

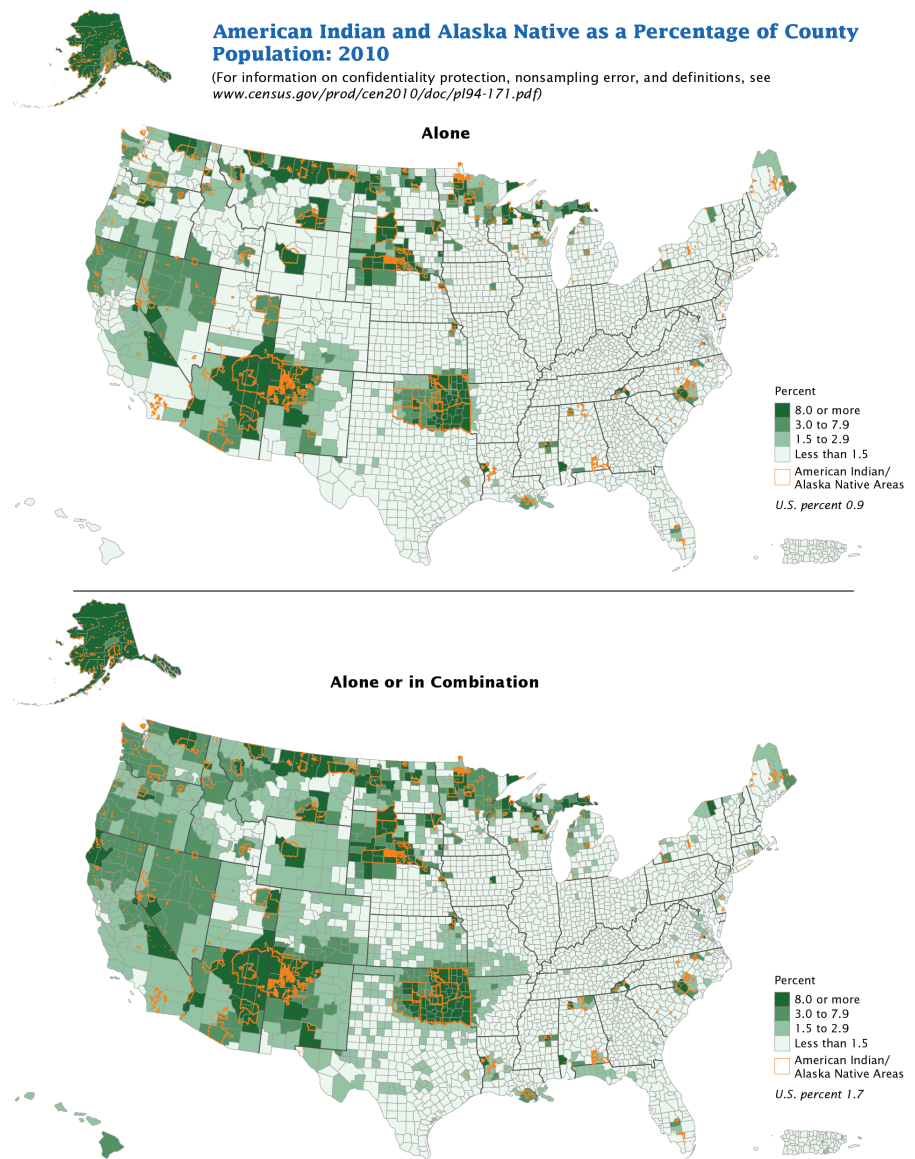
Legal Resources for Human Services Agencies Serving Native American Clients

Human services attorneys and other staff who serve Native American and American Indian individuals and communities may encounter a need for access to targeted legal resources. A 2012 report by the U.S. Census Bureau showed that the “U.S. population on April 1, 2010, was 308.7 million. Out of the total U.S. population, 2.9 million people, or 0.9 percent, were American Indian and Alaska Native alone. In addition, 2.3 million people, or another 0.7 percent, reported they were American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races. Together, these two groups totaled 5.2 million people. Thus, 1.7 percent of all people in the United States identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, either alone or in combination with one or more other races.”¹

This article presents an abridged listing of helpful national and regional legal resources. It is not exhaustive and no endorsement is implied.

1. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.² The website states: “The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribes and Alaska Native entities as provided by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, court decisions, and Federal statutes. Within the government-to-government relationship, Indian Affairs provides services directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts to 567 federally recognized tribes with a service population of about 1.9 million.” The website also features an excellent document library.³

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

2. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice.⁴ Its purpose is “to provide a principal point of contact within the Department of Justice to listen to the concerns of Indian Tribes and to communicate the Department’s policies to the Tribes and the public; to promote internal uniformity of Department of Justice policies and litigation positions relating to Indian country; and to coordinate with other Federal agencies and with State and Local governments on their initiatives in Indian country.” A list of frequently asked questions pertaining to legal issues can be found on the website as well.⁵

3. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans (ANA) was established in 1974. It “serves all Native Americans, including federally recognized tribes, American Indian and Alaska Native organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations and Native populations throughout the Pacific Basin (including American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). ANA promotes self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing discretionary grant funding for community based projects, and training and technical assistance to eligible tribes and native organizations.” The website has an extensive listing of programs and resources.⁶

4. The Library of Congress contains an Indigenous Law Portal.⁷

5. Other resources within U.S. federal agencies and independent regulatory agencies.⁸

6. NativeOneStop.gov,⁹ a one-stop shop for American Indians and Alaska Natives to access resources available from the U.S. Government.

7. National Indian Law Library.¹⁰ “The National Indian Law Library (NIL) of the Native American Rights Fund is a law library devoted to federal Indian and tribal law. NIL maintains a unique and valuable collection of Indian law resources and assists people with their Indian law-related research

needs.” The website also has a wealth of information on federal Indian law, tribal law, and much more. An excellent resource, *A Practical Guide to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)*, is available on the website.¹¹

8. The Tribal Court Clearinghouse website¹² “provides links to all Federal Courts and case summaries of Indian law cases decided by the United States Supreme Court from 1991 through 2008 with links to the court syllabus, the full opinions for each case, and all dissents. It also contains information concerning Indian law cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court during the current term.”

9. Among much other useful information, an alphabetized tribal list is maintained by the **National Congress of American Indians.**¹³ Also available is a current listing of conferences and events¹⁴ and Native youth program information and events.¹⁵

10. The National Native American Bar Association¹⁶ “represents the interests of all populations indigenous to the lands which are now collectively the United States: American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.”


11. The Northwest Indian Bar Association,¹⁷ “a non-profit organization of attorneys, judges, and Indian law practitioners in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, aspires to improve the legal and political landscape for Pacific Northwest Indian communities.”

12. The Alaska Native Justice Center,¹⁸ among other things, “... assists in the resolution of legal circumstances such as divorce, child custody, domestic violence/sexual assault, minor in consuming violations, and adult prisoner reentry.”

13. The Indian Law Resource Center¹⁹ “provides legal assistance to Indian nations and other indigenous peoples in the United States and throughout the Americas.” All of their work is done at no cost to their clients.

14. The Indigenous Law & Policy Center²⁰ “is the heart of the Michigan State University Indigenous Law

Program. The Center has two goals: to train law students to work with Indian Country, and to provide services to institutional clients such as Indian tribes, tribal courts, and other tribal organizations on a wide variety of legal and policy questions.”

15. To find individual attorneys these two searches may be useful: **FindLaw**[®], Native Peoples Lawyers by location²¹; **Lawyers.com**SM, Indian and Native Populations Lawyer or Law Firm by State.²² 

Reference Notes

1. The American Indian and Native Alaska Population: 2010. Available at www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-10.pdf.
2. See www.bia.gov
3. See www.bia.gov/DocumentLibrary/index.htm.
4. See www.justice.gov/otj
5. See www.justice.gov/otj/frequently-asked-questions
6. See www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/about/what-we-do
7. See www.loc.gov/law/help/indigenous-law-guide/americas/north-america/united-states
8. See www.whitehouse.gov/nativeamericans/resources
9. See www.nativeonestop.gov
10. See www.narf.org/nill/index.html
11. See www.narf.org/nill/documents/icwa/index.html
12. See <http://tribal-institute.org/lists/supreme.htm>
13. See www.ncai.org/tribal-directory
14. See www.ncai.org/conferences-events
15. See www.ncai.org/native-youth
16. See www.nativeamericanbar.org
17. See www.nwiba.org
18. See www.anjc.org
19. See <http://indianlaw.org/content/programs>
20. See www.law.msu.edu/indigenous/center-clinic.html
21. See <http://lawyers.findlaw.com/lawyer/practice/native-peoples-law>
22. See www.lawyers.com/indians-and-native-populations/find-law-firms-by-location

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