

Tribal Court State Court Forum

Tribal Court Judge Jurisdictional Sharing of Practice and Initiatives

- Fond du Lac/Judges Coon and Buffalo
 - Not currently hearing child protection cases.
 - Primarily hearing civil cases including traffic, animal control, election appeals and probate cases. They also have a monthly truancy calendar.
 - Partnerships exist with tribal and community schools.
- Bois Forte/Judge Treuer
 - Spring 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of their court and a celebration is being planned.
 - Their court hears all case types, the largest type is criminal, followed by child protections.
 - Challenges include non-native people committing crimes on the reservation, and native crimes going uncharged.
 - They have implemented extended jurisdiction on domestic violence cases but a challenge is finding money to fund incarceration of non-native offenders.
 - They are currently updating their codes for internet offenses.
 - They have some collaboration with STL Virginia on Civil Commitment as they have no codes devoted to this.
 - They were recently awarded the Adam Walsh grant for providing education on sexual offense registry.
 - They are working on their strategic plan and identifying gaps.
 - They have an active probation department and several collaborations.
- Red Lake/Judges Ringhand and Harrington
 - They have several collaborations, including their Uplifting Relatives Family Services, and Healing Pathways for young people involved in violence.
 - They hear approximately 1300-1400 criminal cases/year and 400 or so civil/probate cases.
 - They are a child protection initiative tribe and have a new building.
 - They have a new Judge – Judge Leah Kingbird, who will head a Healing and Wellness court.
 - They have a truancy program for parents not sending children to school.
 - They meet on their codes every two weeks.
 - They have an agreement with Beltrami County that if a Red Lake member is involved in a crime, they will notify the tribe.
 - They engage in ongoing discussion about remote vs. in person hearings and believe there is much greater interaction when hearings are in person.
- Leech Lake/Judges Day and McConkey-Greene
 - Their cases are all Civil/Probate and child protections. A big challenge is that most litigants are pro se.
 - They have about 1200 new cases a year. Recently, child protection cases have decreased and in-custody cases have increased.
 - They are trying to incorporate more cultural practices including celebrations when families in child protection are reunified.

- They collaborate with 3 counties on wellness courts and have about 40 tribal cases involved.
- Prairie Island/Judge Jones
 - They recently hired Judge Scheffler-Blaeser as an Associate Judge
 - BIA has funded a Peace-Making court and an initiative to develop a tribal guardian ad litem program.
 - They handle civil cases only but do have Tribal Law Enforcement.
 - They issue about 500 citations a year and if an offence is jailable, they utilize Goodhue County jail.
 - They hold court 6 days a month, and it is currently all remote. This way, tribal members anywhere in the country can participate.
 - They handle the following case types: custody, guardianship, child protection, and civil commitment/conservatorship. They also have a 5-judge appellate court .
- Shakopee Mdewakanton/Judge Hogen
 - They have a small tribal area and fewer than 1,000 members.
 - They currently do civil, child protection, conservatorship, family, tribal constitutional law cases, and election disputes.
 - They have a 3 judge appeal panel
 - They handle about 100 cases a year and the bulk of those are conservatorship.
 - They have several hundred hearings a year and are all held remotely. They cannot currently do hybrid hearings but can have participants and parties appear by phone.
 - They are also updating their codes.
- Lower Sioux/Judge Brodeen
 - They handle child protection, guardianship/conservatorship, and jurisdictional issues.
 - They collaborate with SW Health and Human Services who can offer a second voice, and also have access to funding for services.
 - Their big challenge is the number of pro se litigants.
- Mille Lacs/Judge Kulick (State Court)
 - They have an active treatment court collaboration with the tribe and the state court treatment court would not exist without this collaboration.
 - They have a new healing and wellness court.