



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2003:012

### **STRENGTHENING THE LINKS BETWEEN JUSTICE SYSTEMS: FULL FAITH AND CREDIT CONFERENCE FOR TRIBAL, STATE AND FEDERAL JUDGES**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Eastern Tribal Court Judges Association ("Association"), is a newly formed organization of Eastern area tribal court judges, tribal court non-judicial personnel, tribal law enforcement officers, tribal prosecutors, tribal bar members and tribal governmental officials; and
- WHEREAS,** among the purposes of the Association are: 1) to improve cooperation and communication between tribal justice systems, tribal governments, intertribal organizations, governmental agencies, private organizations, and others to accomplish common justice goals; 2) to provide accessible and specific training for tribal court judges, administrators, clerks and other court personnel and 3) to further public awareness of Native American courts; and
- WHEREAS,** the Association is dedicated to improving the delivery of justice through educational efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** various federal laws, including the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Full Faith and Credit in Child Support Act, the full faith and credit provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, and the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, require that state courts honor tribal court orders; and
- WHEREAS,** there is not full compliance with these federal Full Faith and Credit mandates and tribal communities do not enjoy the full protection and benefits of these laws as a result; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a need for training of federal, state and tribal judiciaries to ensure proper observance of federal Full Faith and Credit mandates; and
- WHEREAS,** the Association is planning to host a regional training conference entitled, "Strengthening the Links Between Justice Systems: Full Faith and Credit Conference for Tribal, State and Federal Judges" on October 12-14, 2003 in Atlanta, GA; and
- WHEREAS,** it is necessary for tribal, state and federal courts to reach out to each other with mutual honor and respect to develop ways in which existing federal mandates may be implemented to improve the effectiveness of each justice system's orders; and
- WHEREAS,** this conference will not only provide judicial training on existing laws but will also provide an opportunity for the development of Tribal-State Coordinating Councils, such as the highly successful one functioning for the past decade in the State of Maine, which will provide permanent forums for ongoing discussion between justice systems on mutual matters of concern; and

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

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- WHEREAS,** the Association historically has worked collaboratively with USET's Tribal Justice Committee ("Committee") on tribal justice issues and many of the members of the Association actively participate in the work of the Committee; and
- WHEREAS,** the Association has not yet been incorporated nor been granted federal tax-exempt status that would allow it to independently apply for various government and private grants to fund the Conference; and
- WHEREAS,** it is necessary for the Association to partner with an existing 501(c)(3) organization to gain access to the necessary funds and for other logistical purposes; and
- WHEREAS,** USET, through its Tribal Justice Committee, has supported the efforts of the Association and shares similar goals; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors hereby supports the efforts of the Eastern Tribal Court Judges Association to conduct a regional conference entitled, "Strengthening the Links Between Justice Systems: Full Faith and Credit Conference for Tribal, State and Federal Judges"; be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors directs the USET Executive Director to partner with the Eastern Tribal Court Judges Association in its efforts to host the conference.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board Meeting and EXPO, at which a quorum was present in Uncasville, CT, Thursday, October 31, 2002.



Keller George, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly M. Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.