



# CTFC WEEKLY REPORT

*Latest News From California Tribal Families Coalition*

## UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

- **JULY 30 - CDSS Central Regional RFA Consultation Session (11AM - 1 PM)**
- **JULY 31 - CILA Native American Law Scholarship Deadline**
- **AUGUST 4-6 - Bay Mills 3rd Annual VAWA and ICWA Training**

## CTFC Sponsored Legislation Update - Assembly Bill 1055

CTFC is pleased to share that Assembly Bill 1055, authored by Assemblymember James Ramos, has been named in honor of Judge Claudette White. A Quechan tribal member and tribal court judge, White, was a force for good in Indian Country. Judge White unfortunately passed earlier this year.

## CTFC Ramps up for Launch of New Project

One of the catalysts for creating CTFC was the California ICWA Compliance Task Force Report, (You can find a copy [HERE](#)) a tribal roadmap for improving California tribal child welfare practice. Once the Report was delivered to the California Attorney General, tribal leaders knew there needed to be an entity that took action on the Report's 20 recommendations, so tribal leaders formed CTFC.

The number one recommendation in the Report was to solve the fundamental inequity that tribes are the only essential party in a state court ICWA case that does not receive publicly funded legal counsel. The absence of resources for legal counsel often leaves Tribal Social Workers to defend the complex rights of tribes in courts with little experience, and often hostility towards, ICWA standards.

With the ongoing support of our member tribes, including a recent generous donation from the Habematolel Band of Pomo Indians, CTFC is gearing up to solve this inequity with the *Legal Counsel for Tribes* (LC4T) project. In the coming months CTFC will be seeking additional support for the Project and sharing more news as the LC4T Project launches, so stayed tuned.

The Claudette White Tribal Court Education Equity Act builds on prior work to ensure that tribal foster youth receive the full benefit of California Education Code provisions aimed at increasing educational success of foster youth.

Assembly Bill 1055 is headed to its final legislative committee hearing in the coming weeks. We will be seeking tribal support for this important bill. Additional information, as well as a model support letter, may be found on the CTFC website [HERE](#).





## CILA Native American Law Student Scholarship Deadline - July 31, 2021

The California Indian Law Association is now accepting applications for the Fall 2021 Native American Law Student Scholarship. Applications are due Saturday, July 31, 2021. For more information, see:

[www.calindianlaw.org](http://www.calindianlaw.org).

## Shout-Out to Native American Law Students Taking the Bar Exam!

Best wishes to all Native American law students sitting for the California Bar exam July 27-29! And a special shout-out to CTFC's very own Law Student Extern, Michelle Castagne! We're so proud of all of you! You're going to do great!



## CDSS RFA Central Regional Consultation Session - July 30th (11am - 1pm)

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will continue regional consultation with tribes on the application of tribal cultural and social standards in Resource Family Approval (RFA), the state foster care licensing process. *Please be aware that CDSS has invited County staff and Foster Family Agencies to participate in the Regional Consultation Sessions.* In preparation, CTFC wanted to share thoughts for tribal representative to consider going into these consultation sessions.

(1) On **Friday, July 30, 2021, from 11am-1pm** CDSS will hold a regional consultation with the Central Region.

(2) CTFC believes it is critical for tribes to remind CDSS that the social and cultural standards of the tribe cannot be written into any regulations as they are tribally and family specific. The only way to apply these standards is to invite the child's tribal representative to participate in all aspects of the assessment and approval process, which is requirement that should be written into the state regulations. If tribal advocates would like more information about these consultations, please contact Blair Kreuzer at [blair.kreuzer@caltribalfamilies.org](mailto:blair.kreuzer@caltribalfamilies.org).

## 3rd Annual Noojimo'iwewin: A VAWA and ICWA Training - Hosted by Bay Mills Indian Community - August 4-6, 2021

In-person or on-line. Registration is free. For more information, visit the event page [HERE](#).



Read past Weekly Reports Here!

