Walking on Common Ground is a website devoted to promoting and facilitating tribal-state collaborations, particularly in the areas of courts and law enforcement. The primary focus of the website is to:

- Provide detailed information on Memorandums of Agreement/Understanding, including links to the MOU/MOAs
- Disseminate resources on Public Law 280 tribal-state court collaboration & promising strategies
- Highlight news, resources and events related to tribal-state collaborations across the United States

Features of the website include:

- Tribal-state agreements by topic
- Tribal-federal collaborations
- Promising strategies
- Resources on the Tribal Law and Order Act
- Interactive searchable map of agreements
- Listing of all federally recognized tribes, tribal websites and counties, by state
- State by state Indian country jurisdictional information

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) provides training and technical assistance to promote and facilitate tribal-state collaborations, under a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

We seek to develop and foster collaboration among tribal-federal-state-local governments in order to improve the effectiveness of public safety and victim services and reduce and combat crime in Indian country and nearby communities.

**Our goals are:**
- To provide training/technical assistance and resources to assist tribal-state collaborations
- Maintain WalkingOnCommonGround.org and its resources
- Provide training/technical assistance and resources to assist tribal-state collaborations on the Tribal Law and Order Act’s enhanced sentencing and Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction provisions under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013

**TLPI can provide T/TA to tribal-state consortia at no cost,** to facilitate development and to provide targeted, issue specific, assistance.

**Request T/TA at:** www.WalkingOnCommonGround.org

**Project Contact:**
Heather Valdez Singleton
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The Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) is a Native American operated non-profit corporation organized to design and deliver education, research, training, and technical assistance programs which promote the enhancement of justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples.

**Our vision** is to empower Native communities to create and control their own institutions for the benefit/welfare of all community members now and for future generations.

**Our mission** is to enhance and strengthen tribal sovereignty and justice while honoring community values, protecting rights, and promoting well-being.

In pursuit of our mission, TLPI strives to provide free resources for American Indian and Alaska Native nations, American Indian and Alaska Native people, tribal justice systems, victims services providers, tribal service providers, and others involved in the improvement of justice in Indian country. These resources are available at www.Home.TLPI.org/Publications and through the Tribal Court Clearinghouse (www.tlpi.org).
This Annotated Directory includes a detailed listing of 10 operational Tribal -State Court forums. These forums provide unique collaboration opportunities across jurisdictions and have led to such positive outcomes as: agreements on the transfer of jurisdiction, Indian Child Welfare Act education, tribal court directories, legislation on the enforcement of tribal court orders, judicial relationship building, and many more. Information on each forum includes: membership; funding; structure; organization; key accomplishments and authorizing documentation. (2016)

This Working Group Report is the result of a Tribal Law and Policy Institute working group session in December of 2012 to discuss tribal-state court collaborations and the successes and challenges that these partnerships currently face. TLPI drafted a report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance with findings and recommendations. The recommendations extend beyond simply the T/TA needed and provide insights into strategies that could be utilized by governments, agencies, and organizations to support tribal and state court collaborations and the resolutions of challenges faced. (2013)

The Policy Brief focuses on Tribal-State Court Forums and includes a chart that provides an overview of key features of forums, such as membership attributes, information about authorizing documents and key accomplishments. (This publication was authored by TLPI for the National Criminal Justice Association.) (2016)

This Promising Strategies publication highlights unique ways in which tribal and state jurisdictions have entered collaborations to overcome barriers to effective justice provision in PL 280 jurisdictions. Their areas of interaction include government-to-government recognition, concurrent jurisdiction, cross-jurisdictional enforcement of domestic violence orders of protection, cross-deputization, and civil commitments. (2013)

American Indian/Alaska Native Youth & Status Offense Disparities looks at the disparities faced in the state system by American Indian and Alaska Native youth who are charged with status offenses, the ability of both state and tribal systems to respond to status offenses, and federal funding. TLPI drafted this brief in partnership with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. (2015)

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute has hosted meetings of tribal-state court forums in 2012 and 2016. These meetings brought together judges and court personnel to work together in a peer learning environment and to share ideas and innovative strategies for collaboration. Summary reports from these meetings, including recommendations for addressing the needs of collaborations, are found at www.WalkingOncommonGround.org, under the Resources tab.

For updated information on upcoming meetings, check the Walking On Common Ground website.