



Fashioning an ICWA Advocacy Plan for Your Tribe

Tuesday, October 20, 2015
1:30pm – 4:00pm

This workshop will give tribal leaders the tools they need to advocate on behalf of Indian child welfare on both local and national levels, which will be particularly important as we get closer to the Department of Interior's release of its final Regulations for State Courts and Agencies in Indian Child Custody Proceedings. Tribal leaders want to know how they can be most effective in standing up for their youth populations at home. This session will teach tribal leaders how to effectively advocate on behalf of their children by educating their local communities and Congressional representatives.

I. Introduction

Sarah Kastelic, Executive Director, National Indian Child Welfare Association

II. Current Challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act

Matthew Newman, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

III. The Importance of Educating Local Officials: Tribal Advocacy in your Home State

IV. Advocacy Toolkit: How Tribes can be Most Effective in Educating their Representatives

Rafael Lopez, Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth, and Family,
United States Department of Health and Human Services

David Simmons, Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy, National Indian
Child Welfare Association

V. Discussion