

Host Site: Legal Aid of Wyoming

Topic of Project: Indian Law/Family Law

Location: Lander, WY

Description of Fellow Project:

The Wind River Reservation has one of the largest Native populations in the United States. The Tribal courts are unable to meet the current demand of Tribal Members seeking access to justice. A peacemaker court helps alleviate this need and increase justice for Native individuals and families in a culturally important way. The Fellow will work with Legal Aid attorneys and Judges on the reservation to increase awareness about and use of the peacemaker court, to refine peacemaker court operations, and to support direct legal assistance to clients who are not able to make use of the peacemaker court.

The Fellow will also assist with legal research and writing to support equitable revisions to the codes and coordinate with the Tribal Councils and justice system to discuss system improvements. The Fellow will assist peacemakers and Tribal attorneys in developing and distributing educational materials for the community on peacemaker court practices and processes. The Fellow will conduct community outreach through presentations, workshops, and other means to encourage use of the peacemaker program.

The Fellow will also conduct surveys to gain client, Judge, attorney, and peacemaker feedback about the program and prepare reports with suggestions to implement this feedback. The Fellow will conduct legal research on Native American, Northern Arapaho, and Eastern Shoshone law to assist with revisions of the Tribal Law and Order Code, and assist with drafting revisions to the codes. The Fellow will also begin initial evaluations on how the peacemaker court has affected justice system operations - in terms of meeting needs - on the Wind River Reservation, and how it has impacted access to justice on the reservation. Overall, the Fellow will help support Legal Aid's continuing efforts to increase access to justice on the Wind River Reservation.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will primarily be in-person with remote work opportunities available for legal research or writing. Proficiency in a second language is not required.

