Annual State Tribal Child Support Meeting at Chinook Winds. The meeting included cultural sharing from Buddy Lane, presentations on federal updates, DOJ Tribal Relations, proposed legislative updates for 2025, information sharing, and the *In Her Shoes: Living with Domestic Violence Economic Justice* simulation. Attendees included:

- Tribal representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Klamath Tribes, and Yurok Tribe
- Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, DOJ Native American Affairs Coordinator Karen Clevering, and DOJ Civil Enforcement Chief Claudia Groberg
- Oregon Child Support Program representatives: Kate Cooper Richardson, Dawn Marquardt, DCS Tribal liaisons and managers, Assistant Attorneys General Shannon Richard and Mike Ritchey, ODAA Child Support Liaison, and Lincoln County District Attorney child support employees
- Federal Office of Child Support Services Region 10 Regional Program Specialist Kevin Lopez-Mohedano and Washington State Senior Manager Tribal Relations Chris Franks
- Oregon Department Human Services TANF policy analyst and Oregon Judicial Department child support analyst

From May 21 to 23, three representatives from the Child Support Program Education team attended the *Trauma Informed Care Conference* in Toppenish, Washington hosted by the Yakama Nation.

In June, Dawn Marquardt, Kate Cooper Richardson, Albany case manager and Tribal Liaison Brandy Maldonado, and Roseburg case manager and Tribal Liaison Deborah Petetit attended the National Tribal Child Support Association (NTCSA) Annual Training Conference in North Carolina.

In August, Dawn Marquardt, Kate Cooper Richardson, and members of the DCS management team attended the NCSEA Leadership Symposium in Michigan, which included attendees from Tribal child support programs.

On August 15, DCS Tribal liaisons, managers, and employees attended a virtual training on *Tribal and State Child Support: A Comparative Look Across Programs*.

On August 16, Albany Tribal liaison Brandy Maldonado and Dawn Marquardt attended the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Indian Reservation Pow Wow and had a table to share info with attendees.

On August 22 and 23, Civil Enforcement AAIC Shannon Richard, and Tribal liaisons Lyssa Warren Wyatt, Kari Monroy and Brandy Maldonado attended the Klamath Tribes 38th Annual Restoration Celebration in Chiloquin. The Klamath Tribes Child Support Enforcement Program and DCS staff participated in the Health Row event that took place during the Restoration Celebration. DCS staff held a drawing for 24 backpacks filled with school supplies for students, handed out child support information to parents, and met members of the community. DCS representatives also attended the Pow Wow and parade over the weekend.

On September 11, Albany branch manager Dylan Berg attended the Washington State Division of Child Support Tribal Liaison Annual Training virtually.

On September 25, several DCS Tribal liaisons and managers attended a *Hidden Epidemics in Indian Boarding Schools* webinar.

On September 26, DCS Tribal liaison Lyssa Warren Wyatt attended the *2024 Every Child Matters Conference* in Chiloquin.

From September 29 to October 3, several DCS employees attended the Western Intergovernmental Child Support Engagement Council (WICSEC) Annual Conference in Nevada. Fifteen Tribes were present at the conference. Dawn Marquardt co-presented on *Navigating the Waters of Sovereignty: Collaborative Child Support Strategies in Tahoe Blue* with representatives from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma.

## **2. Other Legal Trainings**

Child Advocacy and Protection Division (CAPD) AIC Shannon Dennison attended the Attorney General Alliance/Conference of Western Attorneys General section's Tribal Law Seminar in Las Vegas, Nevada from March 26 – March 27. The seminar brought together members of the attorney general community specializing in tribal matters, as well as tribal

leaders from across the United States. The event focused on substance abuse treatment, housing, and medical/mental health care availability issues in tribal communities across the United States, and provided an opportunity for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among professionals working in tribal law.

On April 26, 2024, AIC Shannon Dennison, Kristi Petite from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Lisa Ruiz from the Klamath Tribes, and representatives from ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs presented CAPD Culture, Tribal Connection, and Tribe/State Collaboration CLE. Attendees included CAPD AAGs and attorneys and child welfare professionals from Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

On April 18, 2024, AAG Jordan Bailey participated in the 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference, presenting on cultural resources enforcement.

On December 4, DOJ Key Contact Karen Clevering attended Indian Country 101: Tax and Economic Development Opportunities for Tribes (2025 Edition) about legal status of federally recognized Tribal governments and recent developments in federal Indian law and policy. Topics discussed include General Welfare Exclusion plans, tax status of Tribally chartered enterprises, government contracting, and Section 105(l) leases.

On December 4, AAG Paul Garahan, AIC of the Natural Resources Section, attended a presentation by CTUIR Natural Resources Director Eric Quaempts on tribal first foods and managing natural resources with the objective of respecting, restoring and sustaining tribal first foods. The presentation was provided at a meeting of Natural Resources agency directors, the Governor's Natural Resources Policy Office, and Natural Resources board/commission chairs.

On December 12, Diana Fleming, Program Analyst at CVSSD, and Desiree Coyote, Family Violence Services Program Manager, CTUIR, presented at the US DOJ Office for Victims of Crime 18<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference on the topic of "Deliberate Steps of Inclusion of First Nations Voices."

### **3. Civil Rights Unit Staff Trainings**

Staff from DOJ's Civil Rights Unit attended several trainings throughout the year including:

- A Legacy of Exploitation: Overrepresentation of Indigenous People in Prostitution on November 20, which was moderated by WorldWE Youth Internal Education Coordinator Alexandria Smith.
- Mapping indigenous languages in Oregon. Presentation at Latino Interagency Committee (LINC) of Douglas County Meeting.
- US DOJ's Civil Rights Division Efforts Concerning Native Americans on September 7.

- Culture as Prevention: Indigenous Knowledge and Tribal-Based Practices, a recorded webinar.

## **B. Internal Trainings and Information Sharing**

Throughout 2024, Child Advocacy and Protection Division (CAPD) AIC Shannon Dennison continued to provide ongoing trainings on multiple ICWA/ORICWA topics for CAPD AAGs, law clerks, and support staff. The trainings were intended to provide both nuts and bolts information on ICWA/ORICWA legal requirements, and to ensure that CAPD AAGs and staff understand tribal perspectives in ICWA/ORICWA dependency and termination of parental rights cases and engage with tribes in a spirit of mutual respect.

DOJ Tribal Key Contact Karen Clevering and AAG Jeffrey Wheeler presented “Legal Sufficiency Review – You have an Agreement with a Tribe – Now what?” training on August 28. The session provided background for why agreements with Tribes are important to the Government-to-Government relationship and information and resources for how to navigate reviews for legal sufficiency, required under ORS 291.047.

AAG Karen Clevering co-edited “Chapter 12. Indian Country and Indian Lands Gaming” of the *American Indian Law Deskbook of the Conference of Western Attorneys General* (2024).

## **IV. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

### **A. Cluster Participation**

#### **1. Public Safety Cluster**

DOJ Tribal Key Contact Karen Clevering and CVSSD staff participated in cluster meetings. On November 19, Director of Civil Rights and Social Justice Fay Stetz-Waters and Civil Rights Unit Hotline Coordinator Johanna Costa presented at the Cluster meeting on DOJ Bias Incident and Hate Crime Hotline and Civil Rights resources. Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor AAG Sarah Sabri also presented regarding Forensic Experiential Training Institute opportunities. [Certified FETI® - The Official Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview.](#)

#### **2. Cultural Resources Cluster**

DOJ Tribal Key Contact Karen Clevering and AAG Patrick Aitchison of DOJ’s Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit (ECREU) participated in cluster meetings.

#### **3. Natural Resources Work Group**

DOJ Tribal Key Contact Karen Clevering participated in work group meetings.

## **B. Senate Bill 1503 Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention**

In October, DOJ contacted each of the Tribes inviting them to participate in the Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide pursuant to [SB 1503](#). The Task Force, in coordination with partners across the state, is charged with studying best practices for reducing deaths from community safety threats and for suicide prevention. By September 15, 2025, the Task Force will submit a report to the legislature detailing its work and recommending legislation. DOJ appreciates the time and expertise shared by Klamath Tribes Council Treasurer Brandi Hatcher and Council Member Les Anderson. Andy Leonard of the CTWS is serving on the Task Force as a tribal representative from a suicide prevention program. The Task Force has met on October 2, November 4, and December 2.

## **C. Trainings for Law Enforcement and Public Safety**

The Criminal Justice (CJ) Division regularly provides presentations on public safety and law enforcement concerns, which benefits from tribal partnerships and participation. In April, CJ provided a presentation on Internet Crimes Against Children, which was attended by Umatilla Tribal Police. On August 28, CJ's Animal Cruelty Prosecutor Jake Kamins provided a presentation on Oregon's animal cruelty laws for Columbia River Inter-Tribal Police Department.

## **D. ICWA & Child Advocacy and Protection Division**

Throughout 2024, DOJ's Child Advocacy and Protection Division (CAPD), formerly the Child Advocacy Section or ChAS, continued its commitment and work in support of ORICWA and ICWA. The CAPD provides quality and timely legal advice and effective legal advice and effective court representation to the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Child Welfare Division in order to protect children from abuse and neglect and to support families, allowing children to grow up in safe and stable environments.

### **1. Oregon State-Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee**

In January, AIC Shannon Dennison attended the State-Tribal Partnership Steering Committee and Grantee Multi-State Kick-Off Meeting in Portland, OR. Grantee states include Oregon, Minnesota, Alaska, North Dakota, and Nebraska. The in-person kick-off meeting was organized and led by the U.S. Department of Health and Safety's Children's Bureau and included representatives from each of the grantee state courts and court improvement programs, child welfare departments, Tribes, and several national experts who provide technical assistance on the grants. The kick-off meeting was an opportunity for states and Tribes to build relationships and learn about each state's proposals. The purpose of the grants is to create and implement intergovernmental partnership models to jointly develop and operate a plan to effectively implement best practices in Indian child welfare services to preserve families of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, protect children, and ensure that children remain connected to their families, communities, and culture.

Oregon's State-Tribal Partnership Steering Committee is led by the Oregon Judicial Department/Juvenile Court Improvement Program (OJD/JCIP). OJD ICWA Analyst Adrea Korthase serves as the Project Director and the Klamath Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are the designated tribal partners. Goals for Oregon's grant include the development of ICWA Courts, development of an ICWA data collection including an OJD data dashboard and business processes, and expansion of the family preservation work performed in Klamath County to other parts of the state. The Steering Committee meets monthly, with roughly half of the meetings take place at various tribal offices in Oregon.

## **2. Uniform Law Commission Indian Child Welfare Act Issues Study Committee, State Laws Subcommittee, & Drafting Subcommittee**

Throughout 2024, AIC Shannon Dennison has participated on the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) Indian Child Welfare Act Issues (ICWAI) Study Committee which has explored whether a model or uniform state ICWA statute should be developed to better ensure nationwide ICWA adherence, uniformity, and possibly higher levels of protection for tribes and tribal communities. This ULC committee is led by retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Martha Walters and participants have included tribal representatives, Commissioners (judges and other judicial officers nationwide who hear family and juvenile dependency law matters), attorneys, law professors, and legislators from across the country including Texas Supreme Court Justice Debra Lehrman, UCLA Indian Law professor Lauren van Schilfgaarde, Nevada State Representative Shea Backus, Kate Fort (Michigan State University College of Law), Jack Trope (Casey Family Programs), Whitener Group attorney Adrian Smith, representatives from the California Tribal Families Coalition, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the American Bar Association, the Native American Rights Fund, the Cherokee Nation, Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and other tribes and legal professionals from across the United States. During 2024, AIC Dennison also participated in a ULC ICWAI subcommittee which analyzed and compared all state ICWA statute provisions and drafted a report for consideration by the ULC when determining whether a model or uniform state ICWA statute should be developed. In December 2024, the ULC ICWAI committee will meet for its first drafting session, and AIC Dennison will participate on the drafting committee.

## **3. ODHS and CTUIR Agreement**

In March, AIC Shannon Dennison worked with ODHS Child Welfare to review and develop terms for an updated Tribe/State Agreement between the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and ODHS.

## **4. Marion ICWA Court & Citizens Review Board**

In March, OJD/JCIP, ODHS Child Welfare, DOJ, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, CASA of Marion County, and the Marion County Juvenile Defense Advocacy Consortium began discussions regarding the implementation of an ICWA Court and an ICWA Citizens Review Board in Marion County. Multiple planning meetings for the ICWA Court took place between March and October, when the initial ICWA Court proceedings began. AIC Caitlynn Knopp, AAGs Kristyn Houston and Carrie Wineland,



AIC Shannon Dennison, and Regional Support Manager Hope Perkins participated in planning meetings, and AAGs Houston and Wineland are assigned to Marion's ICWA Court. In preparation for rolling out Marion County's ICWA court in October, planning group members and juvenile court partners were invited to virtually observe ICWA Court proceedings in Klamath County, Oregon; St. Louis County, Minnesota; and Carlton County, Minnesota. The planning committee closely collaborated with tribes in and out of Oregon whose citizens have dependency cases in Marion County to ensure each Tribe's flag was hanging in the courtroom and each Tribe's cultural considerations were incorporated into ICWA Court proceedings – including sacred medicines (sage, cedar, tobacco, and sweetgrass), the presence of tribal elders, traditional opening ceremonies by tribal members, and smudging opportunities.

## **5. ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs Director Consultation**

In March of 2024, Sherril Kuhns began serving as ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) Interim Director. The OTA works with all ODHS programs to create tribally appropriate programming, services, and policies and to provide support to the Child Welfare field. On February 23, AIC Shannon Dennison attended a leadership transition meeting with outgoing OTA Director Adam Becenti and incoming Interim Director Sherril Kuhns to discuss OTA priorities for CAPD representation and advice. Since March, AIC Dennison has met with Sherril Kuhns on a monthly basis to address ODHS ICWA/ policy and practice developments, issues of concern from tribes, and questions involving tribal collaboration and case handling. AIC Dennison also continues provides advice to the OTA related to Child Welfare Program.

## **6. Tribal Consultation Regarding ORICWA/Tribal Customary Adoption – Oregon Supreme Court Appeal**

In April 2024, AAGs Erin Galli and Karen Clevering and AIC Shannon Dennison met with attorneys for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Pit River Tribe (California), and the Native American Rights Fund to discuss questions from the tribes related to their amicus brief in the M.B.J. Tribal Customary Adoption Oregon Supreme Court appeal.

## **7. CAPD Culture, Tribal Connection, and Tribe/State Collaboration CLE co-presented with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Klamath Tribes for CAPD AAGs and the Nine Tribes of Oregon**

From January – April 2024, AIC Shannon Dennison collaborated with representatives from the Nine Tribes of Oregon to develop a training and presentation for CAPD AAGs regarding the importance of culture and tribal connection for families involved in the juvenile dependency system and collaboration between DOJ and ODHS with tribes in handling those cases.

On April 26, 2024, AIC Shannon Dennison co-presented a CLE with Kristi Petite from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Lisa Ruiz from the Klamath Tribes, and representatives from ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs. In addition to CAPD AAGs, CLE attendees included attorneys and child welfare professionals from Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Cow Creek Band

of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

**8. National Indian Child Welfare Association Qualified Expert Witness Testimony Training**

In May 2024, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Morgan Long requested that AIC Shannon Dennison present a Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) training in June 2024 for tribal representatives from across the United States who would be in Portland for a week attending a National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) training. On June 6, AAG Lauren Kemp and AIC Dennison joined Oregon attorney Lea Ann Easton from Dorsay & Easton in co-presenting the QEW training in Judge Long's courtroom.

**9. ODHS OTA Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) Training; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Grand Ronde, OR**

On June 11 – June 12, AIC Shannon Dennison, OJD ICWA Analyst Adrea Korthase co-presented a 2-day QEW training with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs for representatives of tribes in Oregon, Washington, California, and Alaska at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde courthouse. On the second day of the training, AAG Kristyn Houston conducted mock QEW testimony sessions for the training participants. On July 15 and 17, AIC Dennison and Adrea Korthase conducted additional, virtual QEW mock testimony sessions with training attendees.

**10. ODHS Indian Child Welfare Act Executive Sponsor Group – Training & Coaching**

On July 29, AIC Shannon Dennison attended the ODHS Indian Child Welfare Act Executive Sponsor Group meeting to review and discuss ODHS' statewide ICWA/ORICWA training, coaching, and support efforts. The goals for the all-day meeting included identification of desired ICWA/ORICWA training deliverables, conducting a training needs assessment, and development of plans to engage Tribes for training input and to ensure tribal consultation and collaboration.

**11. Marion County Multi-Disciplinary Team Cultural Considerations Training**

AIC Shannon Dennison and Kristi Petite, Children and Family Services Program manager for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, developed an ICWA/ORICWA Cultural Considerations presentation for the Marion County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), which was presented on September 18 at an all-day MDT training led by the Liberty House Child Advocacy Center. The presentation addressed legal and cultural considerations for law enforcement and child welfare agency personnel when conducting child abuse and neglect criminal investigations and child welfare assessments involving Indian children. Audience members included tribal, state, and local law enforcement officers and state and tribal child welfare workers.

**12. 2024 Indian Child Welfare Act Conference: Hearts In, Hands On, Blessings Up – Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Seven Feathers Casino Resort, Canyonville, OR**

From October 15 – 17, AICs Shannon Dennison, Staci Barry, and Adam Peterson and AAIC Katherine Yancey attended the 2024 Tribal-State ICWA conference, held this year at the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indian's Seven Feathers Casino Resort in Canyonville, Oregon. AICs Dennison and Peterson co-presented a training at the conference titled Emergency Removals and Child Custody Proceedings. Presentation attendees included social workers from the Nine Tribes of Oregon, ODHS Child Welfare staff, and ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs staff. CAPD's representatives attended all three days of the conference and participated in multiple trainings and social gatherings with the Nine Tribes of Oregon, including a culture night hosted by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. On the final day of the conference, AIC Dennison was presented with a 2024 ODHS Indian Child Welfare Act Warrior Award, along with other award recipients from both the Nine Tribes of Oregon and ODHS.

**13. CAPD ICWA/ORICWA Brown Bag Trainings**

On May 31, AIC Shannon Dennison provided a brown bag training for CAPD AAGs regarding Qualified Expert Witness Testimony. On December 20, AIC Shannon will present a brown bag training on ICWA/ORICWA Notice and Notification Requirements.

**14. CAPD ORICWA Resource Group**

CAPD's ORICWA Resource Group, implemented in 2022 to improve compliance with ICWA and ORICWA across Oregon and to build stronger relationships between CAPD AAGs and tribes, has continued to meet throughout 2024. AIC Shannon Dennison continues to lead the Resource Group, which includes CAPD attorneys from across the state including Deputy Chief Counsel Rahela Rehman; AICs Carmen Brady-Wright, Catherine Terwilliger, Michelle Watkins, Staci Barry, and Adam Peterson; AAICs Lauren Kemp and Caitlynn Knopp; and AAGs Kim Bolen and Mary Margaret Montgomery. Members of the ORICWA Resource Group have continued to meet monthly with ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs Regional ICWA Specialists to discuss general application of ICWA and ORICWA in juvenile dependency matters, state-tribe collaboration, and specific issues in dependency cases. Resource group members have also continued to be available to CAPD AAGs across the state to assist with pending ICWA/ORICWA cases as needed.

**15. 18<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference: Healing and Continuing to Stay Rooted – Palm Springs, CA**

On December 10 – 13, AIC Shannon Dennison attended the 18<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference in Palm Springs, California with OJD ICWA Analyst Adrea Korthase; Kristi Petite, Children and Family Services Program manager for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; and ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs Interim Director Sherril Kuhns. The conference focused on the unique needs of American Indian and Alaska Native populations and provided training for

service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, medical and mental health professionals, social workers, and victim advocates at the Tribal, federal, state, and local levels.

## **16. Uniform Parentage Act and ORICWA**

On November 5 and 14, AICs Carmen Brady-Wright, Hannah Vaughn, and Shannon Dennison and AAG Stacy Chaffin met with Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel Lori Anne Sills, attorney Lane Shetterly, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation attorney Brent Leonhard, tribal lobbyist Amanda Hess, and family law attorneys to discuss the interplay between the proposed Uniform Parentage Act legislative language and ICWA/ORICWA.

## **17. ORICWA Resource Guide**

In May, AICs Adam Peterson and Shannon Dennison met to begin the development and drafting of an ORICWA Resource Guide for use by CAPD AAGs when handling dependency and termination of parental rights cases in which ICWA/ORICWA apply, and to guide their efforts in collaborating with tribes in ICWA/ORICWA cases.

## **18. 2024 Calendar of Events**

### **January**

- 1/8: Uniform Law Commission ICWAI State Laws Subcommittee Meeting
- 1/16 - 17: State Tribal Partnership Steering Committee and Grantee Multi-State Kick-Off Meeting in Portland, OR
- 1/18: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 1/19: CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 1/26: ULC ICWA State Laws Subcommittee Meeting

### **February**

- 2/6: Oregon State Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee Meeting – Salem, OR
- 2/12: ULC Indian Child Welfare Act Issues Study Committee Meeting
- 2/15: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 2/16: CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 2/23: ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs Leadership Transition Meeting with Director Becenti and Interim Director Kuhns

### **March**

- 3/26 - 3/28: AGA/CWAG Tribal Law Seminar, Las Vegas, NV

### **April**

- 4/17: Meeting with Nine Tribes of Oregon attorneys regarding MBJ Supreme Court Appeal
- 4/18: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 4/19: Marion County ICWA Court Planning Meeting
- 4/26: CAPD Culture, Tribal Connection, and Tribe/State Collaboration CLE co-presented with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Klamath Tribes

## **May**

- 5/6: Oregon State Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee Meeting – Virtual
- 5/16: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 5/21: ICWA/ORICWA Reference Guide Meeting
- 5/31: CAPD ORICWA Brown Bag Training: Qualified Expert Witness Testimony

## **June**

- 6/6: National Indian Child Welfare Association Qualified Expert Witness Testimony Training
- 6/11 – 6/12: Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) Training; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Grand Ronde, OR
- 6/20: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 6/21: Oregon State Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee Meeting at the Klamath Tribes goos oLgi gowa Building in Chiloquin, OR
- 6/22: Marion County ICWA Court Planning Meeting

## **July**

- 7/9: ULC Indian Child Welfare Act Issues Study Committee Meeting
- 7/15 & 7/17: ODHS OTA Qualified Expert Witness Virtual Trainings
- 7/18: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 7/29: ODHS ICWA Executive Sponsor Group – Training & Coaching Workstream

## **August**

- 8/12: Oregon State Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee Meeting – Virtual
- 8/13: ICWA/ORICWA Reference Guide Meeting
- 8/15: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 8/22: Marion County ICWA Court Planning Meeting

## **September**

- 9/11: Marion County ICWA Court Planning Meeting
- 9/18: Marion County Multi-Disciplinary Team Cultural Considerations Training
- 9/20: CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

## **October**

- 10/11: Oregon State Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee Meeting – Virtual
- 10/16: Initial Marion County ICWA Court Proceeding

## **November**

- 11/1: Marion County ICWA Court Feedback and Planning Meeting
- 11/21: Marion County ICWA Court Dedication
- 11/21: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

## **December**

- 12/10 – 12/14: 18<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference – Palm Springs, CA
- 12/13 – 12/14: ULC Indian Child Welfare Act Issues Drafting Committee Meeting
- 12/19: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting
- 12/20: ORICWA Brown Bag: ICWA Notice Requirements

#### **D. Civil Enforcement**

Civil Enforcement Chief Counsel Claudia Groberg continued to represent the Child Support Program on both the Division of Child Support and District Attorney cases at the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Chief Counsel Groberg appeared at Siletz Tribal Court monthly to handle income withholding hearings on orders issued to the Tribe by the Child Support Program. In July Chief Counsel Groberg appeared in person for the annual per capita wage garnishment hearings. The Child Support Program submitted a wage withholding on 103 cases and collected \$62,137.40 towards child support.

Civil Recovery Section AAIC Shannon Richard continued to work with the tribal relations team in the Bend office, along with the tribal liaison in the Roseburg office of DCS. She attended monthly tribal team meeting with the Bend office to discuss cases and issues that arise with the tribes they serve: the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Klamath Tribes, and the Burns Paiute Tribe. AAIC Richard attended the Klamath Tribe's Restoration Celebration in August and assisted the DCS in their outreach efforts, which included a meeting with the Klamath Tribes Child Support team and participating in the Tribal Health Fair. She also attended the Pow Wow and tribal parade. The Civil Recovery Section attorneys again joined forces with the Oregon Child Support program to provide school supplies and backpack donations for the children of the Klamath tribe.

#### **E. Representation of State Agencies**

The Department of Justice is the law firm for all Oregon state agencies, and this includes legal representation and advice involving policies and laws that impact tribes and tribal relations. Such work often invites DOJ interaction with Oregon tribes and their attorneys on behalf of client agencies. In doing so, the DOJ strives to develop and maintain respectful and productive relationships with tribes and tribal attorneys, even when taking differing positions in litigation.

It is not possible to detail all these efforts, some of which are confidential or sensitive. Some examples of legal work conducted while representing the State or other state agencies follow.

##### **1. Department of Energy (ODOE)**

AAG Patrick Rowe advised ODOE, which represents the State of Oregon on the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (HNRTC). The HNRTC, which was formed in 1993, is a collaborative working group chartered to address natural resources impacted by releases of hazardous substances at the Hanford Nuclear Site. The Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Yakama Nation are the tribal members on the HNRTC. AAG Rowe participated in meetings with representatives of these tribes and other trustees. The near-term goal of the HNRTC (within the next few years) is to complete the injury assessment phase and prepare a Restoration Plan. The ultimate goal is to reach an agreement for restoring injured resources and services and compensation for the loss of resources and services resulting from the releases.

AAG Rowe also regularly advises ODOE's Siting Division and the Energy Facility Siting Council regarding the siting of energy facilities in Oregon. The work of staff in the Siting

Division often involves tribes, including coordination regarding the potential impact of a proposed energy facility on historic and cultural resources. AAG Rowe continued to assist in ODOE's implementation of its Community Renewable Energy Grant and Community Heat Pump programs by reviewing grant agreements, including with certain tribes.

## **2. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)**

ODF continues to work with tribes in regulating forest practices on tribal lands. AAG Matt DeVore has been assisting ODF as they prepare for their discussions with various tribes regarding collaboration of enforcement efforts on tribal forestland. He has also provided support in agreements that provide for mutual enforcement authorities on tribal lands.

## **3. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)**

AAG Anika Marriott represented ODFW in its ongoing participation in the *U.S. v Oregon* policy committee and Management Agreement Implementation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce, Warm Springs, Yakama, and Shoshone Bannock that facilitates tribal and state sovereign co-managers of the Columbia River fishery resources. Mediation has commenced with federal magistrate Judge Beckerman for the negotiation of the 2028-2037 Management Agreement.

AAGs Erin Donald, Nina Englander, Deanna Chang and Karen Clevering assisted ODFW in discussions with Siletz Tribe regarding the 1980 Consent Decree. The 1980 Consent Decree between the Tribe and State was entered to "permanently define" the rights of the Siletz Tribe with respect to hunting, fishing, and gathering, and has been a source of contention for decades.

Federal legislation passed in December 2023 allowed for termination of the 1980 consent decree and allowed the Tribe and State to enter into a new hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering agreement under State law. The consent decree was officially vacated on October 30, 2024.

AAG Gary Vrooman represents ODFW on the NRD Trustee Council concerning the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and regularly interacts with the 5 Tribes that are members.

## **4. Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)**

AAG Steve Shipsey participated with the DLCD staff and LCDC in meeting with the CLCLUSI and Coquille Tribe in January as well as tours provided by the Tribes of their restoration work and tribal communities, and CTCLUSI on topic of LCDC rulemaking in January. AAG Shipsey also attended LCDC on a tour by Coquille Tribe of restoration work in the Coos and Coquille watersheds, followed by a dinner and dancing at the Coquille plank house.

## **5. Oregon Department of Transportation**

AAG Karen Clevering assisted ODOT in negotiating updated agreements with Tribal Employment Rights Offices (TERO) of CTUIR, CTGR, and CTWS. These agreements provide for TERO collaboration on ODOT projects near or on the reservation.

## **6. Oregon Health Authority**

AAG Shannon O'Fallon worked with OHA Tribal Affairs Director Julie Johnson to establish tribal template agreements at OHA that have specific tribal provisions.

AAG Ellen D. Taussig Conaty assisted OHA's Tribal Affairs program in finalizing negotiations on a contract with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation to operate an Indian Managed Care Entity (IMCE) for Medicaid services. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the agreement in July 2024.

## **7. Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission**

AAGs Stacy Posegate and Karen Clevering advised OLCC in negotiations with Coquille Tribe and Coquille Economic Development Corporation (CEDCO) for an agreement regarding CEDCO's manufacture (distill) of alcohol on Tribal land.

## **8. Oregon State Police (OSP)**

AAG Karen Clevering advised OSP in negotiating with CTWS an agreement regarding law enforcement coordination at the Pine Creek Conservation Area.

## **9. Portland Harbor Natural Resources Damages Negotiations**

On behalf of ODOT and DSL, the NRS Portland Harbor defense AAGs continued negotiations with the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustee Council) to resolve potential natural resource damages liability. The following tribes are members of the Trustee Council: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe. This effort has been ongoing since approximately 2010.

## **10. Portland Harbor Remedial Design Work**

On behalf of ODOT and DSL, the NRS Portland Harbor defense AAGs continued to support work under EPA consent orders, including compliance with tribal oversight cost agreements with the Yakama Nation and with five tribal governments working collaboratively on the oversight work, including the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated



Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Work under consent order on which ODOT is a respondent has been completed. Work continues on an consent order on which DSL is a respondent.

#### **E. Gaming**

AAG Karen Clevering serves on the Governor's negotiating team for tribal gaming compacts. In addition to gaming compacts, AAG Clevering advises Oregon State Police Tribal Gaming Section (TGS) in its regulatory role in tribal gaming activities in the State.

#### **F. *Amicus Curiae* Brief Decision Making**

DOJ continues to notify tribal attorneys about cases in which the Attorney General is called upon by other states or associations to participate in appellate court briefing in an amicus curiae role by joining briefs that have been drafted by other states. This process has resulted in meaningful input from tribal representatives in the State's decision-making process. In addition, tribes on occasion contact DOJ asking that the Attorney General join an amicus brief.

#### **G. Criminal Justice Division and Law Enforcement Coordination**

The Criminal Justice Division conducts specialized criminal investigations and prosecutions and provides highly trained and experienced special agents, prosecutors and analysts to fight crime across Oregon. The Division also provides outreach and training to citizens, victim service providers, and members of the law enforcement community to help ensure that Oregonians receive the highest level of service from the criminal justice system. The Division has three main units: Investigation, Prosecution, and Analytical. Members of these units participate in various specialized programs and serve local, state, and national law enforcement, state and federal prosecutors, state agencies, and crime victims on a daily basis.

##### **1. Tribal Representation**

The Criminal Justice Division coordinates multidisciplinary team meetings on specific topics and includes representatives from the District Attorneys' offices, law enforcement, schools, and other supportive service groups.

##### **2. Oregon TITAN Fusion Center**

The Oregon TITAN Fusion Center (OTFC) works directly with tribal security partners to share information on criminal activity and potential threats to Oregon tribal lands and surrounding areas.

### **3. Oregon DOJ Watch Center**

The Oregon DOJ Watch Center (WC) works directly with local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement partners to aid in criminal investigations, the location of criminal subjects, and the location of victims of crimes.

### **4. Regional Automated Information Network (RAIN)**

RAIN is an ORS 190 intergovernmental agency tasked with facilitating law enforcement data-sharing by connecting separate, locally administered criminal justice records management systems, allowing users to query departmental reports and other documents across database platforms and jurisdictions throughout the State.

### **5. Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor Work**

AAG Sarah Sabri serves as DOJ's Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor (DVRP), a part of the Criminal Justice Division, and through this work she has been working closely with representatives from Tribal Nations on issues most specifically related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and protection order enforcement. AAG Sabri continues to provide education to state law enforcement and prosecutors about proper enforcement of tribal court protection orders.

The DVRP coordinates with tribal prosecutors and public safety about relevant trainings, including August training on strangulation and stalking and grant-funded FETI (forensic experiential trauma interviewing) training for law enforcement officers responding to and engaging with victims/survivors of sexual abuse and trauma.

In addition, the DVRP continues developing better relationships and communications with tribal victim advocacy programs. This includes participating in the CVSSD-led Community Conversations (discussed in I.2, below).

## **H. Cultural Resources**

AAG Jordan Bailey presented on cultural resources enforcement at the 2024 Oregon Heritage Conference. AAG Aitchison attended meetings of the Intergovernmental Cultural Resource Council.

## **I. Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD)**

In 2024, the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division continued to build stronger collaborations between tribes and statewide technical assistance agencies, grant-funded programs and community partners. CVSSD also sought additional opportunities to learn about challenges confronting tribal nations and how better to deliver services to tribal populations. It also continues to provide ongoing technical assistance and facilitate conversations with tribal communities and nonprofit victim service programs to improve long standing issues and concerns regarding service delivery to tribal victims.

## **1. Grant Funding**

In continuation of its 2023 work, CVSSD administered grants to Oregon Tribal Nations along with other culturally specific programs for a 10% funding differential in the 2023-2025 Joint noncompetitive DVSA grant award. Additionally, the CVSSD Advisory Committee approved allocations that included increasing the base amount to \$150,000 for each service area.

## **2. Community Conversations and Collaborations**

As part of CVSSD's continued commitment to building stronger relationships with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, CVSSD began a series of Community Conversations with tribal victim service programs and local community partners. These meetings build on work done in 2023 when CVSSD conducted listening sessions with tribal leadership and tribal victim service programs across the state. Beginning in Fall 2024 CVSSD hosted [Community Collaboration](#) meetings with local criminal justice community partners and tribal leadership and its victim services programs. These meetings will continue through spring 2025 with a focus on continued learning about challenges experienced by tribal victims and survivors as well as the tribal victim service programs experience when working with non-tribal community partners.

The first meeting was in Portland in September, followed by meetings at Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in October, at Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians in Coos Bay and at Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians in November. CVSSD co-hosted with the individual tribal victim service programs that included district attorneys and deputy district attorneys, victim assistance program directors, law enforcement, child advocacy centers and non-profit DV/SA programs. The final five community meetings will conclude in June 2025. CVSSD will summarize information and feedback gathered through the community meetings and tribal leadership listening sessions. CVSSD will also identify next steps following both phases of the FY 2023- 2025 Tribal Nations Needs Assessment and Community Collaboration Project. CVSSD anticipates providing a final written report along with a community collaboration protocol and policy statement that will help everyone address gaps in services in our communities.

## **3. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Plan**

In continuation of work in 2023, the VAWA IP is a 4-year strategic plan that proposes how federal VAWA Formula Grant funds are allocated with statewide funding priorities, goals and activities. Two Tribes have a member representing tribal interests on the CVSSD VAWA Implementation Planning (IP) Subcommittee. All nine tribes are invited to each of the CVSSD and IP Subcommittee meetings that set statewide strategy for domestic and sexual violence service provision. The inclusion of tribal representatives assures that the voices and concerns of tribal victims are represented during planning, allocation and application review. Tribal board representation continues to provide expertise in CVSSD's funding processes and to improve collaboration with state partners and stakeholders as well as domestic violence and sexual assault service providers.

#### **4. CVSSD's Trafficking Response & Intervention Program (TRIP)**

CVSSD's Trafficking Response & Intervention Program (TRIP) partners with tribal communities throughout the state to increase awareness and improve services for victims of human trafficking. Over the last year, TRIP has provided training in partnership with Spirit Mountain Casino and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Transportation, The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe and Seven Feathers Casino, Umatilla Tribal law enforcement and the Wild Horse Casino in Pendleton; and service providers from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and the Mill Casino in Coos Bay.

#### **J. Civil Rights Unit**

The Civil Rights Unit (CRU) is part of the CVSSD in the Oregon Department of Justice. Upon passage of SB 577 in 2019, the CRU has founded, structured, and staffed the nation's first statewide Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents Response Hotline dedicated to supporting victims and witnesses targeted with hate or bias based on their protected class. After the passage of HB 3265 in 2021, the CRU also founded, structured, and staffed the state's new Sanctuary Promise program and hotline, which investigates violations of Oregon's sanctuary laws and support victims and families targeted with these law violations.

The Civil Rights and Social Justice Director sits in the Office of the Attorney General and advises the Oregon Attorney General on civil rights issues. The Civil Rights and Social Justice Director additionally provides supervision on civil rights litigation in Oregon, coordinates multi-state litigation on civil rights, education, and labor rights issues, and, along with the CRU, engages in community, government, and law enforcement training and outreach regarding civil rights issues affecting marginalized and vulnerable Oregonians.

#### **1. Bias Response Hotline**

DOJ's statewide Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents Response Hotline (or Bias Response Hotline, BRH) is part of the Civil Rights Unit in the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division. The BRH opened in January 2020 and provides confidential support, resources, affinity and community referrals, emergency funds, connection to law enforcement, criminal justice advocacy, and additional options for civil investigations for those targeted or who witness targeting based on protected class in both bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents.

As of November 2024, the BRH has received 2,919 reports to the hotline. Of those, there have been 31 reports of race-based anti-American Indian/Alaska Native bias, and there have been 4 reports of national origin-based AI/AN nation bias, accounting for 1% of all hotline reports. Of the 35 reports to the hotline, 10 were determined to be [hate crimes](#) and 25 were [bias incidents](#). Because targeting a person's perceived identity differs from a victim's actual identity, the BRH collects voluntary data about a caller's actual identity; the hotline supported 52 individuals who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native. Conduct reported included assault, doxxing (sharing private contact information online for the purpose of inciting others to harass an individual), exploitation, harassment - offensive conduct, hate speech, institutional bias,

offensive physical contact, refusing service/accommodations, swatting (calling 911 on a person in an attempt to bring about unnecessary or dangerous law enforcement response or consequence to another person), threats, and vandalism. All of the BRH's data is available publicly and updated monthly on the [data dashboard](#) by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. It is searchable by month (or multiple months), location, determination, conduct, and protected class.

## **2. MMIP Working Group**

The CRU Hotline Coordinator continued to serve on the District of Oregon Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Working Group, and attended three workgroup meetings, two prep meetings with the coordinators, as well as one meeting of the MMIP Tribal Community Outreach Sub-Group. In addition, the CRU Hotline Coordinator and Civil Rights and Social Justice Director attended two meetings at the request of the Governor's Office Tribal Affairs Director regarding MMIP Legislation and the resources currently available through the Bias Response Hotline.

## **K. Division of Child Support (DCS)**

The Oregon Child Support Program is administered by the Division of Child Support (DCS) and works with both parents to provide the financial and emotional support their children need to grow and thrive. These services help children in need, encourage family self-sufficiency, return money to the public treasury, and reduce the state's cost of providing public assistance. During 2024, regional and national conferences were a combination of virtual and in-person events. Many program employees were able to attend virtual events. Specific trainings noted in Section III above.

Oregon Child Support Program employees continue to update the case management system, Origin, with demographic information for the participants and families we serve. Origin allows Tribal membership to be added for each case participant. Identifying this information helps determine jurisdiction over the Tribal family, enables Tribal families to obtain Tribal services if more appropriate, and accurately reports collections for Tribal families. The Oregon Child Support Program welcomes Tribal members or their families to report Tribal affiliation to the program to maintain accurate records.

In 2024, DCS solicited a Request for Proposal (RFP) for written translation services. As part of the RFP process, DCS sought input from Oregon Tribes. Oregon Tribes may access the pricing by entering into an Intergovernmental Joint Cooperative Procurement Agreement with DOJ.

## **1. Statewide Child Support Collection Activities**

The Oregon Child Support Program maintains Tribal liaisons in DCS offices (DCS Tribal Liaisons) throughout the state who work in cooperation with the Tribes and Tribal members to collect child support on behalf of Native American families. Funds collected by the Oregon Child Support Program, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Office of Child Support Enforcement, and The Klamath Tribes Judiciary Child Support Enforcement Office are distributed to Tribal families, Tribal child support programs, Tribal TANF

(Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) programs, and the State of Oregon. In federal fiscal year 2024, the Oregon Child Support Program collected more than \$1,591,000 on cases with Oregon Tribal members.

DOJ Civil Enforcement Chief Counsel Claudia Groberg continued to represent the Oregon Child Support Program on child support cases at the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Groberg appeared monthly at Siletz Tribal Court for income withholding hearings. Groberg and Siletz Tribal liaisons Brandy Maldonado and Gail Newkirk attended the per capita hearings in July. After a full day of hearings, **\$62,137.40** was collected from Tribal dividends for child support. A portion of those funds are disbursed to the Siletz Tribe to reimburse the Tribe for Tribal TANF.

## **2. Activities by Tribe**

*Burns Paiute Tribe.* The Tribal liaisons in the Bend office continue to be available to assist with child support issues for Tribal members.

*Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.* Tribal employers receive and process wage and medical support withholding orders. The DCS Tribal liaisons provide direct assistance to Tribal members with questions regarding child support enforcement, modification, DNA testing, and paternity establishment.

*Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.* DCS Tribal liaisons at the Albany DCS office work with the Grand Ronde Tribe to assist various departments including Tribal Court, offering assistance for Tribal members who have child support cases. In 2024, DCS Tribal liaison Brandy Maldonado increased outreach with Grand Ronde employees and Tribal members to discuss services available from the Oregon Child Support Program.

*Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.* The Albany DCS office works with the Siletz Tribe and Tribal Court. Local DCS Tribal liaisons meet with the Tribal TANF staff regularly to provide training as well as case staffing for general case questions and paternity testing services.

*Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.* The Pendleton DCS office works cooperatively with the CTUIR Office of Child Support Enforcement. The Tribal liaisons assist with training of new CTUIR staff and help with registering orders with CTUIR for enforcement and wage withholding. In 2024, DCS Tribal liaison Kari Monroy worked at CTUIR on monthly child support docket days to answer questions Tribal members or employees may have about their Oregon Child Support Program case.

*Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.* DCS Tribal liaisons in the Bend DCS office are available to assist with child support issues for Tribal members. The liaisons also aid Tribal members who have child support matters in other states, serving as a liaison between Tribal members and child support programs in other jurisdictions. During 2024, DCS Tribal liaisons continued outreach efforts at the Warm Springs ODHS office.

*Coquille Indian Tribe.* The Tribal liaisons provide direct assistance to Tribal members with questions regarding child support services, modification, DNA testing, and paternity establishment, and facilitate contact with out-of-state Tribes and child support programs as necessary.

*Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.* The Roseburg DCS office processes registration of orders with the Tribal Court. The Tribal liaisons work closely with the Tribal Court Clerk to ensure that orders are registered timely to expedite the receipt of child support.

*The Klamath Tribes.* The Bend DCS and Klamath Tribes child support employees meet regularly to discuss work and improve processes. DCS Tribal liaison meets virtually or in person with the Tribe's child support staff and Tribal members to answer questions about cases, audit cases, and assist with complex cases. In 2024, the Klamath Tribes and Oregon child support programs piloted a process to refer cases for state tax refund offset. The pilot collected almost \$11,000 on cases referred from the Klamath Tribes.

### **3. Tribal Liaisons for the Division of Child Support**

**Statewide Tribal Contact:** Dawn Marquardt

#### **Assigned Tribal Contacts by Tribe:**

*Burns Paiute:* Lyssa Warren Wyatt (Primary Contact) and Jennifer Nelson (Secondary Contact)

*Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw:* Debbie Petetit (Primary Contact) and Lisa Martin (Secondary Contact)

*Coquille Indian Tribe:* Debbie Petetit (Primary Contact) and Lisa Martin (Secondary Contact)

*Cow Creek Bank of Umpqua Tribe of Indians:* Debbie Petetit (Primary Contact) and Lisa Martin (Secondary Contact)

*Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Indian Reservation:* Brandy Maldonado (Primary Contact) and Gail Newkirk (Secondary Contact)

*The Klamath Tribes:* Lyssa Warren Wyatt (Primary Contact) and Jennifer Nelson (Secondary Contact)

*Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians:* Brandy Maldonado (Primary Contact) and Gail Newkirk (Secondary Contact)

*Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:* Lyssa Warren Wyatt (Primary Contact) and Jennifer Nelson (Secondary Contact)

*Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Tribal Contact:* Kari Monroy (Primary Contact) and Holly Arguello (Secondary Contact)

Contact details are available at [OregonChildSupport.gov/Tribal](https://OregonChildSupport.gov/Tribal).

## **Appendix A**

### **Updated List of Department of Justice Programs that Affect Tribes**

The following is an updated list of DOJ programs compiled pursuant to the Tribal Relations policy. It is noted where the programs are known to affect tribes. Pursuant to the policy, DOJ will continue to confer internally and with tribal representatives to identify additional DOJ programs that may have further potential impacts on tribes.

#### **I. Advice and Representation of State Agencies** (General Counsel Renee Stineman, Division Administrator)

As previously noted, much of DOJ's work is to advise state agencies about their legal options in the course of pursuing the programs they administer and to represent state agencies in litigation, including appeals. Many of the Department's efforts involve working to build collegial relationships with tribal attorneys, including in situations in which the state may be adverse to tribes in litigation. In addition, pursuant to ORS 291.045 through 291.049, the Department is required to review certain kinds of contracts for "legal sufficiency." This responsibility affects tribal-state agreements.

#### **II. Ballot Titles** (Appellate Division, Ben Gutman, Solicitor General)

DOJ drafts ballot titles for initiatives and litigates challenges to ballot titles. On more than one occasion in the past, the subject matter of the initiative (e.g., lottery authority, private casino, fishing regulations) potentially affected tribes.

#### **III. Public Records Laws**

The Attorney General issues orders on petitions under the Public Records Law.

#### **IV. Appropriate Dispute Resolution**

DOJ promotes and provides training with respect to appropriate dispute resolution, which may include disputes involving tribes.

#### **V. Criminal Appeals** (Appellate Division, Ben Gutman, Solicitor General)

DOJ handles appeals of criminal cases involving tribes or questions of criminal jurisdiction relating to tribes.

#### **VI. Law Enforcement Programs of the Criminal Justice Division** (Michael Slauson, Division Administrator)

The Criminal Justice Division engages in a variety of law enforcement programs:



**A. District Attorney Assistance Program**

DOJ provides occasional assistance to district attorneys in criminal prosecutions of interest to tribes or cases in which questions of tribal criminal jurisdiction arise.

**B. Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)**

The Internet Crimes Against Children investigates internet exploitation of children and has several memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with Oregon Tribes.

**C. Financial Crimes Prosecution**

Financial Crimes special agents and a resource prosecutor works with Oregon's district attorneys, and other prosecutors, law enforcement and community partners throughout the state. In addition to investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, this unit develops training materials and best-practice policies to the investigation and prosecution of financial crimes.

**D. Elder Abuse Prosecution**

DOJ's Elder Abuse unit works with Oregon's district attorneys, and other prosecutors, law enforcement and community partners throughout the State. In addition to the investigation and prosecution, the unit develops training materials and best-practice policies to improve the identification, investigation and prosecution of elder abuse.

Elder Abuse Resource Prosecutor AAG Chris Stringer attends multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings on elder abuse throughout the State to learn how to train or partner in the area of Elder Abuse.

**E. Environment & Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit**

The Environmental Crimes Unit investigates and prosecutes cases regarding the theft and desecration of tribal artifacts and environmental crimes that affect tribal lands. As well as investigating cases where tribal rights are misused or impinged upon.

**F. Bias Crimes Prosecution and Investigations**

A DOJ Bias Crimes Prosecutor and Special Agent work with our state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement and prosecutors to identify and properly investigate crimes of bias against our community members.

**G. TITAN Fusion Center**

The Fusion Center engages tribes through its Fusion Liaison Officer Program. The Fusion Center provides briefing and training for tribal police chiefs on several occasions on Fusion Center operations. The Fusion Center will work to add a tribal police chief to the Fusion Center Executive Advisory Board to assist in guiding Fusion Center operations, with a goal of

helping tribal police agencies to know what the fusion center is concentrating on. This also allows them to have information on current terrorism and criminal trends in Oregon that may affect their tribal operations. The Fusion Center now has a subportal for tribal chiefs of police.

#### **H. Other law enforcement programs**

The following Criminal Justice Division programs also coordinate with tribes.

- Investigation and prosecution of Election Law, Official Corruption and Organized Crime
- Criminal Intelligence Unit (investigation and information collection and dissemination)
- The Terrorism Intelligence and Threat Assessment Network (TITAN)
- The Annual Institute for Prosecutors (training program).

### **VII. The Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) (Shannon Sivell, Director)**

CVSSD administers certain programs that are available to tribes or tribal members:

#### **A. Federal and State Grant Funding**

CVSSD has administered the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Federal Grant Program since 2006 and the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services State Grant Program since 2001.

#### **B. Address Confidentiality Program**

The Address Confidentiality Program is a free mail forwarding service to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking or stalking protect their physical address information.

#### **C. Victim Compensation Program**

The Crime Victim's Compensation Program provides financial assistance related to the expenses incurred by victims of personal crimes.

#### **D. Domestic Violence Prosecution**

Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor Sarah Sabri routinely provides training, technical assistance and legal expertise to law enforcement and service providers throughout the state on a coordinated response to family violence. Tribal law enforcement officers have participated in these efforts.

### **E. Human Trafficking Intervention**

CVSSD's Trafficking Response & Intervention Program (TRIP) partners with tribal communities throughout the state to increase awareness and improve services for victims of human trafficking. The Attorney General's Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, whose mission is to provide guidance, support and resources to communities serving victims of human trafficking, includes representatives from the Burns Paiute Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

### **F. Hope Card Program**

The Oregon Legislature passed the Hope Card Program in 2021 in [HB 2746](#) to improve the enforcement of protection orders from State and Tribal Courts by providing quick and accessible information about an order of protection on a durable, wallet-sized card. The card serves as an optional safety tool to help victims and to remind law enforcement that the law requires full faith and credit for eligible protection orders, regardless of the protection order's origin.

## **VIII. Civil Enforcement Division**

The Civil Enforcement Division is generally DOJ's plaintiff's civil litigation arm assisting state agencies in seeking affirmative action or recovery of money. The Division also provides legal representation to the Division of Child Support and the Division of Human Resources Child Welfare Program, along with operating programs overseeing consumer protection laws, charitable activities, and operating the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Much of this work includes coordination and consultation with tribes and tribal communities.

### **A. Consumer Protection (Kelly Harpster, Attorney in Charge)**

The Consumer Protection Section investigates and prosecutes violations of the Unlawful Trade Practices Act. Investigations span a wide range of consumer activity, including consumer finance, privacy, health care, and telecommunications. Staff also work directly with consumers and businesses to informally resolve consumer complaints and to assist a team of community volunteers who staff DOJ's consumer hotline. The consumer education program has included work with tribes.

### **B. Antitrust and False Claims (Tim Nord, Special Counsel to the Civil Enforcement Division)**

This unit investigates anticompetitive business practices and false claims made to government entities.

### **C. Scam Alert Network (Ellen Klem, Director of Consumer Education and Outreach)**

This network of more than 12,000 Oregonians shares scam alerts with members of the public, media, elected leaders, consumer watchdogs, and advocates. The consumer education program has included work with tribes.

**D. Medicaid Fraud** (Sheen Wu, Attorney-in-Charge)

The Medicaid Fraud Unit deters, investigates, and prosecutes fraud by Medicaid providers and physical or financial abuse/neglect of residents of Medicaid-funded facilities.

**E. Charitable Activities** (Elizabeth Grant, Attorney-in-Charge)

A number of tribally affiliated charities register with DOJ as Oregon charitable corporations.

**IX. Division of Child Support** (Kate Richardson, Director; Dawn Marquardt, Deputy and DCS Tribal Liaison)

The Division of Child Support (DCS) interacts and collaborates with tribes on the establishment and enforcement of child support orders.

**X. Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit** (Patrick Aitchison)

The Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit (ECREU) prosecutes, or assists with the prosecution of, environmental and cultural resource offenses statewide. Environmental cases include not only the “traditional” pollution-type offenses (e.g. air, water, hazardous waste) but also fish and wildlife offenses which include cases involving treaty rights. Cultural resources offenses include, but are not limited to, cases in which archaeological objects, other objects of cultural significance, and archaeological sites are damaged, looted, or destroyed.

## **Appendix B**

### **Policy 2-95 Tribal Relations Policy**

*Applicability:* All full and part time employees, temporary employees and volunteers

*References:*

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#### **(1) Purpose**

This tribal relations policy is adopted pursuant to ORS 182.162 – 182.168, which requires state agencies to develop and implement tribal relations policies.

#### **(2) General Policies and Principles**

It is DOJ's policy to promote the principle stated in Executive Order No.96-30 that "[a]s sovereigns the tribes and the State of Oregon must work together to develop mutual respect for the sovereign interests of both parties." DOJ interacts with tribes in differing roles: in its role as legal advisor to and representative of other state agencies; and in its role as independent administrator of certain DOJ programs. In all of its roles, it is DOJ's policy to promote positive government to government relations with the federally recognized tribes in Oregon ("tribes") by

- (a) Facilitating communication and understanding and appropriate dispute resolution among DOJ, other state agencies and those tribes;
- (b) Striving to prevent unnecessary conflict with tribes;
- (c) Interacting with tribes in a spirit of mutual respect;
- (d) Involving tribal representatives in the development and implementation of programs that affect them; and
- (e) Seeking to understand the varying tribal perspectives.

#### **(3) Native American Affairs Coordinator**

- (a) The state is best served through a coordinated approach to tribal issues. The Attorney General has designated a Native American Affairs Coordinator, who serves as the Department's key contact with tribal representatives.
- (b) Individuals in the Department who are working on a significant matter involving or affecting a tribe shall notify the Native American Affairs Coordinator.
- (c) The Native American Affairs Coordinator will develop with each Division Administrator an appropriate means for that Division to keep the Native

American Affairs Coordinator regularly informed of the status of significant matters involving or affecting tribes.

**(4) Dissemination of tribal relations policy**

- (a) Upon adoption, this policy shall be disseminated to members of the Department, and shall be incorporated into the DOJ Policy Manual. In addition, this policy and information regarding ORS 182.162 – 168 shall be included in new employee orientation, and on the Department’s intranet.
- (b) The Native American Affairs Coordinator will distribute an annual reminder regarding the policy.

**(5) Training**

- (a) The DOJ CLE Committee and Diversity Committees shall strive to incorporate topics regarding Indian law and culture in their agency training and CLE programs.
- (b) The Native American Affairs Coordinator will assist Divisions and sections in arranging training on specific topics relevant to the work of that particular division or section.
- (c) Appropriate DOJ representatives will attend annual training provided by the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to ORS 182.166(1).
- (d) DOJ attorneys who come into significant contact with tribes are encouraged to consider taking advantage of outside CLE opportunities on Indian law and culture.

**(6) Guidelines for Advising and Representing other State Agencies**

The Department of Justice is uniquely situated to aid implementation of ORS 182.162 – 182.168 through its contact with and advice to various state agencies. DOJ attorneys should promote other agencies’ compliance with ORS 182.162 to 182.168 by means including:

- (a) Considering the represented agency’s obligations under the statute in the course of advice and representation and
- (b) Striving to ensure involvement of the agency’s tribal key contact in significant matters affecting or involving tribes.

**(7) Identification of DOJ Programs Affecting Tribes.**

The Native American Affairs Coordinator will compile a list of DOJ programs that affect tribes, as well as the DOJ individuals responsible for implementing them, through the following process:

- (a) Division Administrators will provide to the Native American Affairs Coordinator a list of Division programs, noting those they believe affect tribes. The entire list will be shared with tribal representatives identified through Government to Government cluster groups, tribal attorneys known to the Department, the Indian Law Section of the Bar, the Native American Program of Oregon Legal Services, and tribal chairs.
- (b) Annually, the Native American Affairs Coordinator will update the list of DOJ programs that affect tribes, in consultation with Executive staff and tribal representatives

**(8) Guidelines for Independent DOJ Programs**

- (a) Managers of programs identified as potentially affecting tribes shall adopt guidelines for cooperating with tribes in the development and implementation of those programs in consultation with the Native American Affairs Coordinator.
- (b) DOJ will invite tribal participation on Task Forces of interest to tribes.