

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas 3rd Judicial Symposium

Thursday, April 25, 2013 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe's Special Events Center
Alabama-Coushatta Reservation, Texas

***STRENGTHENING AND HEALING OUR
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY
THROUGH TRIBAL-STATE COLLABORATION***



*Like a beautiful Alabama-Coushatta basket,
All things are woven together like a story, with love and prayers.
We are but one strand, but together we are the intricate weave of all generations.
Whatever we do to others, we do to ourselves.
Traditional wisdom, along with tears, laughter and peace, fill the basket;
Connecting all generations in the spirit of respect and unity.*

~ Sr. Peacemaker, Othelda Jean Williams ~ 2013

AGENDA

REGISTRATION	Teresa Battise , Clerk of the Court Mary Ramkowsky , Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP	7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
PRAYER	Portia Alec , former Tribal Princess Alabama-Coushatta	8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF TRIBAL CHIEFS/LEADERS INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS	Kyle Williams , Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Chairman	
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	Othelda Jean Williams , Alabama-Coushatta Senior Peacemaker	
KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Facilitator: Joann Battise , Peacemaker	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL TRIBAL-STATE COLLABORATION		
A. TRIBAL VIEWPOINT	Speaker: Anita Fineday, Esq. , (former Tribal Judge) Casey Foundation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Trauma • Compliance with Indian Child Welfare (Placement and Full Faith and Credit) • <i>Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl, Birth Father and Cherokee Nation</i> (U.S. Supreme Court, Cause No. 12-399) 		
B. STATE VIEWPOINT	Speaker: Hon. Eva Guzman , Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, Chair, Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of the Commission • Court Improvement • Training • Overview of Tribal-State Cases 		
BREAK		10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION

ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBAL INITIATIVES

- TITLE IV-D
- CRIMINAL JURISDICTION
- OTHER INITIATIVES

Facilitator: Arnold Battise, Esq.

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Panelists:

Verlis Williams,
Alabama-Coushatta Title IV-D Director
Antonio Ford, Chief
Alabama-Coushatta Police Department
Stephanie Williams,
Alabama Coushatta Tribal Administrator

PANEL DISCUSSION

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – STRENGTHENING THE TRIBAL- STATE RELATIONSHIP

Facilitator: Samantha Battise,
Alabama-Coushatta, Social Services Director

11:15 - Noon

Panelists:

Eugene Frizzell and Lou Liles
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

LUNCH (provided)

- **OVERVIEW AND STATUS UPDATE OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE MATTERS, THE MODEL COURT, AND THE TRIBAL-STATE JUDICIAL TASK FORCE**

Noon – 1:15 p.m.

Facilitator: Julie Williams,
Alabama-Coushatta Peacemaker

Speaker: Gina Jackson, Model Court Liaison,
National Council of Juvenile Family Court Judges, Reno, Nevada

- **INTRODUCTION OF OTHER TRIBAL, STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES**

PANEL DISCUSSION

LAWS ON FULL FAITH AND CREDIT, AND COMITY

- Protection Orders
- ICWA
- Child Support
- Other

Facilitator: Cheryl D. Fairbanks, Esq.

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Panelists:

Hon. Steven D. Aycock, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Tribal Judge in Residence
Hon. Darlene Byrne, 126th Judicial District Civil Court, Travis County, Texas

BREAK

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION

**CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL COURT
COLLABORATION**

Facilitator: TBD

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Panelists:

Hon. Jacque Blanchett,
Tyler County, Texas Court
Hon. Charles Tripp,
Chief Justice, Kaw Nation
Hon. Robert J. Mann,
Alabama-Coushatta Chief Civil Judge

PANEL DISCUSSION

TRIBAL PEACEMAKING

Facilitator: Larry D. Williams,
Forensic Social Worker, Consultant

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Speakers:

Hon. Donna Denson,
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians,
Peacemaker
Hon. Winifred Thomas,
Oneida Nation Peacemaker
Hon. Janie Rhinesmith
Alabama-Coushatta Peacemaker

CLOSING COMMENTS

Facilitator: Michael Martinez,
Texas Department of Family and
Protective Services

4:30 p.m.

Speakers:

Hon. Kevin Briscoe,
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians,
Senior Juvenile Court Judge
Hon. Othelda Jean Williams,
Alabama-Coushatta Peacemaker

PRAYER

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
~Margaret Mead*

Please RSVP to Teresa Battise (936) 563-1288

CONTACT

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There is no fee for this event.