Articles published in the *Michigan Bar Journal* pertaining to American Indian Law:

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TRIBAL COURTS

Bay Mills Indian Community
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Hannahville Indian Community
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi (Gun Lake Tribe)
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

(Information as of January 2020)
DIRECTORY OF TRIBAL COURTS

Twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan operate their own tribal courts; in addition, there is one inter-tribal court system. Tribal courts exercise exclusive jurisdiction over misdemeanors involving Indians and concurrent jurisdiction with the federal courts over felonies involving Indians that occur on reservations. Tribal courts have broad powers in matters involving the welfare of Indian children, pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 USC 1901 et seq. Tribal courts also have jurisdiction over a variety of civil matters involving both Indians and non-Indians when the activities in question occur on their reservations. For further information, contact a specific court listed below or Michigan Indian Legal Services, (800) 968-6877.

BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

Tribal Office Address:
Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Court, 12449 W Lakeshore Dr
Brimley, MI 49715, 906-248-8810/8811, FAX: 906-248-5817

Tribal Organization:
IRA government formed 1937
Constitution enacted 1988
Number of Council members — 7
Number of Tribal members — approximately 4,000
Tribal Council term of office — 4 years

Judicial Organization:
The Tribal Court exercises civil and criminal jurisdiction over its reservation, which consists of 2,000 acres in Chippewa County, MI. Jurisdiction is also exercised regarding commercial and subsistence natural resource harvesting activities of enrolled members of the Bay Mills Indian Community within the 1836 Treaty ceded territory.

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
To be admitted to practice before the Tribal Court, attorneys must provide proof of membership in good standing in the State Bar of their state of residence. Also, a court advocate (who is a member of the State Bar of Michigan) is available to be appointed to represent defendants charged with violating either major civil infractions or criminal offenses at the election of the defendant. Finally, lay advocates are admitted at the court's discretion.

Court Facilities:
Facilities include a courtroom, jury deliberation room, judge’s chambers, clerk’s office, and law library. The law library contains both primary and secondary legal authorities regarding tribal, state, and federal matters. Case and docket management is fully computerized.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
The tribe has an agreement with the Chippewa County Department of Social Services for emergency child welfare case investigations.
Tribal Prosecutor: Robert E. LeMire Jr.
Court Clerk: Jeanne Meshigaud

Current Personnel:

Judicial Organization:
Number of Tribal members—918
Tribal Council term of office—3 years
Number of Council members—12
Constitution enacted July 23, 1936
IRA government formed June 27, 1936 pursuant to 48 Stat. 981

Tribal Organization:

Tribal Office Address:
Wilson, MI 49896, 906-723-2696, FAX: 906-466-7377

Intergovernmental Agreements:

Territorial Jurisdiction:
The Grand Traverse Band Tribal Court exercises jurisdiction pursuant to the Constitution and Tribal Code. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians tribal government is based on the reservation located in Peshawbestown, Michigan, but the tribe has trust property and tribally owned lands within the tribe’s six-county service area of Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Manistee counties.

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
Attorneys licensed in any state may practice before the Tribal Court. Tribal lay advocates with sufficient knowledge of the Tribal Constitution and Tribal Code may also practice before the court.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
The Grand Traverse Band has mutual assistance (cross-deputization) agreements for law enforcement with Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, and Leelanau counties, and also has agreements for jail space within each of those counties.
The Grand Traverse Band is a member of Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), which regulates Great Lakes fishing by tribal members pursuant to a consent decree with the state of Michigan. The Grand Traverse Band also recently reached a consent decree agreement with the state of Michigan concerning regulation of inland hunting and fishing.
The Tribal Judiciary has adopted court rules (Chapter 10 of the GTBCR) regarding enforcement of foreign judgments that have been filed and recognized by the State Court Administrator’s Office pursuant to MCR 2.615.
The Tribal Court has an informal agreement with the 13th Circuit Court regarding referral of Friend of the Court, custody, support, and visitation matters.

Law and Procedures:
The Tribal Judiciary has adopted the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Court Rules (GTBCR). Copies of the court rules may be requested from the Court Clerk or found here: http://www.gtbindians.org/rules_advice.asp.

HANNAHVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY

Tribal Office Address:
Hannahville Indian Community, N14911 Hannahville B-1 Rd, Wilson, MI 48986, 906-723-2696, FAX: 906-466-7377

Tribal Organization:
IRA government formed June 27, 1936 pursuant to 48 Stat. 981
Constitution enacted July 23, 1936
Number of Council members—12
Tribe Council term of office—3 years
Number of Tribal members—918

Judicial Organization:
The Tribal Court judge is appointed by the Tribal Council for a three-year term. The Appellate Court consists of five members selected from the Tribal Council who are not related to any of the parties.

Current Personnel:
Chief Judge: Anne B. McNamara
Court Clerk: Jeanne Meshigaud
Tribal Prosecutor: Robert E. LeMire Jr.

Tribal Defender: Michael J. Manning
Magistrate/Adminr.: Audrey C. Gamez
Probation Officer/Bailiff: Kelly Arnold
Tribal Youth Worker: Christy Carlson

Territorial Jurisdiction:
The Tribal Court exercising jurisdiction within the reservation boundaries of the Hannahville Indian Community, which encompasses 5,832 acres in Delta and Menominee counties, MI.

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
Currently, any person may practice before the Tribal Court upon request.

Court Facilities:
Court is located in the Administration Bldg. A law library containing Michigan, tribal, and federal volumes is housed in the courtroom.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
Tribal government has enacted court rules granting recognition to foreign judgments.

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

Tribal Office Address:
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, 16429 Bear Town Rd, Baraga, MI 49908, 906-353-7031

Tribal Organization:
IRA government formed 1936
Constitution enacted November 7, 1936
Number of Council members—12
Tribe Council term of office—3 years
Number of Tribal members—3,529

Judicial Organization:
Trial Court elected by tribal membership. Appellate Court (separate appellate court).

Current Personnel:
Chief Judge: William W. Jondreau Sr.
Senior Judge: Prentiss Brown
Associate Judge: Violet M. Friisval Ayres
Appellate Judges: Andrew Paytskowit, Greg Paulson, Carolyn Abeita
Magistrate: Carol Jackson
Business Manager: Amy Shawboose
Chief Clerk: Laurie Denomie
Deputy Clerk: Emily Evans
Deputy Court Clerks: Kelly Smith, Jeannie Robinson, Jamie VanDerSteen, Allen Goodwin
Probation Officer: Meghan Maki
Child Support Services: Vacant
Alt. Sentencing Coordinator/Bailiff: Kevin Ricketts
Tribal Prosecutor: Kevin Carlisle
Prosecutor’s Assistant: Daisy Kostus
Victim’s Advocates: Cleopatra Keppert
Juvenile Justice Worker: Meghan Maki
Court Advocate: Brandon Rickard

Territorial Jurisdiction:
1854 Treaty reservation boundaries encompassing 51,000 acres in Baraga County, MI and Marquette, MI.

Number of Cases Handled During 2011:
Criminal—360
Juveniles—17
Civil—77
Appeals—1
Child and Families—2

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
Only members of KBIC Advocate Association.

Court Facilities:
Courtroom, clerk’s office, judge’s chambers, law library, probation/Friend of the Court office, and court advocate office.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
Cross-deputization with Marquette County Sheriff Department.
Adoption of Section 9.104—Full Faith and Credit; Chapter 2.4, including sections 2.402 and 2.403.
LAC VIEUX DESERT BAND OF LAKE
SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Tribal Office Address:
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
PO Box 39, Watersmeet, MI 49969, 906-358-0330

Tribal Organization:
IRA government formed 1988 pursuant to Pub L.
Constitution enacted 1992
Number of Council members—9
Tribal Council term of office—2 years
Number of Tribal members—858

Judicial Organization:
Chief Judge and two associate judges by contract are appointed by
Triabil Council for terms of six years. Appellate Court is composed of
other judges by contract.

Current Personnel:
Chief Judge: Mark Esqueda
Associate Judges: Don Atanasoff
Martin Lipske
Court Clerk/Administrator: Howard Caron
Zachary Dalton
Triabil Community Attorney: Karrie Wichtman
Probation Officer: Don Nordstrom
Receptionist/Secretary: Kaylene Bourdeau

Territorial Jurisdiction:
Triabil lands

Number of Cases Handled During 2019:
Child and family—11 Civil—49 Criminal—40 Juvenile—7

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
Triabil Court Rule 1.500

Court Facilities:
Courtroom housed with Education Center.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
Adoption of Court Rule 10.000—Enforcement of Foreign Court
Judgments.

Laws and Procedures:
Tribal Constitution
Criminal Code
Rules of the Court
Conservation Code
Business Corporation Code
Domestic Violence Code
Enrollment Ordinance
Housing Code
Gaming Code
Legislative Procedure Code
Business Entity Ordinance
Consolidated Conservation
Off Reservation Code
Mental Health Code
Children’s Code
Landlord and Tenant Code
Judicial Ordinance
Vehicle Code
Election Ordinance
Fireworks Ordinance
Gaming Ordinance
Utility Ordinance
Liquor Control Ordinance

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF
OTTAWA INDIANS

Tribal Court Address:
3031 Domres Rd, Manistee, MI 49660, 231-398-3406
FAX: 231-398-3404

Tribal Organization:
Federal Recognition (Reaffirmed in 1994)
Number of Council Members: 9
Term of Office – staggered every 2 or 4 years
Number of Tribal Members – approximately 4,000

Judicial Organization:
The Tribal Judiciary is a separate, independent branch of the Little
River Band of Ottawa Indians. The Judiciary consists of the chief
judge, one associate judge, and three appellate justices. Judges are
an elected position and serve six-year terms.

Court Personnel:
Chief Judge: Daniel Bailey
Associate Judge: Angela Sherigan
Appellate Judges: Melissa L. Pope
Joseph LaPorte
Berni Carlson
Court Administrator: Deborah Miller
Court Clerk: Vacant
Court Clerk: Laurie Willis
Director of Peacemaking: Patrick Wilson
Probation Officer: Martha Howell

Territorial Jurisdiction:
The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court exercises
jurisdiction over Indian Child Welfare matters and juvenile justice
matters within its nine-county service area. The court adjudicates
civil matters that are brought to the court by tribal members or
involving tribal members, and criminal cases brought to the court
by the Prosecuting Attorney’s office.

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
Attorneys licensed to practice in any state and members of the
state or federal bar are eligible to practice. The attorney must file
an application with the court and be approved by the chief judge.

Court Facilities:
The Tribal Justice Center is occupied by the Department of Public
Safety, the Prosecutor’s office, and Peacemaking and Tribal Court.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
Adoption of Court Rule 10.000—Enforcement of Foreign Court
Judgments.

Laws and Procedures:
All ordinances can be found online at www.lrboi-nsn.gov
Tribal Organization:
The Tribal Court has authority over general jurisdictional matters and actions that arise under the Tribal Constitution and laws of the Band. The Tribal Court exercises both criminal and civil jurisdiction over various parcels of land throughout West Michigan that are held in trust by the United States government. In addition, the Tribal Court exercises jurisdiction over Indian Child Welfare matters throughout its five-county service area, which includes Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ottawa counties.

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
The Tribal Court admits attorneys who are licensed to practice in any state and who are said to be in good standing. All applicants for admission must complete an Application and Affidavit for Admission to Practice, an Affidavit and Oath of Admission, and must be duly admitted to practice before Tribal Court. These forms can be downloaded from our website at https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov/data/uploads/media/87.pdf and https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov/data/uploads/media/172.pdf. The application fee of $75 is made payable to the Gun Lake Tribal Court.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
- State of Michigan tax agreement and amendments
- Cross-deputization agreements of law enforcement within the five-county service areas: Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ottawa counties.

Laws and Procedures of the Court:
- Tribal Court Rules
- Court Rules of Ethics for Tribal Court Personnel
- Court Rules of Judicial Conduct
- Court Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys
- Court Rules of Appellate Procedure
- Court Rules for the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Jurisdiction
- Court Actions, Warrants and Subpoenas
- Court Rules of Evidence

Tribal Court Ordinances:
- Judicial Ordinance
- Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Ordinance
- Child Protection and General Welfare Ordinance
- Civil Infractions Ordinance
- Criminal Procedure Ordinance
- Juvenile Justice Ordinance
- Full Faith and Credit Ordinance for Personal Protection Orders

Additionally, copies of the laws, court rules, administrative orders, and opinions of the court are posted and available on the Gun Lake Tribe website at https://gunlaketribe-nsn.gov, Departments, Tribal Justice, and Tribal Court.
NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
Tribal Court Address:
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribal Court
2221 1 ½ Mile Road, Fulton, MI 49052
Phone: 269-704-8404 FAX: 269-729-4826

Tribal Organization:
Federal Recognition: December 19, 1995
Constitution Adopted: September 24, 1979;
Last Amended April 27, 2019
Number of Council Members: 5
Tribal Council Term of Office: 4 years; staggered terms
Number of Tribal Members: 1,573

Judicial Organization:
The Tribal Court is a separate, independent branch of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band Tribal Government, as established in Article 11 of the Tribal Constitution. The Tribal Judiciary as set forth in Article 11 consists of a chief judge and associate judge of the Tribal Court and a Tribal Supreme Court with one chief justice, two associate justices, and a pro tempore associate justice.

Judicial Appointments:
Tribal Court:
Chief Judge: Melissa L. Pope (P55328)
Associate Judge: David M. Peterson (P18834)
Supreme Court:
Chief Justice: Gregory Smith (TN attorney)
Associate Justice: Matthew L.M. Fletcher (P61593)
Pro Tem: Holly T. Bird (P68122)

Court Staff:
Tribal Ct Admr: Dawn Mack
Assistant Tribal Ct Admr: Lauren Simmons
Probation Officer: April Taylor
DV Victim Advocate: Patti McClure
Victim Services Asst: Alyssa Collyer

Jurisdiction: The Tribal Court is a court of general jurisdiction having authority over actions arising under the Tribal Constitution and under the laws, ordinances, and codes of the tribe. The tribe exercises criminal and civil jurisdiction over 199 acres held in trust for the tribe by the United States. There are 120 acres at the Pine Creek Reservation, which includes tribal housing and administrative offices. In addition, the casino site consists of 79 acres.

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
Attorneys licensed in any state and in good standing may practice before the Tribal Court by submitting an Application for Admission, Oath of Admission, and Admission to practice fee. Admission to practice includes the tribal laws, ordinances, and codes as adopted by the Tribal Council and posted on the Tribal Government website.

Intergovernmental Agreements:

B. “Amended and Restated Agreement for Firefighting, First Responder Rescue Services and Law Enforcement Services” adopted October 16, 2008. This agreement allows for Emmett Township in Calhoun County to provide emergency services to the tribe’s casino property. It was supplemented on August 13, 2009 by “Authorizing Execution of Cross-Deputization Agreement with Charter Township of Emmett” authorizing Tribal police to have cross-deputization police powers conferred upon Emmett Township public safety department officers under the laws of the state of Michigan and the ordinances of Emmett Township.

Laws and Procedures:
Tribal Constitution, Amended April 27, 2019.
Tribal laws, ordinances, and codes as adopted by the Tribal Council and posted on the Tribal Government website.
Tribal Court rules, administrative orders, and court opinions can be found on the Tribal Court website at www.nhbpi.org/tribal-court/

Index of Court Rules:
- Chapter 1, Court Rules of Procedures for the Adoption of Tribal Court Rules
- Chapter 2, Court Rules of Judicial Conduct
- Chapter 3, Court Rules of Ethics for Tribal Court Personnel
- Chapter 4, Court Rules for Professional Responsibility
- Chapter 5, Court Rules of Civil Procedure
- Chapter 6, Court Rules for Small Claims
- Chapter 7, Court Rules of Evidence
- Chapter 8, Court Rules for the Recognition of Foreign Judgments and Enforcement of Foreign Court Actions, Warrants and Subpoenas
- Chapter 9, Court Rules of Appellate Procedure
- Chapter 10, Court Rules for Restraining Orders
- Chapter 11, Court Rules of Jury Procedure
- Chapter 12, Court Rules of Criminal Procedure
- Chapter 13, Court Rules for Juvenile Justice Code Proceedings
- Chapter 14, Court Rules for Guardianship and Conservatorship Proceedings
- Chapter 15, Court Rules for Domestic Violence Proceedings
- Chapter 16, Reserved
- Chapter 17, Court Rules for Contempt of Court Proceedings
- Chapter 18, Court Rules for Exclusion Code Proceedings
- Chapter 19, Court Rules for Rental Housing Code Judicial Eviction Proceedings

POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS

Tribal Court Address:
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Tribal Court
58620 Sink Rd, PO Box 355, Dowagiac, MI 49047
Phone: 269-783-0505 Fax: 269-783-0519

Tribal Organization:
Federal recognition reaffirmed in 1994
Constitution adopted in 2005
Number of Council Members – 11
Tribal Council term of office – to serve staggered three-year terms
Number of Tribal citizens – 5,797

Judicial Organization:
The Tribal Judiciary is a separate, independent branch of the Pokagon Band government. The Tribal Court Judiciary consists of the chief judge, one associate judge, and three appellate court justices. All judges are appointed by the Tribal Council to serve staggered four-year terms.

Judges:
Tribal Court:
Chief Judge: Michael Petoskey (P37386)
Associate Judge: David M. Peterson (P18834)

Court of Appeals:
Chief Justice: Robert T. Anderson (WA 30206)
Associate Justice: Matthew L.M. Fletcher (P61593)
Associate Justice: Jill E. Tompkins (ME 6901)

Court Staff:
Court Administrator: Stephen H. Rambeaux (P54024)
Assistant Ct. Admn/ Clerk of the Courts: Stacey Gettel
Court Clerk: Donna Walls and Tomika Borner
Community Justice Officer/Probation Officer: Derek Weurding
Tribal Courts

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE

Operations Address:
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, 48858, 989-775-4000

Tribal Organization:
IRA government formed 1937
Constitution enacted 1937; amended 1986
Number of Council members—12
Tribal Council term of office—2 years
Number of Tribal members—
1,628 within reservation boundaries
1,362 outside reservation boundaries
2,990 Total

Judicial Organization:
The Tribal Council appoints one chief judge, one senior judge, one magistrate, and one prosecutor. A three-person panel makes up the appellate court.

Current Personnel:
Chief Judge: Patrick M. Shannon
Sr. Judge: Prentiss Brown
Appellate Judges: Andrew Pyatetskowit
Magistrate: Carol Jackson
Account Specialist: Karl Hansen
Deputy Clerk/Appellate Clerk: LuAnn Louch
Kelly Smith
Deputy Court Clerks: Joelle Peters
Jeannie Robinson
Probation Officers: Christina DeLaCruz
Angie VanDerSteen
Alt. Sentencing Coordinator/ Bailiff: Kevin Ricketts
Tracy Andersen
Tribal Prosecutor: William Jakeway
Assistant: Daisy Kostus
Victim’s Advocates: Cleopatra Keppert

Territorial Jurisdiction:
The Tribal Court exercises jurisdiction over its reservation lands encompassing 138,240 acres in Isabella County and 110 acres in Arenac County, MI.

Requirements for Practicing Before Court:
Attorneys in good standing of the Bar of any state or federal court are eligible to practice before the Tribal Court upon demonstrating a familiarity with the Tribal Code.

Court Facilities:
The Public Safety Bldg was opened in 1996 and includes a courtroom, jury deliberations room, magistrate’s hearing room, probation department, prosecutor’s department, general court offices, law library, and staff offices.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
All Tribal police officers are cross-deputized by the Isabella County sheriff, MI State Police, and Mt. Pleasant City Police.

Adoption of Chapter 4.2 and section 4.102—Full Faith and Credit.

Laws and Procedures:
Tribal Constitution
Court Rules & Regulations
Tribal Codes & Ordinances
Children’s Code
Evidence Code
Civil Code
Gaming Code
Criminal Code
Judgment & Execution Code
Probate Code
Land Use and Other Codes

Tribal Courts

Territorial Jurisdiction:
The Tribal Court is a court of general jurisdiction and has jurisdiction over actions arising under the Tribal Constitution and laws of the Band. The Tribal Court exercises both criminal and civil jurisdiction over various parcels of land held in trust for the Band by the United States in Michigan and Indiana totaling 3,361 acres. In addition, the Pokagon Band exercises jurisdiction over Indian Child Welfare matters within its service area, which consists of Allegan, Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties in Michigan and Elkhart, Kosciusko, La Porte, Marshall, St. Joseph, and Starke counties in Indiana.

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
The Tribal Court admits attorneys who are licensed to practice in any state and who are in good standing to practice before the Tribal Court. Each applicant for admission must complete an Application for Admission to Practice, an Oath of Admission, and must be duly admitted to practice. Admission to practice before the Tribal Court is deemed admission to practice before the Appellate Court. The Application for Admission to Practice and Oath of Admission are available on the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians website at www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/tribalcourt.htm.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
• State of Michigan tax agreement and amendments.
• Cross-deputization agreements of law enforcement with each of the counties of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren.
• Unless the limited circumstances where federal law mandates “full faith and credit” recognition and enforcement are present, tribal laws, court rules, and administrative orders provide for “comity” recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, orders, subpoenas, and warrants from states, tribal courts, and courts of foreign countries.
• However, state of Michigan judgments, orders, subpoenas, and warrants are presumed to be valid (along with other states, tribal courts, and foreign countries that provide reciprocal recognition and enforcement of Pokagon Band Tribal Court judgments, orders, subpoenas, and warrants).

Laws and Procedures:
Tribal Constitution adopted in 2005
Tribal Codes and Ordinances
Pokagon Band Tribal Court Rules
• Chapter 1, Court Rules of Adoption and Publication for Public Comment
• Chapter 2, Reserved for Rules of Civil Procedure
• Chapter 3, Court Rules for Civil Infractions
• Chapter 4, Rules of Evidence
• Chapter 5, Court Rules of Appellate Procedure
• Chapter 6, Court Rules for Recognition of Foreign Court Actions
• Chapter 7, Court Rules for Small Claims
• Chapter 8, Court Rules for Judicial Conduct
• Chapter 9, Court Rules of Ethics for Tribal Court Personnel
• Chapter 10, Court Rules for the Appointment of Counsel
• Chapter 11, Court Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys

Copies of the laws, court rules, administrative orders, and opinions of the court are posted and available on the Pokagon Band website at www.pokagonband-nsn.gov, Tribal Court, and Tribal Government links.
SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Tribal Office Address:
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court,
2175 Shunk, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, 906-635-4963
www.SaultTribe.com

Tribal Organization:
IRA government formed 1975
Constitution enacted 1975
Number of Council members—13
Tribal Council term of office—4 years
Number of Tribal members—43,859

Judicial Organization:
Tribal Court consists of one chief judge and one magistrate who are appointed by the Tribal Board of Directors. The appellate court consists of one chief judge and four associate judges who are appointed by Tribal Board of Directors.

Current Personnel:
Chief Judge: Jocelyn K. Fabry
Court Admnr./Magistrate: Traci L. Swan
Appellate Court Chief Judge: Karrie Wichtman
Appellate Judges: Rick Corbiere
Elisabeth Dietz
Alfred “Fred” Feleppa
Lori Jump

Court Clerk: Alicia Roy
Specialty Ct. Coordinator: Vacant
Tribal Prosecutors: Denise Porter
Probation Officers: Vacant

Territorial Jurisdiction:
The Tribal Court exercises jurisdiction over its reservation lands, which are spread in a checkerboard fashion throughout seven counties in the Upper Peninsula.

Number of Cases Filed During 2018:
Criminal Division—67
Conservation—164
Civil—380
Child welfare—21
Traffic—15
Appeals—0
Juvenile—12
VAWA—3
Adoptions—5

Requirements for Practicing Before Tribal Court:
An application for admission to practice for attorneys is available from the court clerk. Each applicant must certify that they are in good standing with the State Bar of Michigan. Lay advocates are admitted upon completion of an application process.

Court Facilities:
There is a formal courtroom in Sault Ste. Marie. Hearing rooms are used in outer-county service areas.

Intergovernmental Agreements:
Mutual law enforcement agreements exist with six county departments and four municipalities where reservation lands are located. The tribe has adopted Chapter 86—Enforcement of Foreign Court Judgments.

Special Note:
The Tribal Court has enacted Chapter 85: Tribal Tort Claims Ordinance. In this ordinance, the tribe has limited waiver of its sovereign immunity. This ordinance provides the exclusive means of recovering compensation for personal injury or property damage caused by the tribe. Claims must be presented within six months.

Laws and Procedures:
Animal Control
Appeals
Child Welfare Code
Civil Procedure
Civil Remedial Forfeiture
Crime Victims Rights
Criminal Offenses
Criminal Procedure
Election Ordinance
Enforcement of Foreign Court Judgments
Evictions and Foreclosures
Gaming Ordinance
Garnishment Ordinance
Guardianship Ordinance
Hunting and Inland Fishing
Juvenile Code
Land Use
Marriage Ordinance
Membership Ordinance
Motor Vehicle Code
Personal Protection
Treaty Fishing Rules and Regulations
Tribal Environmental Protection Authority
Tribal Tort Claims Ordinance
Workers Compensation Code

In December 2016, the Board of Directors approved amendments to the Tribal Code, Chapter 70, that implemented Tribal Court jurisdiction over non-natives under the Violence Against Women Act. These amendments recognized Sault Tribe's inherent power to exercise “special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction” (SDVCJ) over certain defendants, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, who commit acts of domestic violence or dating violence or violate certain protection orders on tribal lands.