

## NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Established in 1969 to Strengthen and Enhance Tribal Justice Systems

An IRS 501(c)(3) Corporation Federal ID # 84-0611428

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02**

TITLE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ON AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN

**EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE** 

WHEREAS, the National American Indian Court Judges Association ("Association") was incorporated in the State of Delaware on March 31, 1969; and

WHEREAS, the objectives and purposes of the Association include: (a) to foster the continuing development, enrichment, and funding of tribal justice systems as a visible exercise of tribal sovereignty and self-government, (b) to provide continuing education for tribal judges and justice system staff members in order to promote and enhance the operation of the tribal judiciary, (c) to further the public knowledge and understanding of tribal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors are delegated with responsibility to carry out the objectives and purposes of the Association; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, the Attorney General established an advisory committee on American Indian Alaska Native (AI/AN) Children Exposed to Violence, resulting in a November 2014 report entitled, "Ending Violence So Children Can Thrive";

WHEREAS, the Children Exposed to Violence Report made thirty-one recommendations intended to serve as a blueprint for preventing AI/AN children's exposure to violence and for mitigating the negative effects experienced by AI/AN children across the United States and through Indian country;

WHEREAS, the Report calls for the restoration of the inherent sovereignty of tribes to assert full criminal jurisdiction over all persons who commit crimes against AI/AN children in Indian country;

WHEREAS, the Report calls for direct sufficient funds for tribal criminal and civil justice systems, including through recurring mandatory, not discretionary, base funding for tribal justice systems, and including tribal juvenile justice systems;

WHEREAS, the Report calls for the extension of 638 self-determination and self-governance compact authority to the Department of Justice;

WHEREAS, the Report calls for federal encouragement of tribal-state collaborations:

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WHEREAS, the Report recommends training for federal agencies on historical trauma and colonization of tribal Nations:

WHEREAS, the Report calls for full Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) compliance and encourages tribal-state ICWA collaborations;

WHEREAS, the Report recommends that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), tribal social service agencies, and state social service agencies should have policies that permit removal of children from victims of domestic violence for "failure to protect" only as a last resort as long as the child is safe;

WHEREAS, the Report recommends that federal funding for state juvenile justice programs should be conditioned upon state consultation with tribes on the design, content, and operation of juvenile justice systems;

WHEREAS, the Report calls for funding and technical assistance to develop or revise traumainformed, culturally specific tribal codes to improve tribal juvenile justice systems;

WHEREAS, the Report recommends that federal, state, and tribal justice systems should only use detention of AI/AN youth as a last resort;

WHEREAS, the Report calls on the State of Alaska to recognize and collaborate with Alaska tribal courts;

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association respectfully recommends that Ending Violence So Children Can Thrive be fully implemented.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was considered and adopted by the Board of Directors of the National American Indian Court Judges Association on the 24 of October 2015 at 12:00 pm, and the vote was seventeen (17) in favor, zero (0) opposed, and zero (0) abstaining.

**PRESIDENT** 

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Richard C Blake

Susan Wells

**SECRETARY** 

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION