

Alaska Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (AK ITWG) on Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ)

September 22-23, 2025

Southcentral Foundation's Nuka Learning Institute
Anchorage, Alaska

Day 1 – Monday, September 22

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration and Check-In

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Ann Lawrence, Lead Cultural Advisor, Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Welcome Remarks

April Kyle, President, Southcentral Foundation

Welcome from Hosts and Introduction of Partners

Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, ANJC & Tami Jerue, Executive Director, AKNWRC

- Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC)
- Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC)
- Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)
- Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP)
- Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)
- University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

Welcome from U.S. Attorney and Department of Justice

- Michael Heyman, U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska
- Tammy Ashley, Grants Management Specialist, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Tribal Affairs Division (TAD), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Overview of Tribal Jurisdiction in Alaska and VAWA 2022

This session will provide an overview of tribal criminal and civil jurisdiction in Alaska, with a focus on recent developments, including the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022). The session will cover:

- *citizenship-based jurisdiction*
- *tribal jurisdiction in a designated geographic area*
- *Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs)*

Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, ANJC & Kevin Illingworth, Professor of Tribal Governance, UAF

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Break/Networking Opportunity

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Updates from Tribes in Attendance**

Each Tribe attending the meeting will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and share any updates or challenges related to their community's public safety needs and priorities.

Facilitators: Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, ANJC & Tami Jerue, Executive Director, AKNWRC

Track Two Tribes

1. Chickaloon Native Village
2. Organized Village of Kake
3. Craig Tribal Association
4. Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes
5. Native Village of Dot Lake

Track One Tribes

1. Organized Village of Kake (*also Track 2*)
2. Native Village of Dot Lake (*also Track 2*)
3. Petersburg Indian Association
4. Chickaloon Native Village (*also Track 2*)
5. Native Village of Gakona
6. Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
7. Kaguyak Village
8. Organized Village of Kasaan
9. Native Village of Port Heiden
10. Native Village of Gambell
11. Chevak Native Village
12. Ketchikan Indian Community
13. Curyung Tribal Council
14. Native Village of Eklutna
15. Nulato Village
16. Nunakauyarmiut Tribe (Toksook Bay)
17. Knik Tribe
18. Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes (*also Track 2*)
19. Native Village of Eyak
20. Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council
21. Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor

Other Tribes in Attendance

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch on Your Own**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **Tribal Law Enforcement in Alaska: Discussion of Models and Needs**

This session will explore the diverse models of law enforcement operating in Alaska Native communities across regions, including the role of Tribal Police Officers (TPOs) and Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs), and inter-tribal law enforcement partnerships. Participants will discuss the structures, successes, and challenges of various models. The session will also highlight strategies to access training,

address resource gaps, and strengthen collaboration with state and federal agencies to enhance public safety and justice in Alaska Native communities.

Moderator: Geoffrey Bacon, Staff Attorney, ANJC

Panel:

- Mario Arce, Tribal Peace Officer, TCC
- Clarence Daniel, Community Development Division Director, AVCP
- Darrel Hildebrand, Village Public Safety Officer Coordinator, Northwest Arctic Borough

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Tribal Law Enforcement in Alaska: Tribal Experiences with Policing

This session offers practical insights into Tribe’s experiences with policing in their Villages. Panelists will discuss challenges and opportunities related to establishing a tribal police department in Alaska, building partnerships through intergovernmental collaboration or cross-deputization agreements, and accessing funding.

Moderators: Tami Jerue, Executive Director, AKNWRC & Elisabeth “Liz” Mering, Staff Attorney, AVCP

Panel:

- Donna Anthony, Chief of Police, Chickaloon Police Department (Track Two Tribe)
- Andrew Boyscout, Tribal Court Administrator, Chevak Native Village (Track One Tribe)
- Tracy Charles-Smith, Native Village of Dot Lake (Track Two Tribe)

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Break/Networking Opportunity

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Protection Orders: Full Faith and Credit and How to Collaboratively Enforce Protection Orders

This session will provide an overview of the full faith and credit provisions for protection orders under federal law, emphasizing their critical role in ensuring safety across jurisdictions. Attendees will learn about the responsibilities of tribal, state, and federal systems in recognizing and enforcing protection orders. The session will also highlight strategies for building collaborative partnerships to enhance enforcement, address challenges, and uphold the rights of victims in Alaska Native communities.

Moderator: Charlie Kidd, Tribal Justice Supervising Attorney, ANJC

Panel:

- Dana Bartman, Community Development Coordinator, RurAL CAP
- Anne Bruno, Criminal Division Tribal Liaison and Assistant Attorney General, Alaska Department of Law
- Rick Haskins-Garcia, Director of Law and Policy, AKNWRC

4:45 – 5:00 p.m.	Wrap Up/Closing Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, ANJC & Tami Jerue, Executive Director, AKNWRC
Day 2 – Tuesday, September 23	
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Check-In
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Overview of the Day’s Agenda and Housekeeping Recap of Day 1 Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, ANJC & Tami Jerue, Executive Director, AKNWRC
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Overview of Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction: Learning from the Lower 48 <i>Building on the foundational understanding of tribal jurisdiction in Alaska, this session will provide an overview of Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction under VAWA 2022 as it has been implemented by Tribes outside of Alaska.</i> Moderators: Virginia Davis, Contractor, ANJC & Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, ANJC Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Fourstar, Chief Judge, Fort Peck Tribal Court • Brian Kilgore, Lead Prosecutor, Tulalip Tribes • Jessica Marker, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Tulalip Tribes • Cindy Smith, Chief Judge, Suquamish Tribal Court
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Break/Networking Opportunity
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Tribal Approaches to Addressing Violence in Alaska Villages <i>This panel discussion will showcase diverse tribal approaches to addressing violence in Alaska Native villages, drawing on examples from regions across the state. Panelists will share community-driven strategies that reflect local values and cultures, the importance of trauma-informed responses, meeting the needs of victims, and restoring community well-being.</i> Moderator: Rick Haskins-Garcia, Director of Law and Policy, AKNWRC Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonya Garnett, Tribal Court Administrator, Arctic Village • Hilda Johnson, Judge, Arctic Village • Celeste Menadelook, Domestic Violence Justice Coordinator, Kawerak • Sigvanna Tapqaq, Staff Attorney, Kawerak
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	VAWA 2022 Alaska Pilot Program <i>This session will provide an overview of the Alaska Pilot Program established under VAWA 2022 by the U.S. Attorney General. The three-track structure of the program will be explained, clarifying what participation entails for Alaska Tribes, including key steps, requirements, and implications for exercising expanded tribal authority.</i>

Tammy Ashley, Grants Management Specialist, OVW TAD

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch on Your Own**

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Where Do We Start? Assessing Public Safety Needs and Priorities in Your Community**

Addressing public safety, justice, and victim services challenges begins with understanding your community's unique needs, priorities, and assets. This session will guide participants through strategies for mapping community assets and needs, engaging community members, and identifying priorities. With examples from regions and communities across Alaska, attendees will explore practical, trauma-informed approaches to create effective and culturally relevant public safety initiatives tailored to their community's goals.

Joie Millett, Community Development Director, RurAL CAP, Caroline Lee, Tribal Justice Manager, RurAL CAP & Kelsey Potdevin, Senior Manager, ANJC

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. **Break/Networking Opportunity**

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Exploring Funding, Training and Technical Assistance (TA)**

Attendees will gain an understanding of available funding, training and technical assistance; discover the resources and services currently available; and discuss gaps and emerging needs. This interactive session will include dialogue on tailoring support to meet community priorities and advancing tribal sovereignty in public safety and justice initiatives.

Tami Jerue, Executive Director, AKNWRC & Caroline Lee, Tribal Justice Manager, RurAL CAP

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. **Wrap-Up, Resources, and Next Steps**

Alex Cleghorn, Chief Operating Officer, ANJC & Tami Jerue, Executive Director, AKNWRC

Meeting Resources

DOJ VAWA 2022 Alaska Pilot Program Website

<https://www.justice.gov/tribal/vawa-2022-alaska-pilot-program>

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GK-05462-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.