



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Oregon Department of Justice Annual Government to Government Report 2025
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 attorneys and staff interface and collaborate with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.² 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.

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

² 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" or "Nine 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 (CVSSD), 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. 2025 Attorney General's Public Law Conference

The biannual Public Law Conference is designed for State of Oregon employees and focuses on key topics in public law relevant to state agency work. Key Contact Karen Clevering presented the session “Tribal Relations: What should I know and what should I do?” The session was available virtually and attended by 221 state agency employees.

2. Division of Child Support Trainings, Events, and Opportunities

During 2025, regional and national conferences on child support work were a combination of virtual and in-person events. Several Division of Child Support (DCS) employees were able to attend virtual events.

- In February, Deputy Director and DCS key contact Dawn Marquardt, and other employees attended the National Child Support Engagement Association (NCSEA) Policy Forum in Washington, D.C., which included attendees from Tribal and state child support programs.
- On May 6 and 7, the Oregon Child Support Program and the Coquille Indian Tribe hosted the Annual State Tribal Child Support Meeting at Ko-Kwel Casino Resort. The meeting included cultural sharing from Chief Younker and Lyman Meade, presentations on federal updates, bills pending in the Oregon Legislature, Tribal Courts, information sharing, and a *Reentry* simulation. Attendees included:
 - Tribal Judges and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Coquille Indian Tribe, Klamath Tribes, and Yurok Tribe
 - DOJ Native American Affairs Coordinator Karen Clevering
 - Oregon Child Support Program representatives: Dawn Marquardt, DCS Tribal liaisons and managers, Assistant Attorney-In-Charge General Shannon Richard and Assistant Attorney General Mike Ritchey, ODAA Child Support Liaison, Coos County District Attorney and Lincoln County District Attorney child support employees
 - Oregon Department Human Services TANF policy analyst and community partnership coordinators, and Oregon Judicial Department child support analyst
- On May 7, three DCS employees attended the MMIP event hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.
- In June, three representatives attended the National Tribal Child Support Association (NTCSA) Annual Training Conference in New Mexico.
- In August, program representatives attended the *Remembering the Children, In Their Memory, In Our Voice* webinar
- In August, members of the DCS management team attended the NCSEA Leadership Symposium in Georgia, which included attendees from Tribal child support programs.
- In August, program representatives attended the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Indian Reservation Pow Wow.
- From August 19 to 21, three representatives from DCS attended the *Trauma Informed Care Conference* in Toppenish, Washington hosted by the Yakama Nation.

- On August 21 and 22, program representatives attended the Klamath Tribes 39th Annual Restoration Celebration in Chiloquin. The Klamath Tribes Child Support Enforcement Program, Klamath Tribes Judiciary, and DCS staff participated in the Health Row event together. DCS staff held a drawing for backpacks and baskets filled with school necessities, and shared child support information with community members. DCS representatives also attended the Pow Wow and MMIP.
- In September several Oregon Child Support Program employees attended the Western Intergovernmental Child Support Engagement Council (WICSEC) Annual Conference in Minnesota. Many Tribes were present at the conference.

3. National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Conference, March 30 – April 2, 2025

From March 30 – April 2, 2025, AAG Carrie Wineland of the CAPD attended the 43rd Annual NICWA “Protecting Our Children” Conference in Orlando, Florida with OJD ICWA Analyst Adrea Korthase and addition members of the Oregon State-Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee, including representatives from Oregon tribes. This conference highlights the work being done nationwide in the child welfare field, with a special focus on the welfare of Native children and families. The conference also provides an opportunity for DOJ and Oregon tribes and juvenile dependency professionals to gather and train with over 1,800 professionals, advocates, and experts who are working to strengthen tribal communities.

4. 2025 Northwest Gaming Law Summit

AAG Karen Clevering attended the 2025 Northwest Gaming Law Summit by the Seminar Group on December 9 and 10. Topics included: National Indian Gaming Litigation Update, Northwest Tribal Leaders Update, Prediction Markets, National Indian Gaming Commission Updates, New Tribal Jurisdictions – Indian Gaming in Alaska, Regulators Roundtable, Part 293 Regulations, IGRA Section 20 Update, Responsible Gaming, and Social Casinos.

B. Internal Trainings and Information Sharing

Throughout 2025, 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.

C. Trainings for Law Enforcement and Public Safety Agencies

The Criminal Justice (CJ) Division provides presentations on public safety and law enforcement concerns, which include tribal law enforcement agencies and benefit from these partnerships and participation.

DUII Resource Prosecutor AAG Deena Ryerson presented at the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) trainings, which were attended by tribal law enforcement officers as well as law enforcement officers from around the state. The training supplements the DUII enforcement training law enforcement officers receive at Department of Safety Standards and Training (police academy) to do a deeper dive into drug impaired driving. AAG Ryerson provides the legal portion of the training.

On November 20, AAG Kurt Miller presented on Search and Seizure Fundamentals at an event hosted by the CTGR Tribal Police Department. The training attendees included officers with various law enforcement agencies, including the CTGR Police Department, US Forest Service, Oregon State Police, and various agencies in Polk, Lincoln, Yamhill, and Marion counties. There were approximately 35 attendees.

IV. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

A. Government to Government Meetings with Tribes

Attorney General Dan Rayfield reached out the Tribes in Oregon during this first year of his term to begin conversations about opportunities for partnership. He has met with Tribal leaders of the following Tribes:

- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
- Klamath Tribes
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Follow-up meetings were held with tribal attorneys to address specific issues and concerns.

AG Rayfield looks forward to more conversations and the opportunity to meet with Tribal leaders of Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Burns Paiute Tribe in 2026.

B. 2025 Government to Government Summit

Several DOJ representatives attended the 2025 Summit co-hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe, including Jenn Baker, Chief of Staff to AG Rayfield, AAG Karen Clevering, Key Contact, and AAG Patrick Aitchison.

C. Cluster Participation

DOJ participates in several Tribal Relations Cluster Groups.

1. Public Safety Cluster

DOJ Tribal Key Contact Karen Clevering and CVSSD staff participated in cluster meetings. On April 10, Lauri Stewart, Executive Director of the Statewide Law Enforcement ([LESC](#)) presented to the cluster about the LESC and invited recommendations for appointment of tribal representative.

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.

4. Tribal Cultural Items Task Force

DOJ Key Contact Karen Clevering participated in meetings with the Task Force as well as the State Agency Work Group.

D. ICWA & Child Advocacy and Protection Division

Throughout 2025, 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 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

Oregon's State-Tribal Partnership Grant 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.

On April 23, AIC Dennison attended the Virtual Court Improvement Program meeting led by the Steering Committee. The meeting focused on ICWA Court processes and included teams from Alaska, Washington, and Idaho. AIC Dennison also attended a virtual Steering

Committee meeting on May 2 and an in-person Steering Committee meeting on August 27 in Salem, Oregon.

2. Uniform Law Commission Indian Child Welfare Act Issues Drafting Subcommittee

AIC Shannon Dennison participated on the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) Indian Child Welfare Act Issues (ICWAI) Drafting Committee which held meetings in April and November to draft a uniform state ICWA statute to better ensure nationwide ICWA adherence and consistency. Drafting committee meetings were held all day on April 25 and 26 and November 14 and 15. This ULC committee is led by retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Martha Walters, the secretary is Kate Fort from the Michigan State University College of Law, and participants include tribal representatives from across the nation, juvenile court Commissioners, attorneys, law professors, Casey Family Programs, the Whitener Group, 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, and legal professionals from across the United States.

3. ORICWA Benchbook Revisions

In August and December, AIC Shannon Dennison reviewed the Oregon Judicial Department's proposed ORICWA Benchbook revisions and provided proposed edits and commentary.

4. Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Senate Bill 815 Consultation

On March 13, AIC Shannon Dennison appeared before the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council upon request for Tribal Consultation on Senate Bill 815, introduced by ODHS Child Welfare. AIC Dennison explained the effect of the proposed legislation and responded to questions from Council Members and the Tribe's attorneys. In preparation for the Consultation, AIC Dennison worked with Soren Metzger, ODHS' Tribal Consultation and Operations Manager, to prepare presentation materials, which were submitted to Council Members in advance of the Consultation.

5. Clackamas County Emergency Removal and Child Custody Proceeding Training

On March 5, AICs Shannon Dennison and Hannah Vaughn presented a training to Clackamas County ODHS Child Welfare and the Office of Tribal Affairs regarding court proceedings involving Indian Children.

6. Tribe-State ICWA Advisory Quarterly Meetings

Throughout 2025, AIC Shannon Dennison attended and participated in Tribe-State ICWA Advisory Quarterly meetings with representatives from each of the Nine Tribes of

Oregon, ODHS Child Welfare, and the ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs. Meetings were held on May 14 at the ODHS Child Welfare office in Bend, Oregon; August 13 at the Three Rivers Casino Resort in Florence, Oregon; and November 19, at the Seven Feathers Casino Resort in Canyonville. During ICWA Advisory meetings, AIC Dennison provided information and training to, and received feedback from, representatives of the Nine Tribes regarding juvenile dependency cases in Oregon involving Indian children.

7. Tribe/ODHS Child Welfare/DOJ CAPD Resolution Process

Following a discussion with the Nine Tribes of Oregon during the August ICWA Advisory meeting, AIC Shannon Dennison refined the procedure for resolving legal disagreements between tribes and ODHS with guidance and feedback from the Nine Tribes of Oregon, ODHS Child Welfare, and the ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs. The final process was presented and discussed during the November ICWA Advisory meeting and is now in place. The process provides timely plan for resolution of disagreements and planning development between a Tribe, ODHS and/or DOJ regarding any legal or case work matter.

8. Oregon State Bar Publication: *Juvenile Law Oregon: Dependency*

From January thru May, AIC Shannon Dennison co-authored a revision of Chapter 6, “Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act and Indian Child Welfare Act,” with attorney Lea Ann Easton for the 2025 OSB Juvenile Dependency Bar Book, *Juvenile Law: Dependency*.

9. Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Tribal Affairs Director Interviews

On May 21 AIC Shannon Dennison participated on an interview panel to select the incoming ODHS OTA Director, along with representatives from the Nine Tribes of Oregon, OJD ICWA Analyst Adrea Korthase, and Tribal Affairs, and ODHS tribal affairs liaisons from all ODHS departments.

10. ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs Advice and Consultation

In July, George B. Lopez began serving as ODHS’ Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) 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. Since July, AIC Dennison has met monthly with Mr. Lopez and former ODHS OTA Interim Director Sherril Kuhns to address ODHS ICWA/ policy and practice developments, issues of concern from tribes, and questions involving tribal collaboration and case handling. AIC Dennison continues to provide advice to the OTA related to Child Welfare Program. Throughout 2025, AIC Dennison has trained AAG Danielle Miller to co-advise the OTA, and AAG Miller has participated in multiple OTA trainings and meetings, including meetings with Mr. Lopez.

During 2025, AIC Shannon Dennison continued to meet monthly with ODHS’ Office of Tribal Affairs Regional ICWA Specialists (RIS) to discuss general application of ICWA and

ORICWA in juvenile dependency matters, state-tribe collaboration, and specific issues in dependency cases involving Indian children. AAG Miller joined AIC Dennison during several RIS meetings.

11. Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribe – ODHS Child Welfare Agreement

In August, AIC Shannon Dennison worked with the attorney for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to begin negotiations for an updated/revised Tribal-State Agreement between CTWS and ODHS Child Welfare.

12. Klamath County ICWA Court – Orange Shirt Day Event

On October 1, the Klamath Tribes hosted an Orange Shirt Day event during Klamath ICWA Court proceedings. AAG Andrew Goll attended the event along with representatives from the Klamath Tribes, OJD ICWA Analyst Adrea Korthase, and representatives from ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs.

13. Marion ICWA Court & Citizens Review Board

Throughout 2025, AAGs Kristyn Houston and Carrie Wineland and AAIC Caitlynn Knopp have continued to appear with ODHS Child Welfare in Marion County's monthly ICWA Court proceedings. AIC Shannon Dennison AAIC Knopp, and AAGs Houston, and Wineland have also participated in ongoing planning meetings with tribes and court participants to further improve ICWA Court processes and functioning.

In March, a Marion County ICWA Court Celebration was hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) at the Marion juvenile court complex. CTGR catered the event with traditional foods and provided cultural activities including smudging, drumming, and dancing. During the ceremony, tribal flags for the Nine Tribes of Oregon were installed in the courtroom, and CTGR presented artwork for the courtroom. Multiple tribal members and juvenile court participants, including AIC Shannon Dennison, presented remarks regarding the value and importance of ICWA Courts. DOJ participants included AAGs Houston and Wineland, AAIC Knopp, and AIC Dennison.

In October 2025, AAIC Knopp participated in an in-person Feedback and Reflections meeting including OJD/JCIP, ODHS Child Welfare, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, CASA of Marion County, and the Marion County Juvenile Defense Advocacy Consortium to discuss lessons learned during the first full year of Marion County's ICWA Court and ICWA Citizens Review Board and ideas for the future.

14. Multnomah County ICWA Court

From October through December, AICs Staci Barry and Catherine Terwilliger participated in a planning team led by OJD ICWA Analyst Adrea Korthase to develop an ICWA

Court and ICWA Citizen's Review Board in Multnomah County, with a tentative launch date of February 2026. The planning team is meeting approximately monthly, and other participants include ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs and representatives from the Nine Tribes of Oregon.

15. ODHS OTA Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) Training; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Pendleton, OR

From August 4 -6, AIC Shannon Dennison presented a 2 ½ day QEW training with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and ODHS' Office of Tribal Affairs for tribal representatives from tribes in Oregon and Washington in Pendleton, Oregon and at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation courthouse. On the third day of training, AAG Leslie Wolf joined AIC Dennison in conducting mock QEW testimony sessions for the training participants.

16. 2025 Tribal-State Indian Child Welfare Act Conference – Coquille Indian Tribe, Ko-Kwel Resort & Casino, North Bend, OR

From October 21 - 23, AIC Shannon Dennison, AAG Danielle Miller, and AAG Anthony Valdivia attended the 2025 Tribal-State ICWA conference, hosted by the Coquille Indian Tribe at the Ko-Kwel Resort and Casino in North Bend, Oregon. AIC Dennison and AAG Miller co-presented a training at the conference titled "Identifying Safety Threats: Historical & Current Standards." 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 Coquille Indian Tribe.

17. Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribe/ODHS/DOJ Consultation

On November 12, AIC Dennison met with Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), ODHS Child Welfare, and ODHS Office of Tribal Affairs in Newport, Oregon to review and discuss joint CTSI/ODHS processes and handling of juvenile dependency cases involving CTSI children.

18. CAPD ICWA/ORICWA Brown Bag Trainings

On February 4, AIC Shannon Dennison presented an ICWA Q&A training with Portland CAPD. On September 5, AIC Dennison and AAG Danielle Miller provided a brown bag training for CAPD AAGs regarding tribal consultation. On September 11 and 24, AIC Dennison and AAG Miller hosted brown bag trainings for CAPD AAGs to raise general questions from their ICWA cases. AIC Dennison and AAG Miller will host a December ORICWA brown bag to discuss the Tribe/ODHS Child Welfare/DOJ CAPD Resolution Process.

19. CAPD ORICWA Resource Group

The CAPD's ORICWA Resource Group was implemented in 2022 to improve compliance with ICWA and ORICWA across Oregon and to build stronger relationships between CAPD AAGs and tribes. Work has continued through 2025. AIC Shannon Dennison continues to lead the Resource Group, which includes CAPD attorneys from across the state including all CAPD AICs. Resource group members have also continued to be available to CAPD AAGs across the state to assist with pending ICWA/ORICWA cases as needed.

20. 2025 Calendar of Events

January

1/22: OTA Director Meeting

February

2/4: ORICWA/ICWA Q&A Training – Portland CAPD

2/26: OTA Director Meeting

March

3/5: Clackamas County Emergency Removal and Child Custody Proceeding Training

3/6: Marion County ICWA Court Celebration Event

3/13: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Senate Bill 815 Consultation

3/30-31: National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Conference

April

4/1-2: National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Conference

4/13-14: ULC Indian Child Welfare Act Issues Drafting Committee all-day meeting

4/23: Oregon State-Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee, Virtual Court Improvement Program meeting

4/23: OTA Director Meeting

May

5/2: Oregon State-Tribal Partnership Grant Steering Committee Grant Steering Committee Meeting

5/14: Tribe-State ICWA Advisory Quarterly Meeting, Bend, Oregon

5/21: OTA Director Interviews

5/22: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

June

6/25: OTA Director Meeting

July

7/17: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

7/30: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

August

8/4 - 6: ODHS OTA Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) Training; CTUIR; Pendleton, OR

8/13: Tribe-State ICWA Advisory Quarterly Meeting

8/21: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

8/27: Oregon State-Tribal Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Salem, Oregon

September

9/5: CAPD ICWA/ORICWA Brown Bag Training

9/11: CAPD ICWA/ORICWA Brown Bag Training

9/18: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

9/24: CAPD ICWA/ORICWA Brown Bag Training

9/24: OTA Director Meeting

October

10/1: Klamath County ICWA Court – Orange Shirt Day Event

10/16: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

10/21 – 23: 2025 Tribal-State Indian Child Welfare Act Conference – Coquille Indian Tribe, Ko-Kwel Resort & Casino, North Bend, OR

November

11/1: Marion County ICWA Court Feedback and Planning Meeting

11/6: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

11/12: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribe/ODHS/DOJ Consultation, Newport, Oregon

11/14-15: ULC Indian Child Welfare Act Issues Drafting Committee all-day meeting

11/19: Tribe-State ICWA Advisory Quarterly Meeting, Canyonville, Oregon

11/21: Marion County ICWA Court Dedication

11/21: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

December

12/3: OTA Director Meeting

12/18: ODHS OTA Regional ICWA Specialist and CAPD ORICWA Resource Group Meeting

E. Civil Enforcement

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. In addition, Groberg and Siletz Tribal liaisons Brandy Maldonado and Gail Newkirk attended the per capita hearings in July. After a full day of hearings, \$72,102.01 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.

Family Support Legal Section AIC Shannon Richard continued to work with the Division of Child Support tribal relations team in the Bend office, along with the tribal liaison in the Roseburg office of DCS. She attended quarterly meetings with the statewide DCS Tribal Team

to discuss updates and issues that arise with the tribes they serve. AIC Richard worked with DCS' Policy Team to update DCS legal forms to utilize for registration of child support orders with the Coquille Indian Tribal Court. She continued to meet with the Bend office tribal liaisons as needed to discuss cases involving the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Klamath Tribes, and the Burns Paiute Tribe. In 2025, Family Support Legal Section attorneys again joined forces with the Oregon Child Support program to provide school supply donations for the children of the Klamath tribe at the Restoration Celebration in August.

F. 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 also advised ODOE regarding the applicability of the agency's Building Performance Standards to tribes under certain scenarios.

2. Department of State Lands (DSL)

AAG Matt DeVore provided ongoing support and advice to DSL on the *PGE v. DSL* litigation, which impacts Tribal cultural practices at Willamette Falls.

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 Management Agreement.

AAG Erin Donald assisted ODFW in rulemaking, including petitions for rulemaking from CTWS, CTUIR, Nez Perce and Yakama Nation, regarding OAR 635-800-3000, which concerns a Memorandum of Agreement between ODFW and CTGR about hunting and fishing.

AAG 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 in consultation with DLCD and the CTWS regarding rulemaking for Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 5, which is intended to protect natural resources, scenic and historic areas, and open spaces.

5. Oregon Department of Transportation

AAGs Karen Clevering and Nate Boderman assisted ODOT in negotiating updated agreements for Tribal Employment Opportunities for the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program.

AAG Karen Clevering participated in a meeting with ODOT's OECR and Klamath Tribes Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) staff and their attorney to discuss TERO agreement for work on ODOT projects.

6. Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

AAG Shannon O'Fallon worked supported OHA regarding legislation [Senate Bill 841](#), which protects tribal data and establishes clearer authority for Tribes to conduct public health investigations.

AAG Ellen D. Taussig Conaty assisted OHA to help resolve a Medicaid payment issue that arose between several Coordinated Care Organizations and the Great Circle Recovery Opioid Treatment Clinics operated by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

7. Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC)

AAG Janet Borth advised OLCC in its agreement with Coquille Tribe for a FCOM license (license issued under ORS 471.175) to Ko-Kwell Creations, LLC, an LLC wholly owned by the Tribe.

8. Oregon Water Resources Division (OWRD)

AAG Jesse Ratcliffe advised OWRD on issues related to the Klamath Basin Adjudication, which impacts the Klamath Tribes.

9. Portland Harbor Natural Resources Damages Negotiations

On behalf of ODOT and DSL, the Natural Resources Section (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: the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the 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 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 Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Work under consent order on which ODOT is a respondent has been completed.

G. 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. Amendment II, to the Amended and Restated Compact between the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the State of Oregon was approved and took effect on December 13, 2024 (not reported in DOJ's 2024 Annual Report).

H. *Amicus Curiae* Brief Decision Making and Multi-State Letter Coordination

The Attorney General is called upon by other states attorneys general or attorneys general associations to participate in appellate court briefing in an amicus curiae role or to sign on to

multi-state letters in support or in opposition to issues. DOJ continues to notify tribal attorneys about relevant issues for tribal feedback.

I. Criminal Justice Division and Law Enforcement Coordination

The Criminal Justice (CJ) Division conducts specialized criminal investigations and prosecutions and provides highly trained and experienced special agents, prosecutors and analysts to fight crime across Oregon. CJ 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 areas of work: 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 Tribes, 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 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. The DVRP continues developing better relationships and communications with tribal victim advocacy programs. This includes participating in the CVSSD-led Community Conversations (discussed in section IV.J below).

6. Commission on Statewide Law Enforcement Standards and Conduct

The Commission on Statewide Law Enforcement Standards of Conduct and Discipline (LESC) was established in 2021 ([ORS 243.812 »](#)) to develop and adopt rules to:

- Establish uniform standards of conduct, including guidelines and procedures, for law enforcement officers throughout the state.
- Set disciplinary standards and procedures by which law enforcement agencies, civilian or community oversight board, agency or review body, and arbitrators make determinations regarding alleged misconduct by law enforcement officers, make recommendations for and impose disciplinary action.
- Support adoption, implementation and application of the Standards, and track and report on statewide compliance.

Per ORS 243.812, the Attorney General both chairs the LESC and makes appointments to the LESC, including a tribal representative. Executive Director Lauri Stewart attended the Public Safety Cluster Meeting on April 10 to share information about the LESC and opportunities for partnership with tribal law enforcement agencies. Ms. Stewart also provided a presentation to CTCLUSI leadership. In 2025, LESC appointed CTGR Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight to serve as the tribal representative.

7. Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit

Attorneys in the Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit (ECREU) continued their work in prosecuting environmental and cultural resource offenses statewide. Through this work AAGs Patrick Aitchison and Jordan Bailey regularly participate in meetings with tribal partners on issues of cultural resource protection and enforcement. In 2025, AAG Aitchison met with tribal representatives and cultural resources professionals from CTWS, CTGR, Klamath, and Yakama.

J. Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD)

In 2025, the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) continued to build stronger collaboration between tribes and our grant-funded programs and community partners.

CVSSD staff and leadership completed the 2023 – 2025 Community Collaboration and Tribal Needs Assessment Project, which included a series of 9 statewide meetings conducted in late 2024 and 2025 that brought together 227 community and tribal partners from 25 of 36 counties. The first half of the project was completed in 2024 and identified needs, gaps and barriers for victims and survivors directly from tribal leadership. A total of 18 statewide meetings were held between February 2023 and June 2025. The final 9 meetings included partners in each of the service areas from law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services and child advocacy services. In 2024 and 2025, the project focused on collaborative partnerships across the state and gathering information that identified ways to strengthen partnerships. A representative from CTUIR, Family Violence Program Manager, Desiree Coyote, and CVSSD Diana Fleming facilitated the community collaboration meetings. A final report will be completed in Spring 2026.

Programs have (and continue) to appoint key tribal representatives on their boards, including tribal program staff in local trainings and partner meetings, providing culturally specific training by tribal partners to non-tribal program staff and increasing their understanding of tribal needs by having ongoing and direct conversation with tribal programs along with its supervisors and leadership.

CVSSD awarded non-competitive funding in support of victims of domestic and sexual violence to tribal programs in a 2025 – 2026 Joint application and VOCA noncompetitive application. As of November 2025, 8 of the 9 federally recognized tribes receive these funds to directly support tribal victim services or other criminal justice projects such as a tribal victim witness program in tribal prosecution. The funding to tribes ensures meaningful access to services for all victims across the state. As grantees, communication and collaboration with the Tribes on a state and local level continues to increase.

CVSSD also assists in administering VAWA formula grant funds. In 2025, a total of five Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviewing (FETI) trainings were funded, focusing on trauma informed interviewing skills with an Advanced Certified FETI Interviewer, and were attended by 122 law enforcement officers, 11 prosecutors and 8 advocates. The participants represent 29 of 36 Oregon counties, 2 tribes and state and federal law enforcement.

1. CVSSD's Trafficking Response and Intervention Program (TRIP)

CVSSD's Trafficking Response and 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 hosted a regional law enforcement training in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). With the guidance of TRIP, CTUIR members and community members started a human trafficking task force in Umatilla County. The Umatilla task force coordinators rely on TRIP for technical assistance and support to maintain the task force.

2. 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 enquires into violations of Oregon's sanctuary laws and supports 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 Fay Stetz-Waters additionally provides supervision on civil rights litigation in Oregon, coordinates multi-state litigation on civil rights, education, and labor rights issues, sits on the Federal Oversight and Accountability Cabinet to bring together legal, policy and community leaders to be an innovative partnership, and, along with the CRU, engages in community, government, and law enforcement training and outreach regarding civil rights issues affecting marginalized and vulnerable Oregonians.

a. Bias Response Hotline (BRH)

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 2025, the BRH has received 2,463 reports to the hotline. Of those, there have been 14 reports of race-based anti-American Indian/Alaska Native bias, accounting for 2% of all race-based reports. Of these 14 reports to the hotline, 4 were determined to be hate crimes and 10 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 27 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. Additional detailed analysis of Hotline data for 2024 hate/bias reporting is included in the [CJC's annual report](#) published on July 1, 2025.

The Hotline posts on three social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Linktree](#). Thus far in 2025, CRU has posted about 7 Tribal events or dates of significance (not including MMIP posters):

- International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Treaty Day
- Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians Restoration Day
- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Restoration Day
- National Native American Heritage Month x2

In addition, [CRU's quarterly newsletter](#) has had 3 editions thus far in 2025, and included information about 6 Tribal-related trainings, events, and resources:

- *Sugarcane*, documentary from the Sundance Film Festival about Indian residential boarding schools
- Yakama Nation Willamette Falls Lamprey Celebration community event
- *Recognizing and Responding to Elder Abuse in Tribal Communities*, recorded webinar by NCVC.
- World Beat Festival celebrating Turtle Island and the Indigenous peoples of North and South America
- *Land, Liberation, and Legacy: Black and Indigenous Farmers' Fight for Justice*, webinar from the American Bar Association
- *Real Lives: Cancer Stories of Indigenous People* documentary by American Cancer Society

b. MMIP Working Group

The CRU Hotline Coordinator historically served on the District of Oregon Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Working Group for the past three years. This Working Group was coordinated by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon. Though the MMIP Working Group stopped meeting in January 2025, CRU continues to disseminate MMIP posters on social media when we receive them, including 3 posts since last year's annual report.

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.

DCS employees continue to update the case management system, Origin, with demographic information for the participants and families they 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.

1. Statewide Child Support Collection Activities

The Oregon Child Support Program maintains Tribal liaisons in DCS offices 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 2025, the Oregon Child Support Program collected more than **\$1,694,000** 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 Tribal Court. 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, **\$72,102.01** 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 DCS Pendleton office are available to assist with child support issues for Tribal members. The Tribal liaison assignment for the Tribe was previously in the DCS Bend office and was reassigned to Pendleton in October, along with all cases for Harney County.

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

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Albany Tribal liaisons work with the Grand Ronde Tribal Court Administrator and Tribal Court staff and are available to assist Tribal members with child support issues.

Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. The Albany DCS office works with the Siletz Tribe and Tribal Court. Local tribal liaisons meet with the Tribal TANF staff regularly to provide training as well as case staffing for general case questions and parentage testing services. Tribal TANF cases are referred to the Albany office for child support services. Tribal liaisons participate in the Increasing Your Success conferences and participate in monthly hearings for income withholding orders from Tribal employers.

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 new CTUIR staff and help with registering orders with CTUIR for enforcement and wage withholding. In 2025, Tribal liaison Kari Monroy worked at CTUIR on child support docket days to answer questions Tribal members or employees have about their Oregon Child Support Program case.

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The 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 2025, the Tribal liaison continued outreach efforts with both the Warm Springs ODHS office and Warm Springs Tribal Court. Through this collaboration with the Tribal Court, additional Warm Springs Tribal members are able to receive child support services through DCS.

Coquille Indian Tribe. The Roseburg DCS office processes registration of orders with the Tribal Court. The Tribal liaisons provide direct assistance to Tribal members with questions regarding child support services, modification, DNA testing, parentage 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. The 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 2025, the Klamath Tribes and Oregon child support programs continued a process to refer cases for state tax refund offset. The process collected over \$15,000 on cases referred from the Klamath Tribes.

3. Tribal Liaisons for the Division of Child Support

Contact details for Tribal Liaisons are available at OregonChildSupport.gov/Tribal.

L. Public Records Requests

As a public body, DOJ is subject to the Public Records Law and may receive requests for records that may pertain to Tribes. When that occurs, DOJ follows its standard procedures and discloses records, consistent with the law.

V. TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEMS INVENTORY EFFORTS

DOJ submitted its report on its survey of tribal cultural items, pursuant to Governor Brown's Executive Order 17-12 on November 14, 2019 and provided an update as requested on

December 16, 2025

Page 23

October 7, 2020. In 2026, DOJ will be engaging with all divisions regarding the purpose of the tribal cultural items inventory work, the definition of tribal cultural items, and the review and update of previous inventory.

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)

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

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 work 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 Amy Seely 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 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.

F. Bias Crimes Prosecution and Investigations

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

G. TITAN Fusion Center

The Terrorism Intelligence and Threat Assessment Network (TITAN) 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 sub-portal 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, Public Corruption and Organized Crime
- ACISS Criminal Information Unit (investigation and criminal information collection and dissemination)
- 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, along with operating programs overseeing consumer protection laws, antitrust laws, charitable activities, and operating the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Much of this work includes coordination and consultation with tribes and tribal communities.

A. Economic Justice (Tim Smith and Zach Mason, Co-Attorneys in Charge)

The Economic Justice Section investigates and prosecutes violations of the Unlawful Trade Practices Act, Oregon Consumer Privacy Act, anticompetitive business practices, and false claims made to government entities. Investigations span a wide range of consumer and financial 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. 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.

C. Charitable Activities (Heather Weigler, Attorney-in-Charge)

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

D. Family Support Legal Section (Shannon Richard, Attorney-in-Charge)

The Family Support Legal Section represents the Division of Child Support statewide and works closely with their tribal relations teams throughout the state. In addition, attorneys are also licensed in tribal courts to represent the state at wage withholding and per capita hearings.

E. Civil Recovery Section (Michael Grant, Attorney-in-Charge)

The Civil Recovery Section (CRS) serves as plaintiff's counsel for state agencies and programs. The Section's work spans a wide variety of topics, including but not limited to collections of all types (either directly collecting or advising agencies about how to collect their own debts).

The Civil Recovery Section also includes the Tobacco Enforcement Unit, which enforces Oregon's tobacco related laws, including the Tobacco Non-Participating Manufacturer (NPM) statutes, delivery sales ban, and directory statutes.

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.

Appendix B

Policy 2-95 Tribal Relations Policy

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

References:

(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.