



**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONVENING
OF THE TRIBAL JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP GROUP**

WHEREAS, it has been 15 years since the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (hereinafter referred to as the “NCJFCJ”) hosted the first Tribal Judicial Leadership Gathering on December 15-16, 2010, at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort on the Gila River Indian Community; and

WHEREAS, tribal judges and representatives from twenty-one tribal nations attended the first gathering along with NCJFCJ leadership and key staff, two state court judges from Michigan and Arizona, and representatives from national partners including Casey Family Programs, the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA), and the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA); and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ gives recognition to the NCJFCJ leadership and staff team among many others who assisted to organize and facilitate the first gathering; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 the Tribal Judicial Leadership Group continued to gather and expanded partnerships with NAICJA offering joint membership and with Casey Family Programs to support ICWA Courts; and

WHEREAS, the gathering evolved into the NCJFCJ’s implementation of an annual Tribal-State Collaboration Luncheon at its Annual Conference, the State-Tribal Partnerships Advisory Committee, Tribal Model Court and Implementation Sites, a dedicated Tribal Child Abuse and Neglect Institute and a Tribal Judicial Institute on Child Sex Trafficking among other tribal initiatives of the National Council; and

WHEREAS, the voice of tribes and tribal court judges continues to be a necessary component in NCJFCJ’s ability to fulfill its mission to provide all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice and its vision for a society in which every family and child has access to fair, equal, effective, and timely justice; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ, through its partnership and collaboration with tribal courts, has improved the standards, practices, and effectiveness of the nation’s courts handling juvenile delinquency, family law, dependency, and domestic violence cases and improving



the effectiveness of the nation's courts in upholding the rights of all parties and victims, the safety of all family members, and the safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ, in serving children and families, recognizes that tribal and state courts are equal and parallel justice systems; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ recognizes that children and families are best served within the contexts of their community and honors the relationship that tribal courts have within their tribes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED appreciation and gratitude is expressed to those who have supported the NCJFCJ toward this important milestone in its history and advancing the NCJFCJ's partnerships with tribal judges, tribal courts, and tribal organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NCJFCJ remains committed to partnering with tribal courts and judges as allies consistent with the commitment of all courts to meet the needs of all children and families served by the state courts and tribal courts and remains committed to an ongoing partnership with NAICJA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCJFCJ will continue to work with the tribal courts, tribal governing bodies, and other tribal authorities to ensure equal treatment of, and resources for, all Native families and children at all levels of government.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Directors on March 14, 2026, Minneapolis, Minnesota.