



The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians requests your presence  
at the

**2014 INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT CONFERENCE**  
For Judges, Attorneys, Social Workers and other Professionals  
who handle Youth Court Cases

to be held on  
**August 14, 2014**  
at the  
Pearl River Resort's Silver Star Hotel & Convention Center  
Choctaw, Mississippi

Developed and Sponsored by:  
The Mississippi Band of Choctaws Model Court  
Forrest County Model Court  
DFCS Court Improvement Workgroup/Mississippi Child Welfare Professional Development  
Unit

In collaboration with:  
The Mississippi Administrative Office of Courts and Court Improvement Program  
The Mississippi Judicial College

In conjunction with:  
The National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues  
The National Resource Center for Tribes  
The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Along with this invitation, please find attached additional information  
concerning registration for the conference, an interactive registration form, and  
the conference agenda.

The Mississippi Judicial College will cover the cost of travel and overnight  
accommodations for those judges and youth court referees who attend.

# 2014 ICWA CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## PRE-REGISTRATION:

If you plan to attend the conference, please complete this linked registration form <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=2lToiAxxbui3pIC%2Ad9ZbBw> and submit to the Mississippi Judicial College as soon as possible so that we can confirm your attendance and better plan for the conference. **There is no registration fee for attendance.**

## REGISTRATION:

Early registration for the conference will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Silver Star Hotel Convention Center. Registration will continue the next morning from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

## CONFERENCE:

The conference general sessions for Thursday will be held in the Ballroom of the Silver Star Convention Center. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Please refer to the conference agenda for function and sessions times.

## LODGING:

A block of rooms has been reserved for conference participants at the Silver Star Hotel for the nights of Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. To make reservations, call 866-44-PEARL, and inform the Pearl River representative that you will be attending this conference and that the group code is **GICWA14**.

The deadline for making reservations in the conference room block is **Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** and the single or double room rate is \$79. Reservations made after the cut-off date will be made at the prevailing rate, and subject to availability.

All reservations must be made directly by you with the Pearl River Resort and must be guaranteed by a major credit card. If it becomes necessary to cancel your reservation for whatever reason, you will need to contact the Pearl River Resort and make the cancellation. Please be sure to write down your confirmation number. The Silver Star requires seventy-two (72) hours notice prior to the scheduled check-in time. **The room rate charges will be changed to MJC's master account after you arrive, but you will be responsible for incidentals charged to your room.**

Hotel Check-in Time: 4:00 p.m. Hotel Check-out Time: 11:00 a.m.

## 2014 ICWA Conference Information

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### CONTINUING EDUCATION:

This conference has received prior approval to provide Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for attorneys, Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) for judges, and Continuing Education Units (CEU) for other participants.

### TRAVEL AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT:

A travel allowance of 56 cents per mile will be paid to judges and referees who drive their own vehicle. Judges from the same county should consider car pooling. A reimbursement form for meals and mileage will be provided by MJC in the conference notebook which you will receive at registration.

### MJC BOARD OF GOVERNORS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY:

100% attendance is required of all MJC constituent groups who are eligible for reimbursement. This includes mileage, meals and lodging.

### CONFERENCE e-REGISTRATION FORM:

Please follow this link to our secured website to use our iPhone/smartphone/iPad/tablet friendly e-Registration Form:

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=2lToiAxxbui3pIC%2Ad9ZbBw>

Upon completion of the e-Registration Form, you will receive an automatic confirmation e-mail verifying the information you provided.



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662-915-7845 (Fax)

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<http://mjc.olemiss.edu>



# INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT CONFERENCE

"Pathways to Justice for Native American Children"

Silver Star at the Pearl River Resort - Choctaw, MS

August 14, 2014

## AGENDA

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.      Early Registration      Silver Star Convention Center Lobby

Thursday, August 14, 2014

8:00 a.m.      Registration /Pre-Conference Survey      Silver Star Convention Center Lobby

8:00 a.m.      Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m.      Opening Ceremony      Silver Star Convention Center Ballroom

### INVOCATION

Harold "Doc" Comby, Deputy Director of Law Enforcement,  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

### COLOR GUARD

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

### UNITED STATES NATIONAL ANTHEM

Presented in the Choctaw Language  
Nana Frazier, Choctaw Health Center

2014 ICWA Conference Agenda

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9:15 a.m.

WELCOME

Chief Phylliss J. Anderson, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Justice Randy Pierce, Mississippi Supreme Court  
Mark Smith, Deputy Executive Director, Mississippi Department of  
Human Services  
2014-2015 Choctaw Indian Princess

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

Hon. Kevin Briscoe,  
Chief Justice of Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Supreme Court

Morning Sessions

Silver Star Convention Center Ballroom

9:30 a.m.

"ICWA: COLLABORATION, CONSENSUS AND COMITY -  
The Pathway to Justice for Native American Children"  
Hon. Monica Zamora, Judge  
New Mexico Court of Appeals and  
Co-Chair, New Mexico Tribal-State Consortium

10:30 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.

ICWA COURT CASE OVERVIEW AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
Melody McCoy, Esq., Native American Rights Fund

12:00 p.m.

NETWORKING LUNCH  
MCBI Elder Dancers

Afternoon Sessions

Silver Star Convention Center Ballroom

1:00 p.m.

TRIBAL-STATE MODEL PANEL

Hon. Holly Denson, Youth Court, MCBI  
Hon. Richard Blake, Chief Judge, Hoopa Tribe  
Hon. Jo Ann Battise, Peacemaker, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas  
Hon. Kami Hart, Juvenile Judge, Gila River  
Mary Fuller, MDHS/DFCS

2:30 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m.

ICWA ETHICS PANEL

Hon. Cheryl Fairbanks, Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP and Justice, ITCAN  
Melissa Carlton, Esq., Office of the Attorney General, MCB  
Hon. Anita Fineday, Indian Child Welfare Program, Director,  
Casey Family Programs, Former Chief Judge, White Earth Nation  
Hon. Edwin Smith, Justice, MCB Supreme Court

3:45 p.m.

CLOSING

"Our Vision for Pathways to Justice for Native American Children,  
Families & Communities"  
Cheriena Ben, Tribal Council and Judicial Affairs Chairperson, MCB  
Hon. William Thorne, (Retired) Casey Family Programs  
Gina Jackson, Casey Family Programs

Post-Conference Survey

4:30 p.m.

ADJOURN & CLOSING PRAYER