



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Tribal Justice

Room 2318, RFK Main Justice Building
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

(202) 514-8812
FAX (202) 514-9078

December 5, 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed into law the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, or "VAWA 2013." VAWA 2013 recognizes tribes' 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 in Indian country. This new law generally takes effect on March 7, 2015, but also authorizes a voluntary "Pilot Project" to allow certain tribes to begin exercising SDVCJ sooner.

Procedures for this Pilot Project, developed in consultation with tribal officials, were published in the *Federal Register* on November 29, 2013, and may be accessed at: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-28653>. An Application Questionnaire for the Pilot Project may be accessed at <http://www.justice.gov/tribal/docs/appl-questionnaire-vawa-pilot.pdf>.

VAWA 2013 allows the Justice Department to grant a tribe's request to participate in the Pilot Project only after coordinating with the Interior Department and consulting with "affected Indian tribes." On January 6 and 7, 2014, the Justice Department will consult with affected tribes' elected and duly appointed officials regarding all Pilot Project applications that are received on or before December 29, 2013. A list of those tribes will be posted on the Justice Department's Tribal Justice and Safety Website (<http://www.justice.gov/tribal/>) no later than December 31, 2013. The schedule for the telephonic consultation is as follows:

Monday, January 6, 2014 Consultation Session	
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Eastern	Link to register for the call and receive the call-in information: http://dpregrister.com/10037928
Tuesday, January 7, 2014 Consultation Session	
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Eastern	Link to register for the call and receive the call-in information: http://dpregrister.com/10037934

In addition, we will accept written comments until the close of business on Friday, January 10, 2014. Please submit them via email to OTJ@usdoj.gov or (if necessary) via regular mail to:

Office of Tribal Justice
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 2318
Washington, DC 20530

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Tribal Justice at (202) 514-8812 (not a toll-free number) or OTJ@usdoj.gov. We hope you will be able to participate in this important government-to-government consultation and look forward to working with you as we continue to implement VAWA 2013's Pilot Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracy Toulou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tracy Toulou
Director, Office of Tribal Justice
U.S. Department of Justice