

MICHIGAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT

WHEREAS, the Michigan Judges Association is committed to the improvement of the process and outcomes of child protection cases throughout the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices through Resolution 5, 2011 and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges through separate resolutions, recognize that tribal courts serve the children and families of sovereign nations with the same authority and responsibility as state courts; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices encourages each state court judge to communicate and collaborate with their tribal court counterparts when a Native American child or family may be involved in a case, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is committed to complying with the letter and spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Judges Association has a history of working to improve state-tribal court relations through Michigan's Court Improvement Program including: the creation of an ICWA Court Resource Guide; statewide ICWA training for state and tribal justice systems; ICWA training for new state and tribal judges; ICWA amendments to the Michigan Court Rules; and proposed state ICWA legislation to encourage and reinforce compliance with the letter and spirit of the law by state court justice systems.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Michigan Judges Association supports the adoption and enactment of the proposed Indian Family Preservation Act by the Michigan legislature, in recognition of its ongoing commitment to improve the process and outcomes of child protection cases throughout the State of Michigan.