

**State and Tribal Child Welfare Judges Training**

**December 10-11, 2015**

**Kiana Lodge on The Port Madison Reservation of the**

**Suquamish Nation**

**Registration Required**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, December 10th**

**8:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast at Kiana Lodge**

**8:30 – 8:45 am Brief Description of Structure and Intent of the Agenda**

**8:45 - 9:00 am Very Basics about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**

**9:00 – 9:30 am Parent Panel.** Parents who successfully navigated the child welfare system to reunify with their children, and now advocate for families and system changes, will discuss their experiences in the child welfare system with ACEs and the training agenda as a structure for the discussion.

**9:30 – 10:15 am Walk and Introductions.** Participants will go for walk around the grounds or within the lodge with a partner, discussing questions posed by faculty, and then return to the main room to introduce their walking partner to the rest of the group.

**10:15 – 11:30 Health.** Dr. Kristen Allott, N.D., of Dynamic Brains Consulting, will discuss the physiology of decision making, and also how health factors influence the manifestation of trauma in professionals and clients. We will also discuss opportunities for Judges to lead efforts to spread health principles among professionals and families in their jurisdiction to improve mental and emotional functioning during difficult court procedures. This section will advance prior presentations from Dr. Allott on decision making and health.

**11:30 – 12:30 pm Civility.** Tim Jaaasko-Fisher, Director of Curriculum and Program Development at Roberts Fund, will discuss the role health plays in the civil practice of law, and the role Civility plays in the health of the professionals and clients in the system, including the cost of incivility and thinking about promoting civil behavior among litigants in your court.

**12:30 – 1:15 Lunch.**  Served at the Lodge.

**1:15 – 3:00 pm Trauma Responsive Courts.** Robin Sigo, MSW, Grants Director and Tribal Councilwoman at Suquamish Nation, Tessa Keating, and Robert Wyman, Co-Director of The Court Improvement Training Academy, will discuss ACEs in more depth and with a focus on Indian Country and Native families in state court; and then lead a discussion on efforts to create court systems and practices that help courts assess and respond to trauma among the population of families that appear before them. Opportunities for leadership and resources to support leadership efforts will also be presented and discussed.

**3:00 – 3:15** **Break.**

**3:15 – 4:30 Mock Hearing.** Judges and other attendees will participate as a group in a mock hearing (initial shelter/protective hearing) where we will attempt to gather and put into practice the concepts and perspectives discussed throughout the day.

**4:30 Adjourn to Dinner, served at the Lodge and Hosted by National American Indian Judges Association and Casey Family Programs.** Included during this time will be a keynote address from Cheryl Fairbanks of the University of New Mexico School of Law, and Executive Committee member of the Board of Directors at NAICJA. She will begin our work on Peacemaking by discussing some of the foundational values and cultural underpinnings of the Peacemaking process.

**Friday, December 11th**

**8:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast at Kiana Lodge.**

**8:30 – 11:00 am Peacemaking Courts.** Hon. Cheryl Fairbanks, Brett Shelton of Native American Rights Fund, and Judge Tim Connors, Presiding Judge of Washtenah County, MI, Juvenile Court, will take us through a discussion of the foundational principles of Peacemaking, conduct and debrief a mock Peacemaking process, and then discuss the implementation of the Peacemaking process in a State (Michigan) dependency court process. Opportunities and support for Judge’s efforts to implement these principles in their courts will be presented.

**11:00 am Adjourn to Lunch and State-Tribal Roundtable hosted by NAICJA and CFP.**

**Bio of Presenters:**

As a physician and highly regarded national speaker, **Dr. Kristen Allott** is passionate about assisting individuals and organizations to optimizing brain performance to improve decision making, creativity and health. For more than a decade, Dr. Allott has refined her expertise on how to promote increased mental functioning by treating the physical causes of fatigue, depression, anxiety and sugar cravings. Today, through achievable tools, Dr. Allott will help you address habits to optimize brain function, reduce fatigue, increase mental clarity, and reduce reactive decision making. Dr. Allott graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in biology and minor in religious studies. In 2002, she received her Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine, and in 2004 her Masters in Acupuncture from Bastyr University in Seattle WA. She has been a practicing licensed physician and acupuncturist in the State of Washington for more that a decade. Dr. Allott’s private practice Dynamic Paths specializes in non-pharmaceutical interventions for fatigue, depression, anxiety, addictions and sugar cravings.

**Tim Jaasko-Fisher** works with people and organizations to evolve leadership for complex

social issues resulting in improved outcomes and stronger more engaged communities of

practice. He is Assistant Director of Programming and Curriculum at Robert’s Fund, Tim provides consultation and training focused on improving consciousness, creativity, and community to promote a more civil world.

Tim is formerly the Director of the Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) at the

University of Washington School of Law, and has consulted with courts across Washington

State to improve their response to child abuse and neglect since 2007. As a member of the

federal Quality Improvement Center on Youth Representation curriculum team, he has

provided training and consultation for a nationally focused program designed to improve the

quality of youth representation in child welfare proceedings. He has served as a member of

two Supreme Court Commission on Youth in Foster Care subcommittees, one focusing on

best practices in dependency court and another addressing standards for attorneys

representing youth.

Tim earned his bachelor of arts in government from New Mexico State University in 1993

and his juris doctor from Seattle University School of Law in 1996. He completed a master of

arts from Seattle University’s Organization Systems Renewal program in 2011.

**Robin Little Wing Sigo, MSW**, is a member of the Suquamish Tribe and serves as the Tribal Council Treasurer and the Grant Development Director. For the last ten years, she has been the Co-Investigator on a National Institute of Health research grant to reduce youth substance abuse through community-based interventions.  She also worked for 5 years as a mental health counselor focusing her skills on treating complex-trauma on the Port Madison Indian Reservation.  She earned her BA in Anthropology from Western Washington University, and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington.

**Tessa Keating**  LICSW MSW (Equiv.)

Tessa has held a variety of roles in child welfare in the US and the UK for over 25 years.  Tessa earned her master’s degree in Oxford, England and then worked as a children and families social worker in London.  Following her move to the USA she worked in policy and practice initiatives at the University of Washington School of Social Work, most recently as Director of Partner Engagement at Partners for Our Children.   Tessa is currently working in clinical social work practice at community-based agencies in the Puget Sound area.

**Rob Wyman** is the Co-Director of the Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) at

the University of Washington School of Law where he works with Judges, Commissioners,

attorneys, social workers, CASA and other stakeholders in child welfare. CITA uses data to inform strategic planning and facilitates the process of innovation and change in child welfare systems, and delivers training to judges, attorneys, and other stakeholders. Rob is also an attorney consultant with the Judicial Engagement Team of the National Center for State Courts, a program of Casey Family Programs, currently working in Maricopa County Juvenile Court to further the goal of Safely Reducing the number of children and youth in the foster care system.

Rob spent five years after college working in the juvenile corrections systems in

Washington and Oregon States in many capacities. He then went to the University of

Denver to attain an MSW and JD, specializing in the representation of children and youth in

the foster care system. After graduation, Rob worked at The Defender Association in

Seattle for 12 years, and supervised attorneys representing parents and youth in the dependency

division there for eight years.

**Hon. Cheryl Fairbanks** is a partner in the firm of Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP.  Her practice concentrates in the areas of Indian Law, State-Tribal Relations, Indian Gaming, Tribal Courts, Mediation, Family, School, and Educational Law.

Ms. Fairbanks obtained her B.A. from Fort Lewis College in 1969.  She obtained her J.D. in 1987 from the University of New Mexico.

Prior to her law career, Ms. Fairbanks served as a teacher for the Albuquerque Public Schools, Zia Day School, and Administrator for Acomita Day School and the Santa Fe Indian School.

Ms. Fairbanks worked with the New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs, as Sr. Policy Analyst, in the area of state-tribal relations.  She was instrumental in establishing the Indian Child Welfare Desk, New Mexico Office of Indian Tourism, the University of New Mexico Indian Law Clinic, and the passage of the New Mexico Indian Arts and Crafts Act.

Ms. Fairbanks’ professional associations include the State Bar of New Mexico (Member, Indian Law Section; Co-Director, CLE); Federal Bar Association; New Mexico Indian Bar Association (past President); National American Indian Court Judges Association Family Court Judge, Santa Clara Pueblo, 1992-1994; Chief Justice Yavapai Apache, 1995 - 2005; Associate Justice, Saginaw Band of Chippewa Indians; Member, New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution.  She currently serves as a Justice for the Inter Tribal Court of Appeals for Nevada and is adjunct faculty for the National Judicial College.

Ms. Fairbanks is Tlingit-Tsimpshian and was born in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Prior to joining the Cuddy Law Firm, Ms. Fairbanks was a partner with the law firm of Roth, VanAmberg, Rogers, Ortiz, Fairbanks & Yepa, LLP, where she specialized in Indian law.

**Judge Tim Connors** has been a State Court Judge since 1991.  For eleven of those years he served as a Chief Judge. He has served by appointment as Judge Pro Tem for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Judge Connors is the Presiding Judge of the Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court and the Juvenile Court. He also presides over cases in the Civil Division of the Washtenaw County Trial Court.

Judge Connors is the author of Our Children are Sacred, Why the Indian Child Welfare Act Matters; American Bar Association Judges Journal, Spring 2011 and Crow Dogs vs. Spotted Tail: Case Closed?; Michigan Bar Journal, July 2010. He co-authored, *TRIBAL COURT PEACEMAKING A Model for the Michigan State Court System?* Michigan Bar Journal, June 2015

In 2015, Judge Connors received the Hilda Gage Judicial Excellence Award from the Michigan Judges Association. The award “honors judges who serve their profession and their communities with integrity, skill, and courage every day.” Judge Connors is a three-time recipient of the Justice Blair Moody Award for Significant Contributions to Judicial Excellence. In 2014, Judge Connors was awarded the Child Welfare Jurist of the Year Award by the Foster Care Review Board. He also received the Peace Builder Award on behalf of the Washtenaw County Peacemaking Court from the Dispute Resolution Center. This award was given “in recognition of outstanding commitment to the practice of just and humane resolution of social conflict.” Further in 2014, dbusiness, Detroit’s Premier Business Journal recognized Judge Connors as one of the “top circuit court judges” in Southeast Michigan. This recognition was based on integrity, knowledge of the law, efficiency and judicial temperament. Judge Connors was awarded the Tecumseh Peacekeeping Award for Dedicated Service to Protecting the Rights of American Indians from the Michigan State Bar Indian Law Section.  Judge Connors was presented with the Patriot Award for Outstanding Service to the Bench, the Bar, and the Community from the Washtenaw County Bar Association in 2009.

In 2014, Judge Connors was elected Chairman of the Board of Eversight, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the restoration of sight. Judge Connors is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Tribal Leadership Forum.