



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

From: Winnay Wemigwase

Date: February 24 through February 27, 2014

Re: Tribal Code Development: TOLA, VAWA & Non-Indians

I attended this tribal code development training as part of a Tribal Council ad-hoc committee that has been tasked with writing the necessary laws to implement both the Tribal Law and Order Act and the reauthorized Violence Against Women Act for our Tribe. The committee is comprised of Tribal Secretary Julie Shananaquet, Legislative Services Attorney Donna Budnick, LTBB Prosecutor Matthew Lesky, the LTBB Chief Judge's Designee, LTBB Tribal Court Administrator Sarah Brubaker and me. All of us, except for Matt Lesky (due to a death in his family), traveled to Reno, Nevada to attend the two-day workshop.

The workshop was hosted by The National Tribal Judicial College on the campus of the University of Nevada. It was funded by a grant from the United States Department of Justice, so

most of our travel was covered by the Department of Justice. There were approximately twenty-eight participants from tribes all over the country. We had two instructors that led us through two days of information, strategies and things to consider in regards to implementing both Acts. The topics we covered took into account all aspects of both Acts, and provided suggestions for implementing each law effectively. The content was organized into fifty-minute sessions: 1) Civil Penalties for Non-Indians, 2) TLOA and VAWA Compliance in Your Code, 3) Reviewing and Updating Tribal Criminal Codes: A Process Guide, 4) Auditing Your Code, 5) TLOA Pitfalls and Practices, 6) Community Involvement, 7) Restraining Order Practice Under VAWA, 8) Jury Selection Issues, 9) Going Public with Your Code.

It was a great learning experience, and a good confidence booster as we realized that many of the suggestions and issues that they covered we have already contemplated and/or are working on for our Tribe. I continue to look forward to working on this important project for our community. We have some challenges to overcome, but we are trying to do our best in protecting our citizens and community members utilizing the safeguards provided by both of these Acts. I am grateful for the opportunity to help with this important endeavor, and I thank the community for allowing me to attend this very informative training.

Respectfully submitted by,

Councilor Winnay Wemigwase