



JOSEPH J. WISEMAN is the Chief Judge of the Tule River Tribal Court. He also serves as the Chief Judge for the Round Valley Indian Tribes, a Tribal Court Judge for the Karuk Tribe and as an appellate court judge for the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition. He started his judicial career serving as the first judge for the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians in Sonoma, California. Judge Wiseman is a graduate of UCLA and the University of Oregon School of Law. Judge Wiseman regularly lectures and presents in the area of tribal courts, tribal justice and contemporary legal issues arising in Indian Country. His presentations include: “Criminal Jurisdiction of Indian Country.” Criminal Justice Act Panel Training Office of the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of California, Sacramento, CA, January 2014; Moderator, “Tribal Appellate Courts: Model Tips for Trial Judges and Advice for Withstanding Federal Court Review,”

National American Indian Court Judges Association 45th Annual National Tribal Judicial & Court Clerks Conference, October 9, 2014, Tulsa, OK; Panelist, “Tribal Judicial Responses to Violence Against Women.” National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center’s Women Are Sacred Conference, Rapid City, S.D. (June 1-3 2015); Presenter, “Public Law 280: Unraveling Its Mysteries and Correcting Misconceptions.” Hopland Band of Pomo Indians (July 23, 2015); Moderator, “National Tribal Court Case Update.” National American Indian Court Judges Association 46th Annual National Tribal Judicial & Court Clerks Conference, October 6-9, 2015, Seneca Nation, Niagara Falls, NY; Presenter and Faculty Member, “Indian Child Welfare Act Update,” Juvenile Law Institute, Judicial Council of California, December 5-7, 2016, Los Angeles, California; Panelist, Congressional Briefing, “Improving Justice for Vulnerable Children and Families,” March 8, 2017, United States Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, D.C; and Moderator and Presenter, Tribal Court Advocacy Training, Tule River Tribe of California, March 2019.

Judge Wiseman currently serves as the Vice-President of the National American Indian Court Judges Association and is the immediate past vice-president of the California Tribal Court Judges Association. He is a member of the California Tribal-State Court Forum and is a non-voting observer member of the California State-Federal Judicial Council. He also is on the faculty of Empire College School of Law in Santa Rosa, California where he has taught Federal Indian Law for over 15 years.

Before assuming his judicial duties, Judge Wiseman practiced complex criminal and civil litigation in federal trial and appellate courts. Judge Wiseman is a member of the California Bar and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, United States Tax Court and United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth and Federal Circuits, United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Central Districts of California and the Eastern District of Wisconsin.