

National Forum on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety
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Accountability and Returning the Offender to
the Community – Core Responsibilities of
Hopi Tribal Justice

Lo1oma (Hello)



- The Hopi Tribe is a sovereign nation located in northeastern Arizona. The reservation occupies parts of Coconino and Navajo counties, encompasses more than 1.5 million acres, and is made up of 12 villages on three mesas.

Since time immemorial the Hopi people have lived in Hopituskwa and have maintained our sacred covenant with Maasaw, the ancient caretaker of the earth, to live as peaceful and humble people respectful of the land and its resources. Over the centuries we have survived as a tribe, and to this day have managed to retain our culture, language and religion despite influences from the outside world.



Hopi Justice

- The core responsibilities of Hopi justice are broader and more community oriented than American justice.
- In addition to determining guilt and punishment (accountability), Hopi Tribal Courts have responsibility for the overall well-being of the entire Hopi community (restoration).



Accountability & Restoration

- Hopi justice requires offenders take personal responsibility for their wrongdoing.
- Hopi justice is not soft on crime and does not exclude detention and penalty fines.
- The responsibility of bringing restoration to Hopi villages and communities is a vital duty.
- Restoration generally requires the offender be given real opportunity to make right the wrong and to become a productive community member.

- Restoration under the American justice system is becoming increasingly important as an alternative to incarceration.
- American Indian tribes, eager for legitimacy, have for years been taught to unlearn their core duties of Indian justice or address them outside of their tribal court systems.





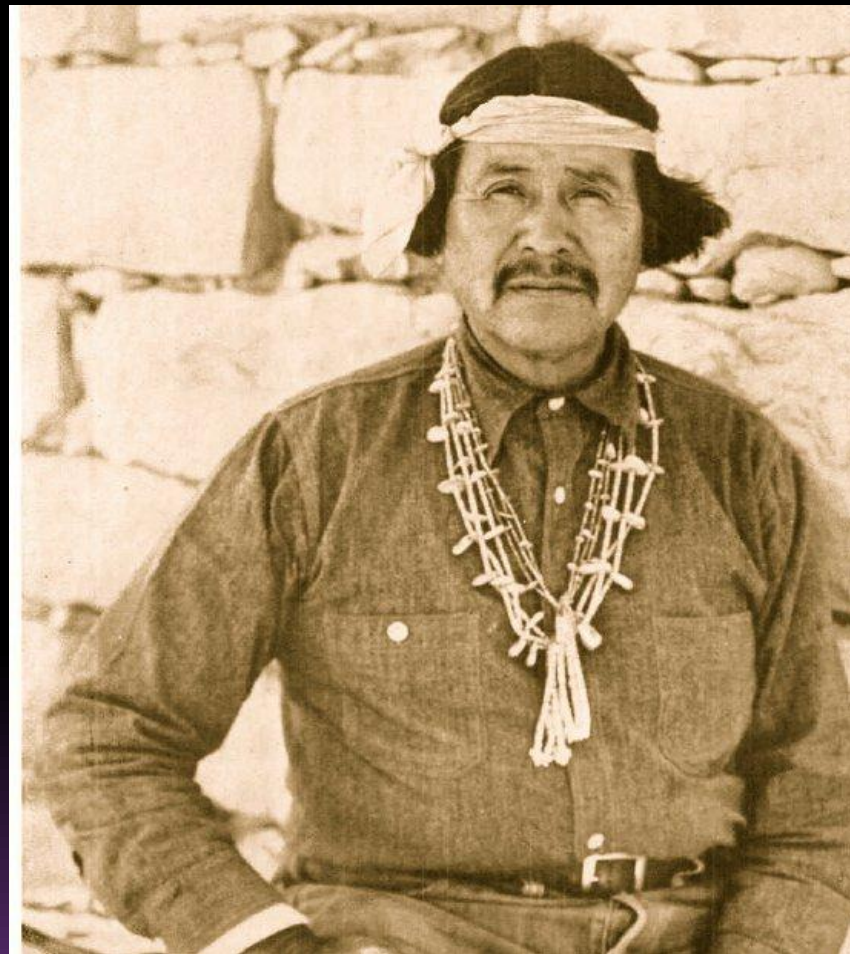
- For many years, tribal court practitioners have strived to make tribal courts legitimate in the eyes of non-Natives.
- Seemingly, no matter how dedicated tribal courts are to their function, they are often perceived as substandard because many times they do not conform to the American justice system.
- Nevertheless, what is important for Hopi is that the tribal justice system be legitimate to the Hopi people.

Hopi saying

“Hak hakiy aw nukpante’
son put akw aapiy
neengum nukngwat aw
yorikngwu”

“If one commits a wrong
upon another he
cannot realize a benefit
to himself by it”

Mahkewa v. Mahkewa, 03 AP0000009



Koo na 'ah



Dorma L. Sahneyah

Tewa Tobacco Clan

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Hopi Tewa Women's

Coalition to End Abuse