



For Immediate Release

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**AMERICAN INDIAN LAW CENTER LAUNCHES TWO ONLINE TRAININGS IN
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMATE PARTNER SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Albuquerque, NM – April 24, 2012 – The American Indian Law Center, Inc. (AILC) today announced two online trainings in domestic violence and intimate partner sexual abuse as part of its Tribal Court Training Program. *The Domestic Violence Virtual Courtroom* teaches about the issuance and violation of restraining orders from a tribal court judge’s perspective. The second online training, *Tribal Court Practice: Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse (IPSA)*, focuses on multidisciplinary resources and data in Indian Country. Both online trainings were created primarily for tribal court judges. The online trainings are free of charge and are accessible at www.aile-inc.org.

The Domestic Violence Virtual Courtroom includes video scenarios filmed from a tribal court judge’s perspective utilizing an electronic case file of the hypothetical hearings. In this basic training, the trainee is asked to rule on motions or answer questions from a judge’s point of view. Feedback is provided in the form of bench tools and analysis points.

The Tribal Court Practice: IPSA provides an overview of topics dealing with intimate partner sexual abuse in Indian Country and the possible dynamics of such issues in the tribal courtroom. Synopses and quotes from multidisciplinary resources and data comprise the curriculum for this online training. *The Tribal Court Practice: IPSA* adapted a course by the National Judicial Education Program of Legal Momentum to offer a basic training to tribal court judges.

The AILC collaborated with the University of New Mexico School of Law’s Southwest Indian Law Clinic to develop and implement the online programs. “It is vital to the continued development of tribal courts that accessible training be offered electronically to tribal judges on these important subject areas impacting Indian Country,” said Helen B. Padilla, Director of AILC. “With many tribal courts located in rural areas, AILC hopes this training will reach and be helpful to as many tribal courts as possible.” Funding is provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services.

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About the American Indian Law Center, Inc.

Established in 1967, the AILC is the oldest existing Indian-managed and Indian-operated legal and public policy organization in the country serving to strengthen, promote, and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education, training, and leadership.

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