

Native judges meet in Anchorage

Three of Alaska's four Native judges (Judge Roy Madsen, Kodiak; Judge Nora Guinn, Bethel; and Magistrate Ross Schaeffer, Kotzebue) met in Anchorage on June 4, 1976 to develop proposals to involve Native villages in the judicial decision-making process.

The proposals included binding arbitration at the village level before a case goes to court, village input into sentencing and creation of municipal courts as part of the unified court system.

The proposals will be written up and then reviewed at a conference now planned for July.

These proposals and perhaps additional proposals will then be finalized for presentation at a Third Statewide Bush Justice Conference now tentatively planned for Kodiak during the last week of September.

The proposals are based on the recommendations of the Minto Bush Justice Conference and in some cases will require legislative and court rule changes to implement them. The Anchorage conference was organized by the Alaska Federation of Native, Inc.

Bush Justice Project on a small grant obtained from the Alaska Humanities Forum. At least partial funding for the July and September conferences will be sought from the same source.