

# Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Symposium

**Thursday, April 25, 2013 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe's Special Events Center  
Alabama-Coushatta Reservation, Texas

***STRENGTHENING AND HEALING OUR  
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY  
THROUGH TRIBAL-STATE COLLABORATION***



*Like a beautiful Alabama-Coushatta basket,  
All things are woven together like a story, with love and prayers.  
We are but one strand, but together we are the intricate weave of all generations.  
Whatever we do to others, we do to ourselves.  
Traditional wisdom, along with tears, laughter and peace, fill the basket;  
Connecting all generations in the spirit of respect and unity.*

~ Sr. Peacemaker, Othelda Jean Williams ~ 2013

## AGENDA

<b>REGISTRATION</b>	(Teresa Battise, Clerk of the Court) (Mary Ramkowsky, Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP)	<b>7:30 – 8:30 a.m.</b>
<b>PRAYER</b>	Sequoia, Alabama-Coushatta	<b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTION OF TRIBAL CHIEFS/LEADERS INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>Kyle Williams,</b> Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Chairman	
<b>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE</b>	<b>Othelda Jean Williams,</b> Alabama-Coushatta Senior Peacemaker	
<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b>	<b>Facilitator:</b> TBD – Peacemaker	<b>9:00 – 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL TRIBAL-STATE COLLABORATION</b>		
<b>A. TRIBAL VIEWPOINT</b>	<b>Speaker:</b> Anita Fineday, Esq., (former Tribal Judge) Casey Foundation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical Trauma</li> <li>• Compliance with Indian Child Welfare (Placement and Full Faith and Credit)</li> <li>• <i>Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl, Birth Father and Cherokee Nation</i> (U.S. Supreme Court, Cause No. 12-399)</li> </ul>		
<b>B. STATE VIEWPOINT</b>	<b>Speaker: Hon. Eva Guzman,</b> Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, Chair, Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of the Commission</li> <li>• Court Improvement</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Overview of Tribal-State Cases</li> </ul>		
<b>BREAK</b>		<b>10:00 – 10:15 a.m.</b>

*PANEL DISCUSSION*

**ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBAL INITIATIVES**

- TITLE IV-D
- CRIMINAL JURISDICTION
- OTHER INITIATIVES

**Facilitator:** Arnold Battise, Esq.

**10:15 – 11:15 a.m.**

**Panelists:**

**Verlis Williams,**

Alabama-Coushatta Title IV-D Director

**Anthony Ford,**

Alabama-Coushatta Police Department

**Stephanie Williams,**

Alabama Coushatta Tribal Administrator

*PANEL DISCUSSION*

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – STRENGTHENING THE TRIBAL- STATE RELATIONSHIP**

**Facilitator:** Samantha Battise,

Alabama-Coushatta, Social Services Director

**11:15 - Noon**

**Panelists:**

**Eugene Frizzell,** Texas DFPS

**Lou Liles,** Texas DFPS

**LUNCH** (*provided*)

**Noon – 1:15 p.m.**

- **OVERVIEW AND STATUS UPDATE OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE MATTERS, THE MODEL COURT, AND THE TRIBAL-STATE JUDICIAL TASK FORCE**

**Facilitator:** TBD

**Speaker: Gina Jackson,** Model Court Liaison,  
National Council of Juvenile Family Court  
Judges, Reno, NV

- **INTRODUCTION OF OTHER TRIBAL, STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES**

*PANEL DISCUSSION*

**LAWS ON FULL FAITH AND CREDIT, AND COMITY**

- Protection Orders
- ICWA
- Child Support
- Other

**Facilitator:** Cheryl D. Fairbanks, Esq.

**1:15 – 2:15 p.m.**

**Panelists:**

**Hon. Steven D. Aycock, NCJFCJ**

Tribal Judge in Residence

**Hon. Darlene Byrne,** 126<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

Civil Court, Travis County, TX

**BREAK**

**2:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL COURT  
COLLABORATION**

**Facilitator: Nanette Bishop,**

Specialist for the Administration of Children  
and Families in Region VI

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Panelists:**

**Hon. Jacque Blanchett,**

Tyler County, Texas Court

**Hon. Charles Tripp,**

Chief Justice, Kaw Nation

**Hon. Robert J. Mann,**

Alabama-Coushatta Chief Civil Judge

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**TRIBAL PEACEMAKING**

**Facilitator:** Larry Williams,

Forensic Social Worker, Consultant

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Speakers:**

**Hon. Donna Denson,** Mississippi Band

of Choctaw Indians, Peacemaker

**Hon. Winifred Thomas,**

Oneida Nation Peacemaker

**Hon. Janie Rhinesmith**

Alabama-Coushatta Peacemaker

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

**Facilitator:** Michael Martinez, Texas DFPS

**4:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Audrey Deckinga, (Amberboy &**

**Taylor)** Assistant Commissioner, Texas

Permanent Judicial Commission for Children,

Youth and Families

**Hon. Othelda Jean Williams,**

Alabama-Coushatta Peacemaker

**PRAYER**

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.*

*Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

*~Margaret Mead*

*Please RSVP to Teresa Battise (936) 563-1288*

**CONTACT**

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There is no fee for this event.