



# ABOUT THE INDIAN LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION

The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA), which passed the Congress with bipartisan support, was signed into law by President Obama on July 29, 2010. The law (P.L. 111-211) makes Federal agencies more accountable for their work in Indian country and provides greater freedom for Tribes to design and manage their own criminal justice systems. In addition, TLOA created the Indian Law and Order Commission, an independent, all-volunteer advisory group, to address the greatest challenges in securing equal justice for Native Americans living and working on Indian lands.

TLOA directed the Commission to do a comprehensive study of judicial and law enforcement systems in Indian country and to report back to the President and Congress with specific proposals to make Indian country safer and more just. The six areas of special focus for the report are:

1. Jurisdiction
2. Alaska
3. Strengthening Tribal Justice
4. Intergovernmental Cooperation
5. Detention and Alternatives to Incarceration
6. Juvenile Justice

From 2011 to 2013, to gain insight into these and many other systemic challenges, the Indian Law and Order Commission gathered input and testimony from Indian Tribes and from State and Federal stakeholders to assist in developing recommendations for lasting public policy reform. The Commission conducted regional public hearings and visits with Tribes in the lower 48 states and also spent several weeks visiting villages in the interior, far north, southeast, and southwest regions of Alaska. Through these hearings and visits, the Commission was seeking to gain an in-depth understanding both of nationwide issues and community-specific, day-to-day safety and justice concerns. During their travels, commissioners visited not only with Tribal leadership, but also heard the voices of the youth and elders. Individual commissioners and staff toured detention, police, and court facilities across Indian country and heard directly from individuals working in those settings.

The Commission also heard from community leaders regarding justice approaches that currently work well on a local level. Key to this outreach was the Tribal Advisory Committee, an advisory group of 24 members representing each region of the country. The Committee was instrumental in assisting the Commission by providing public hearing testimony, submitting written testimony, and identifying other experts and resources in the fields of Tribal justice systems, crime prevention, and victim services.

Throughout the process, the Indian Law and Order Commission researched previous reports, data sources, and other materials relevant to Indian country criminal justice. The Commission also encouraged and welcomed written comments from Federal, State, and Tribal officials, community members, stakeholders, and the general public through the Commission's website. All comments were made a part of the official record.

