

Reno names new Office of Tribal Justice

Attorney General Janet Reno has announced the creation of an Office of Tribal Justice in the Department of Justice to improve services to American Indians and Alaska Natives by coordinating Department policies and positions on issues involving both groups.

"This will enable the Department's programs to operate more effectively and to provide better service to Indian tribes and Indian people across the country," said Reno.

The Department's threefold mission will be:

- to provide a point of contact

within the Department to listen to the concerns of Indian tribes and other parties interested in Indian affairs and to communicate the Department's policies to tribes and the public;

- to promote internal uniformity of Department of Justice policies and litigation positions relating to Indian country; and

- to coordinate with other federal agencies and with state and local governments on their initiatives in Indian country.

The Office will be established within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and is expected

to be fully operational by early February, according to Reno.

The Department will be staffed by positions from various components within the Department. This structure will allow the office to coordinate Indian issues without exceeding existing budgetary and personnel resources.

Herbert A. Becker, a Sioux Indian from North Dakota, will be the Director of the Office. He has been a lawyer with the federal government for 22 years.

More information about the Office of Tribal Justice can be obtained by calling (202) 514-8812.