

Host Site: Oklahoma Indian Legal Services

Topic of Project: Tribal Law

Location: Oklahoma City, OK & Ada, OK

This project can be conducted remotely.

Description of Fellow Project:

The Fellow will provide legal services through the Indian Child Welfare Act Parent Representation Project. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) recognizes that there is a government-to-government relationship between the United States and Tribes. The law affirms the special political relationship and is not based on race or ethnic factors. Responding to reports that 25-35% of Indian children nationwide (as high as 50-75% in some states) had been removed from their families and placed at a rate of nearly 90% in non-Indian homes, Congress found that there is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children.

The ICWA provides safeguards for Indian children and families, but most Indian parents cannot afford an attorney to help them enforce the Indian Child Welfare Act. OILS' Indian Child Welfare Act Parent Representation Project seeks to provide quality legal services to parents who are trying their best to navigate a difficult legal and emotional situation, and the Fellow will provide a variety of legal services to parents and families to help enforce ICWA.

Applicant Qualifications:

N/A