

ALASKA NATIVE



JUSTICE CENTER

IMPACT REPORT 2025





Growth & Transformation



Dear Friends and Supporters,

FY25 was transformative for the **Alaska Native Justice Center**. As I reflect on what we've accomplished together, I'm filled with pride for our team and gratitude for the tribes, partners, and supporters who make this work possible.

This year, we **surpassed 500 ICWA cases**—this milestone means **500 Native children had dedicated advocates ensuring they remain connected to their tribe, traditions, and community**. Beyond this achievement, we continued our work across the full spectrum of tribal justice: delivering Alaska-based training and technical assistance, advancing policy that

strengthens tribal sovereignty, and building the infrastructure tribes need to exercise their inherent jurisdiction.

As part of our evolution, ANJC's **Victim and Survivor Services** transitioned to **Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC)** under the leadership of **Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Tina Woods** in October 2025, creating seamless coordination between trauma recovery and legal advocacy with expanded behavioral health support. This strategic realignment allows ANJC to sharpen our focus on what we do best: providing Alaska-based legal representation, training, and technical assistance for tribes and tribal organizations. The rest of ANJC will be consolidated by the end of FY26. By consolidating into CITC, we're building on thirty years of institutional knowledge and creating efficiencies that allow us to continue delivering high-quality services in support of our mission: Justice for Alaska Native people.

The pages that follow tell the story of this year's achievements. None of this work would be possible without your support, partnership, and commitment to justice.

Quyana,

Alex Cleghorn
Chief Policy Officer
Alaska Native Justice Center



Integrated Support for Healing and Safety

Throughout FY25, ANJC's **Victim and Survivor Services** team provided comprehensive support to Alaska Native individuals and families navigating some of their most difficult moments. The team's integrated approach—combining case managers, paralegals, and attorneys—meant that legal clients also received holistic support addressing housing stability, safety, and emotional wellbeing alongside their legal needs.

This model proved powerful. Clients obtained protective orders in complex cases involving serious safety concerns. Attorneys secured custody arrangements that allowed survivors and their children to move forward safely. Behind each legal outcome was extensive collaborative work: brainstorming strategies, gathering evidence, providing emotional support, and ensuring participants had safe housing and support systems in place.

As ANJC's organizational structure evolves, these integrated services will continue under CITC's **Division of Clinical & Wellness Services**. This positions ANJC to deepen its trauma-informed approach while maintaining its legal expertise, creating seamless support to address trauma, recovery, and family healing together.



Dr. Tina Woods
Chief Clinical Officer
Cook Inlet Tribal Council



Gloria O'Neill
President and CEO
Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Stronger Together!

For nearly a decade, **Alaska Native Justice Center** and **Cook Inlet Tribal Council** have partnered to advance justice for Alaska Native people. Today, ANJC serves any of Alaska's 229 tribes in child-welfare cases—**something no other organization can do**. Together, we've built a nationally recognized legal team and a leading voice in tribal justice policy.

Now, we're bringing ANJC into the CITC family. This isn't about changing our mission—it's about ensuring it grows. By operating as one organization, we can be more sustainable and direct more resources toward the legal representation and tribal support our communities need.

ANJC's expertise combined with CITC's organizational strength—that's a powerful foundation for the future.



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— Statewide Impact —

ANJC collaborates with Tribes and communities across all Alaska regions to strengthen justice and provide essential support for Alaska Native people.

184

new clients served



127

court
accompaniments



71

protective orders
obtained for clients



Protective orders

are court orders that legally protect victims from domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or harassment.

122

new ICWA cases



790

attendees at
Tribal trainings



Four variances
obtained for people
due to employment
barriers

Variances

allow individuals with background issues to seek employment exceptions for state-licensed health and social service jobs.

500 Children, 500 Futures

Transforming Child Welfare for Alaska Native Families

Reaching the historic milestone of over **500 ICWA cases** means that hundreds of Native children have had advocates protecting their safety and connection to their Tribe, family, and culture.

The impact extends far beyond individual cases: statewide data shows that **72% of Alaska Native children now have their Tribe actively involved in their child welfare cases**, a dramatic leap from just 53% when ANJC's ICWA program launched in 2018. Now, nearly three out of four Alaska Native children maintain their cultural connections and community support during some of their most vulnerable moments. ●



Building Infrastructure for Tribal Justice Systems

ANJC expanded its groundbreaking training offerings this year with Alaska's first standalone **Cultural Expert Witness training**, helping close a key gap for Tribal courts and ensuring traditional knowledge is reflected in legal proceedings.

The team also delivered multiple Tribal justice trainings in partnership with **Maniilaq**—most recently, a Tribal judges training hosted 34 participants from seven Tribes. In September, the **Alaska Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group** convened 109 participants—its largest gathering yet—to focus on **VAWA 2022** (Violence Against Women Act) and the **Alaska Pilot Program for Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction**, turning complex legal frameworks into actionable steps that support Tribes in strengthening and exercising their own justice systems. ●

Cultivating Alaska Native Legal Leadership

ANJC's Alaska Native Law Clerk and Law Fellow program is building the next generation of Alaska Native lawyers, with graduates clerking for **Alaska Supreme Court Justices** and joining organizations such as the **Alaska Native Health Board** and the **Native American Rights Fund**.

This fall, the program welcomed law fellow **Robyn Ludecker** (Koyukon Athabascan/Iñupiaq), who quickly secured supervised practice and won her first case two days later, obtaining a protective order for her client.

Former law clerk **Geoff Bacon** also returned as a Staff Attorney, underscoring the program's success in creating strong career pathways that bring Alaska Native attorneys back to serve their communities. ●

Robyn Ludecker



STATEWIDE IMPACT



\$2.7 million

in legal services provided at no cost for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking.



7,209
hours of
legal services



423
urgent supportive
services provided



834
court hearings
and trials

Look inside to find out how ANJC made an impact in our communities in 2025!



OUR MISSION:

Justice for Alaska Native People

ANJC serves as a bridge between Alaska Native people and the justice system. We advocate for justice and work in partnership with Alaska Tribes, Tribal organizations, and state and federal agencies.

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