

# Court Staff

## APPELLATE COURT

### Chief Justice

Hon. Tricia A. Zunker

### Justices, Pro Tempore

Appointed as Needed

## TRIAL COURT

### Chief Judge

VACANT

### Judges

Hon. Christopher Nydle, Associate Judge

Hon. Joseph Plumer, Pro Tempore

Hon. Todd R. Matha, Pro Tempore

### Court Administrator

Angelica Diaz

ca.court@meskwakicourt.org

clerk.court@meskwakicourt.org

### Clerk of Court & Clerk of Court of Appeals

VACANT

#### ◆ Deputy Clerk

D. Suzanne Buffalo

sbuffalo@meskwakicourt.org

#### ◆ Asst. Deputy Clerk

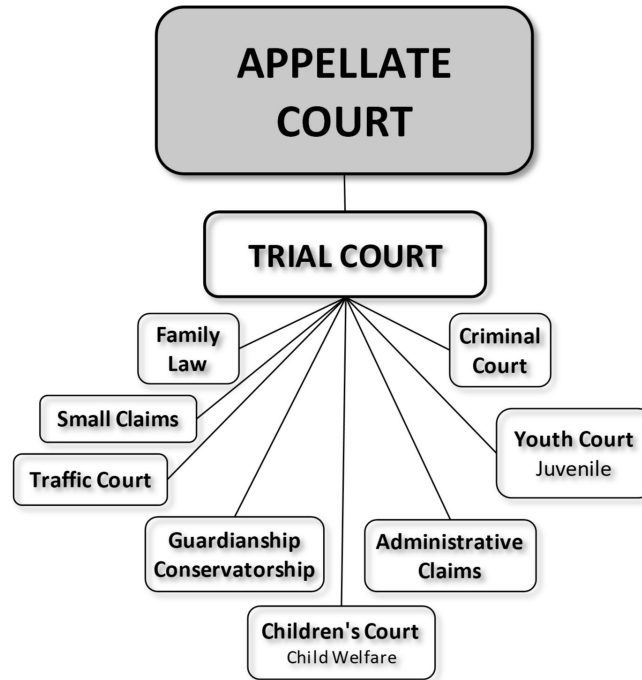
Athena Schrock

adminast.court@meskwakicourt.org

#### ◆ Records Management Clerk

Kiyanna Pushetonequa

kpushetonequa@meskwakicourt.org



## Meskwaki Tribal Court

Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa  
Tribal Court

Meskwaki Justice Center  
307 Meskwaki Rd  
Tama, IA 52339

Website: [www.meskwakicourt.org](http://www.meskwakicourt.org)

Telephone: (641) 484-9300

Fax: (641) 484-2221

## PROBATION OFFICE (641)484-9300

Mark Doland, Probation Officer

probation.court@meskwakicourt.org

Alanna Holiday-Brown, Juv. Corrections Officer

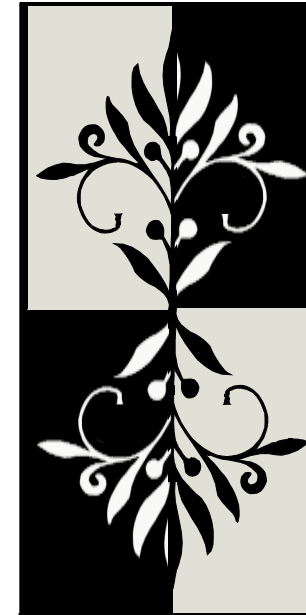
jco.court@meskwakicourt.org

## PUBLIC DEFENDER (641)481-0496

By Court Appointment Only

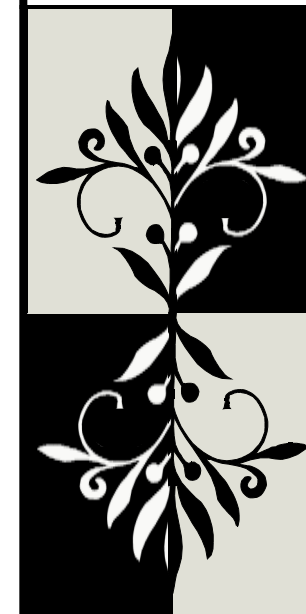
Cynthia Tofflemire ct.pd@meskwaki-nsn.gov

Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa



**Meskwaki  
Tribal  
Court**

**Ki-me-nwi-to-ta-ti-ba**



*“Be Good  
To Each  
Other”*

Meskwaki Indian Settlement  
Tama, Iowa

*Choose Culture over Drugs*

## E-na-ko-ni-ke-ki:

The way things are laid out for us to do

### TRIBAL COURT MISSION:

**To administer justice according to laws that govern the Meskwaki Nation by exercising all judicial and dispute resolution powers of the Tribe.**

### OBJECTIVES

**TITLE 5, ARTICLE II, CHAPTER 1, SECTION 5-2103 SETS OUT THE COURT'S MISSION AND GOALS, AND STATES:**

“Except where limited by laws of the Tribe, it shall be the objective of the Tribal Court and the duty of all judges and justices of the Tribal Court in resolving all matters before the Tribal Court **to discover and determine the truth, and to the extent possible, to seek a resolution which restores balance to the community in accordance with the customs and traditions of the Tribe, repairs relationships, results in fairness, and avoids principles of retribution and punishment.**”

### PRINCIPLES

To develop an efficient judicial system which meets the judicial needs of both the tribal community and its government;

To provide due process and fairness to all parties involved in cases;

To promote Tribal self-government, community development, peace, public safety, and the human potential of all persons;

To develop judicial institutions and judicial tools which reflect the Tribe's culture, traditions and values;

To provide an independent system for the advancement of justice under the laws of the Tribe;

The Tribal Court of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa was established by the Tribal Council and enacted on June 9, 2004 and heard its first case in 2005.

Many different types of civil cases are filed in Tribal Court, including but not limited to:

Divorce                      Paternity Name Change  
Custody                      Damages Adoption  
Foreign Judgment        Protection Orders  
Guardianship or Conservatorship (Minors, Vulnerable Adults)  
Child Welfare - *Child In Need of Assistance (CINA)*  
Child Support - *includes MNCSS Title IV-D cases*

**Filing Fees** are required to establish most types of cases (see the Filing Fee Schedule located at [www.meskwakicourt.org](http://www.meskwakicourt.org)). Some fees can be waived if an application requesting a waiver is approved by the Court.

**Small Claims Court** has an independent set of rules and processes and is for actions under \$5,000.

**Administrative claims** supplement the processes in place throughout Tribal Operations and provide avenues of judicial review for claimants allowed by the Code.

**Marriage applications and licenses** can be obtained at the Clerk of Court's office.

**Criminal cases** that are filed against Native Americans by Meskwaki Nation Police Department are heard in Tribal Court and involve misdemeanor offenses alleged to occur on Meskwaki Tribal land. Defendants in criminal cases may apply for a Tribal Public Defender if determined by income qualifications.

A **Probation Officer** supervises adult individuals ordered to pretrial supervision or probation by Tribal Court, develops alternative sentencing options, organizes community service, coordinates educational and skill building programming, and re-entry services.

The **Juvenile Corrections Officer (JCO)** oversees implementation of the Youth Justice Code (Title 20). This judicial forum is to address actions of minors under 18 years old concerning alleged delinquency acts, but also any juvenile acts not rising to the level of delinquency that are not a result of parental neglect or abuse. The **JCO** offers diversion services, informal services, & formal case referral services.

**Title 18. Transportation** regulates traffic laws on and through the Meskwaki Settlement. Civil traffic cases involving moving violations and also criminal traffic cases, such as OWI, are heard in Tribal Court.

**Title 24. Domestic Violence**, was adopted to ensure the safety of victims of domestic/family violence and to provide victims with the maximum protection from abuse and/or violence. Court Staff enter protection orders into the FBI database NCIC via the Tribal Access Program (TAP) making all tribal protection orders confirmable and enforceable.

The Tribe's **CODE = LAWS** are located at **Meskwaki Nation Website:**

★ [www.meskwaki.org](http://www.meskwaki.org)

To see the laws, go to home page, select “Who We Are”, then select “Constitution”

### **ENACTED TITLES OF TRIBAL CODE**

- Title 1. General Provisions
- Title 2. Administration
- Title 3. Business & Profession
- Title 4. Commercial
- Title 5. Dispute Resolution
- Title 6. Family Relations (*includes the Tribal Child Support Act*)
- Title 7. Child Welfare
- Title 8. Elections
- Title 9. Employment & Labor
- Title 10. Enrollment
- Title 11. Gaming
- Title 12. Health & Safety
- Title 13. Law & Order
- Title 14. Natural Resources
- Title 15. (*Reserved*)
- Title 16. Property
- Title 17. Taxation
- Title 18. Transportation
- Title 19. Judicial Validation
- Title 20. Youth Justice
- Title 21. Liquor Control
- Title 22. Exclusion
- Title 23. Guardianship & Conservatorship
- Title 24. Domestic Violence

Constitution and ByLaws of the Tribe

Visit the Court's Website to view forms and information, and the Court's **Rules of Procedure** :

[www.meskwakicourt.org](http://www.meskwakicourt.org)



Office hours (Central Standard Time)  
Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Visit court website for any closures and to see  
Hearing Schedule in “Court Docket”