



Statement from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges on Supreme Court Ruling Upholding Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA):

The Supreme Court's decision marks a significant milestone in upholding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), preserving tribal sovereignty, and protecting Native American children and families. It affirms the ICWA's constitutionality, emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural identity and connections. This decision aligns with our collaborative efforts to educate the judiciary in both state and tribal courts as well as [our resolution](#) calling for full implementation of the ICWA, which recognizes the historical injustices faced by Native American communities and emphasizes the significance of tribal sovereignty in promoting the well-being of Native American children.

By prioritizing the placement of Native American children within their extended families, tribes, and Native American communities, this decision helps to rectify past wrongs and fosters a sense of identity and resilience. It underscores the obligation of state courts and child welfare agencies to actively preserve and strengthen Native American families, ensuring the best interests of Native American children are safeguarded.

Judge Hiram Puig-Lugo

Past President, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Judge John Romero, Jr. (ret.)

Past President, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Joey Orduña Hastings

CEO, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges