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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications Missoula, MT 59812 (406) 243-2522

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June 21, 1994

MONTANA, WYOMING TRIBAL JUDGES TO MEET IN BILLINGS

MISSOULA --

The Montana-Wyoming Tribal Court Judges Association will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday and Friday, June 23-24, at the <u>Billings</u> Sheraton Hotel.

Thursday's sessions will run from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday's, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Established in 1986, the association provides professional development opportunities for its members, with assistance from the University of Montana law school's Indian Law Clinic. Members comprise the 31 judges from Montana's seven tribal courts and Wyoming's <u>Wind River</u> Tribal Court.

The meeting will provide a forum for the judges to further establishment of the Montana-Wyoming Indian Supreme Court, an inter-tribal appellate court which allows tribal judges from different reservations to hear cases under appeal.

The judges will also attend lectures on topics including the implementation in Montana of the Indian Child Welfare Act and new developments in Indian law, both taught by UM Indian Law Clinic students; and tribal criminal law and procedure, taught by <u>Missoula</u> attorney Michael J. Sherwood.

Montana Supreme Court Justice William E. Hunt and U.S. Attorney Sherry Matteucci will give informal presentations to the group. And tribal judges who presided over recent hearings held on the <u>Fort Belknap</u> and <u>Crow Indian Reservations</u>, for which the Montana-Wyoming Indian

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Supreme Court provided visiting appellate judges, will provide members with a report on the

proceedings.

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Note to editors, publishers and news reporters: Although this meeting is not open to the public, members of the media may attend by contacting UM law school Indian Law Clinic Director Brenda Desmond, 243-2007.

BD/lt

Montana tribal publications, Billings media, Missoulian and Missoula Independent Tribcour.rl