

Indigenous Access to Civil Justice Global Conference

February 1-3, 2023
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

Call for Proposals

Global understandings of “access to justice” are rapidly changing. Increasingly, scholars, policy makers, and practitioners are shifting from a focus on lawyers and access to formal justice institutions to a more people-centered approach. This is an energizing change, with strategies prioritizing legal empowerment, community-based justice solutions, and understanding individuals’ own diverse experiences of the law.

Yet at the same time, these people-centered initiatives still largely respond to and exist within dominant legal systems—systems that persistently exclude the complex and urgent voices of Indigenous communities. The impacts of this are highly consequential: Not only do Indigenous people disproportionately contend with long-standing socioeconomic marginalization, correspondingly high rates of legal need, and complex barriers to accessing justice, but they simultaneously hold trusted, timely, and creative alternatives for access and justice.

In response, and with rightful urgency, the Indigenous Access to Civil Justice Global Conference seeks to collectively identify and broadly mobilize **what access to civil justice means for Indigenous people in postcolonial and settler colonial settings**. Bringing together diverse scholars from across the globe, this conference will constructively unsettle conventional legal approaches to civil justice; build community; and enrich emergent access to justice innovations across jurisdictions and geographies. Please join us!

Who can apply?

Researchers, in or beyond the academy, whose work explores the interface between Indigenous experiences, identities, laws, and/or courts and access to civil justice. We welcome proposals on these or other related themes:

- Conceptualizations of access and justice in Indigenous legal systems
- Cross-jurisdictional access to justice challenges and collaborative possibilities
- Tribal sovereignty and access to justice
- The role of community paralegals, tribal lay advocates, and other non-lawyer actors
- Place and spatial justice, including housing, climate change, and land/property rights
- The health and wellbeing impacts of justice gaps in Indigenous communities
- Evidence-based practices
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and family law
- Tribal, customary and peacemaking courts, restorative justice, and other justice forums
- Indigenous research methodologies and access to justice
- Responsible data, technology, and information exchange
- Implementing and evaluating Indigenous access to justice initiatives in tribal and non-tribal court settings

Research exploring these topics from any jurisdiction and geography is welcome, as is comparative research.

How do I apply to participate?

Submit a one-page proposal describing your project. This proposal should make clear:

- 1) Your research question
- 2) An overview of the data you will use or have access to
- 3) The relationship of the project to the goals of the conference

Proposals are due by October 14, 2022 and should be submitted to indigenoua2jconf@gmail.com. Individuals will be notified by November 16, 2022 if their submission has been accepted.

Is there a registration fee?

There is no registration fee for the conference. Limited travel scholarships will be available and will be prioritized for participants who would not otherwise be able to attend.

Organizing Team

The conference is organized by Matthew Burnett (American Bar Foundation), Lisa Moore (Canadian Forum on Civil Justice), Rebecca Sandefur (Chickasaw Nation; Arizona State University and American Bar Foundation), and Michele Statz (University of Minnesota).

Questions? Email indigenoua2jconf@gmail.com.