

THE ICWA “QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS” TESTIMONY TO PROTECT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE INDIAN CHILD

August 8, 2012

Hall of Justice
Conference Center
925 W. Ottawa Street
Lansing, Michigan 48909



Sponsored by:
State Court Administrative Office
Child Welfare Services Division,
Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect,
and
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

This project was funded by a federal Children’s Justice Act grant to the Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect administered through the Michigan Department of Human Services, under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, CFDA 93.643, being sections 107(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) as amended (42 USC 5101 *et seq.*); and the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as amended (42 USC 10601 *et seq.*). In addition, this is a joint project of the State Court Administrative Office and the Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, chaired by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Weaver, retired Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the “Qualified Expert Witness” (QEW) serves an important role in cases involving Indian children. Due to the limited number of ICWA cases, the QEW’s role and testimony are often misunderstood. This training will help child welfare professionals understand the role of the QEW and will provide practice tips on how to effectively present QEW testimony. This will include testimony on tribal history, tribal perspective on children and childhood, cultural expectations, specific tribal family history, and the unique needs of the Indian child. In addition to improving foundational knowledge on the role of the QEW, the training will also help judges to evaluate the quality of the testimony as well as further aid attorneys in conducting direct and cross examination of the QEW. The morning session will feature a presentation on the role of the QEW in ICWA cases. The afternoon session will offer hands-on exercises demonstrating QEW testimony in an ICWA case.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Judges (state and tribal); referees; other court staff; attorneys; DHS caseworkers; other DHS child welfare personnel; and private agency caseworkers.

AGENDA

PRESENTERS:

Margaret Burt, Esq., Consultant

Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Chief Judge, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians

8:15-9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Opening Speaker and Introductory Remarks
10:00-Noon	Discussion of the Role of the QEW
Noon-1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00-2:30 p.m.	QEW Testifying: Connecting the Dots
2:30-2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45-4:00 p.m.	QEW Testifying: Connecting the Dots (continued)
4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks

TRAINING COSTS

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR THIS TRAINING. The training is generously funded by the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Training materials and a lunch will be provided. Travel, meals other than lunch, and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the participant.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. However, there may be some exceptions to ensure geographic diversity and participation across professions. *Due to space limitations, restrictions have been placed on the number of individuals per agency and discipline who may attend this training. Registration will not guarantee attendance.*

A confirmation notice will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the training. If you have not received a confirmation by August 1, 2012, contact Heather Leidi at LeidiH@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5322.

LODGING INFORMATION

A limited block of overnight rooms has been reserved at the Country Inn & Suites for August 7, 2012, at a rate of \$65 per night for single-occupancy lodging and \$85 per night for double-occupancy lodging. This block of rooms will be released back to the hotel after July 24, so please make your reservation early. We cannot guarantee these rates after the July 24 deadline. Please note: You are responsible for your lodging expenses.

Country Inn & Suites: To make your reservations at the Country Inn & Suites call 517-827-7000 and reference "080712STAT" to ensure that you receive the reduced rate. Country Inn & Suites is located at 6511 Centurion Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917. Directions can be found at the following websites:

Site Map: <http://www.countryinns.com>

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Social Work Continuing Education

An application to offer Continuing Education (CEs) for Master and Bachelor level social workers is pending. Upon approval, we will provide CEs at no charge to qualified individuals who attend the training.

To obtain CEs, you must complete and submit a CE form that will be provided on-site. To receive full credit for CEs, you must be seated in the room at 9:00 a.m. and you must attend the entire session that you are registered for. There are no exceptions to these requirements.

TRAINING REGISTRATION

Online Registration: [Click here](#)

OR

Follow the steps below:

- 1) Go to the Child Welfare Services webpage:
<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/CWS/TrainingDevelopment.htm>
- 2) Select: “Upcoming CWS Off-Site Programs”
- 3) Select: “Schedule of Upcoming Programs”
- 4) Select: “**The ICWA “Qualified Expert Witness” Testimony to Protect the Best Interests of the Indian Child**”
- 5) Click: “Register” and complete the form

Please use Internet Explorer as your browser when registering for this training. If you have problems registering, please contact Heather Leidi at LeidiH@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5322.

You should submit your registration as soon as possible to increase the likelihood that your registration will be confirmed. Your registration is a commitment to attend the entire portion of the training for which you register. Please do not register to attend this training unless you have scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend.

If you need to cancel after you have been confirmed to attend this training, please contact Heather Leidi at LeidiH@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5322 as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. On-site registration is not available.

Please note that registrations will not be accepted after August 3, 2012.