



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Washington, D.C. 20531

June 10, 2015

Dear Indian Country Justice Colleague and Officials:

On behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), along with the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and its partners, we invite representatives of your community, along with local, state, and federal colleagues, to participate in "*A Dialogue on the Tribal Law & Order Act (TLOA) Implementation of Enhanced Sentencing Authority*" scheduled for July 13-14, 2015 in Tucson, AZ. My office recognizes the importance of providing an opportunity for tribal governments to share their experiences in implementing this new authority with other tribal governments who may be exploring the possibility of implementation or is on the cusp of doing so. It is equally important for the federal government to receive input from tribal governments as to how we can improve implementation of Enhanced Sentencing Authority (ESA) among interested tribes.

The session has been proposed to bring together tribes who have gone through the journey of implementation of ESA to share why they chose to implement ESA, their process for implementation, the successes and challenges they experienced, or any other information they feel would be critical for tribes moving towards implementation. We hope this event will allow tribes who are exploring implementation of ESA in their communities to learn directly from tribes who have implemented this authority. Further, all faculty and participants will be given an opportunity to provide information to DOJ representatives on funding, training, and technical assistance needs regarding ESA implementation.

This event will provide valuable information to all disciplines and representatives that may be impacted through the expansion of sentencing authority, including tribal leaders, public defenders, prosecutors, law enforcement, victims' advocates, community corrections (pretrial, probation, and reentry), service providers, community members, and others.

- **Agenda for the Dialogue Session:** The first day of the session will include up to four tribal communities sharing stories of their journey to implement ESA. Each tribe will be allotted approximately 75 minutes to share their story. The second day will include discussions focusing on key ESA implementation components, as well as how the exercise of enhanced sentencing by tribal courts may impact coordination between U.S. Attorney's Office and Tribal Law Enforcement officials to charge, decline or terminate federal prosecution and share case evidence. Specifically, discuss how the ability of Tribes to incarcerate up to 9 years may impact federal charging decisions and how evidence that has been gathered by

federal officials in anticipation of a federal prosecution could be utilized in tribal courts under ESA prosecutions under TLOA if a federal prosecution is declined. In addition, the session will provide participants with ample time to ask questions. The purpose is to allow for a wide variety of experiences and opinions to be shared within a moderated forum, to gain an honest and realistic picture of the implementation of ESA in Indian Country.

- **Logistical Information:** If your tribe received an award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Purpose Area (PA) #3 Justice Systems, and Alcohol and Substance Abuse and PA #4 Corrections and Correctional Alternatives of the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation or the Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance Program, funds can be used to cover costs for attending this event. Additionally, a limited number of scholarships are available; simply indicate your request for a scholarship on the registration page. APPA will follow up with individuals selected to receive a scholarship.

The event will be hosted at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott Williams Centre, 384 South Williams Boulevard, Tucson, AZ 85711. Their phone number is 520-747-0720. We have secured federal per diem room rates for the duration of the event at \$83/night + tax (approximately \$95/night). You can secure your lodging by clicking on this link [American Probation and Parole Association](#) or by simply referencing "The American Probation and Parole Association room block" when you call to make your reservations. The hotel provides free breakfast and evening reception for guests; free wireless Internet; free parking; walking distance to a variety of food options; and a free shuttle within a 3 mile radius of the hotel.

- **Registration:** There are no fees to attend this event. To register, please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P6ZBT6Q>.
- **Questions:** If you have any follow up questions regarding this event, please contact Kimberly Cobb, Project Director at APPA, at 859-244-8015 or kcobb@csg.org.

We look forward to our continued work with you to build and enhance tribal justice systems and improve safety in Indian Country.

Sincerely,



Denise E. O'Donnell
Director