



**Appellate Judges Conference**

**Lawyers Conference**

**National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary**

**National Conference of Federal Trial Judges**

**National Conference of Specialized Court Judges**

**National Conference of State Trial Judges**

**Visit our website at [www.ambar.org/jd](http://www.ambar.org/jd)**



## **Tribal Courts Council**

**Enhancing the Fairness and Function  
of  
Native American Tribal Courts**

## About Us

The Tribal Courts Council is a free-standing committee of the American Bar Association's Judicial Division. It was formed to respond to the need for educating and advising ABA members and the general public about issues affecting Indian Country and the far-reaching but little-known effect of those issues on all areas of the legal profession. The Tribal Courts Council was also created as a means of advancing the ABA goal of promoting diversity in the legal profession. Finally, the Tribal Courts Council was formed in response to the potential for a large membership base of diverse peoples involved in tribal justice, many programmatic opportunities, the desire among tribes for affiliation with the ABA and the Judicial Division, and interest in tribal issues on the part of other members of ABA entities.

The Tribal Courts Council is the voice of the Tribal Court Judge within the American Bar Association. The Council has sponsored or co-sponsored a number of cutting-edge programmatic activities, including Amnesty International's Maze of Injustice and criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country. Through the Judicial Division Tribal Courts Council the American Bar Association continues to endorse the validity and vitality of Tribal Courts. In 2014 the ABA Constitution was amended, making any person of good moral character in good standing of a tribal court of any federally recognized tribe of the United States eligible to enroll as a full member of the ABA.

## Why Join?

The American Bar Association is one of the world's largest voluntary associations of legal professionals. It has more than 400,000 members committed to doing what only a national association of attorneys can do: serving our members, improving the legal profession, eliminating bias and enhancing diversity, and advancing the rule of law throughout the United States and around the world.

These objectives are accomplished through a variety of tools, including policy initiatives, lobbying on issues for which the ABA has adopted policy, and through programs, educational opportunities and outreach efforts.

## How to Join

In order to be a member of the Tribal Courts Council you must first be a member of the ABA and the Judicial Division. As a member of the Judicial Division you will belong to one of six conferences. The two most common conferences to which Native American members belong are the *Lawyers Conference* and the *National Conference of Specialized Court Judges*. The four other conferences are the Appellate Judges Conference, the National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary, the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges, and the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

**Joining the ABA:** The best way to join the ABA is by calling the ABA service center at (800) 285-2221. A representative will be able to assist you with your enrollment.

**Joining the Judicial Division:** When you join the ABA tell the representative that you are also joining the Judicial Division. At this time you will also select your conference.

**Joining the Tribal Courts Council:** After you are enrolled in the ABA and the Judicial Division contact Amanda Banninga at (312) 988-5450, [amanda.banninga@americanbar.org](mailto:amanda.banninga@americanbar.org), to join the Tribal Courts Council.

## What Does it Cost?

**ABA Dues:** ABA dues range from free of charge to \$453.00. For detailed rates contact the ABA service center at (800) 285-2221. Special rates are available for attorneys who work in a solo private practice and for judges or lawyers in a government or legal/public service organization. Discounted rates are also available through group memberships. For more information on group memberships contact JoAnn Saringer at (312) 988-6259, [joann.saringer@americanbar.org](mailto:joann.saringer@americanbar.org)

**Division Dues:** Judicial Division dues are \$35.00. Your membership in one of the six conferences and the Tribal Courts Council is included with your Judicial Division membership.