



National Native American Bar Association

RESOLUTION # 2013-1

TITLE: Supporting Increased Funding for Tribal Justice Systems

WHEREAS, the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) works to promote issues important to the Native American community and to improve professional opportunities for Native American lawyers, we do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NNABA was founded in 1973 and serves as the national association for Native American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students, and NNABA strives to be a leader on social, cultural, political and legal issues affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native Nations constitute a third sovereign within the American system of justice; and

WHEREAS, today, the vast majority of the more than 350 current tribal justice systems function in isolated rural communities. These tribal justice systems face many of the same difficulties faced by other isolated rural communities, but these problems are greatly magnified by the many other complex problems that are unique to Indian country; and

WHEREAS, tribal justice systems are faced with a lack of jurisdiction over non-Indians, complex jurisdictional relationships with federal and state criminal justice systems, inadequate law enforcement, lack of detention staff and facilities, lack of sentencing or disposition alternatives, lack of access to advanced technology, lack of educational opportunities in detention facilities, and lack of substance abuse testing and treatment options; and

WHEREAS, in recent decades, tribal communities have faced significant problems in addressing public safety issues. Violent crime rates are more than 2.5 times the national rate; some reservations face more than 20 times the national rate of violence; and

WHEREAS, violence against Native women has reached epidemic proportions. Thirty-four percent of Native women will be raped in their lifetimes and 39 percent will be the victim of domestic violence; and

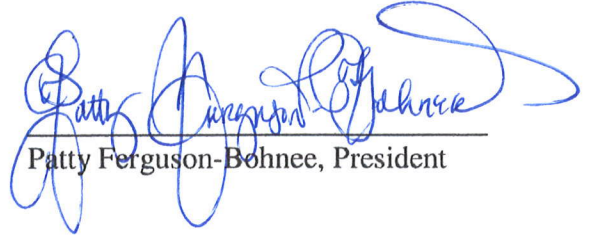
WHEREAS, basic law enforcement protection and services are severely inadequate for most of Indian Country. This problem affects more than 1.4 million people who depend on the federal government for these services. Simply put, many American citizens living on Indian

reservations do not receive even the minimum level of law enforcement services taken for granted in non-Indian communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Native American Bar Association calls upon federal authorities to make available the necessary funding and resources to tribal governments to develop and maintain tribal justice systems.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the National Native American Bar Association, on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, with a quorum present.



Patty Ferguson-Bohnee, President

ATTEST:



Linda Benally, Recording Secretary