



2016 NCAI Mid Year Conference
Spokane, WA

The Indian Child Welfare Act: New Federal Regulations and Enhancing Tribal Advocacy

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Room 302B

The Indian Child Welfare Act has provided protections to tribal children, their families and tribal communities for over two generations, but has come under attack over the last few years. This has created new challenges but also new opportunities as federal agencies work to strengthen ICWA compliance in state courts. The new BIA ICWA regulations provide more clarity and consistency on requirements and tools to use within state child welfare proceedings involving tribal children. In addition, lawsuits challenging the federal and state ICWA laws are on the rise. This breakout session will provide information on how you can use the new ICWA regulations to enhance protections for your tribal citizens, tips on how to enhance your tribal child welfare program's ICWA advocacy, updates on current ICWA lawsuits, and communication strategies to support a unified message to defend tribal children and families.

SPEAKERS:

Moderator, Jackie Pata, NCAI Executive Director

The New ICWA Regulations – Larry Roberts, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

Using the New Regulations – David Simmons, NICWA Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy

Current Litigation – Kate Fort, Attorney, Indigenous Law and Policy Center, Michigan State University

Media, ICWA and Tribal Communications Strategies – Sarah Kastelic, NICWA Executive Director