



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS Wilton Rancheria Court - Self-Help Attorney

May 24, 2024

The Wilton Rancheria and Wilton Rancheria Tribal Court is soliciting letters of interest and qualifications from individuals interested in serving as a self-help attorney.

About the Tribe

Journey Statement

Through the revitalization of culture, language, and traditions, we as Miwok and Nisenan people will work diligently to enhance the lives of Onikse'. Exercising self-reliance, by promoting health, wellness, economic success, and education to sustain our Tribal Community. Thus, preserving our ancestors' legacy for future generations.

Vision

A thriving self-sustaining Tribal Community reflective of culture, values, and traditions. Wilton Rancheria is in the heart of the State of California. With headquarters in Elk Grove, California, located just south of the State Capital, Sacramento, Wilton Rancheria is the only Federally Recognized Tribe in Sacramento County. The members of Wilton Rancheria are descendants of the Penutian linguistic family identified as speaking the Miwok dialect. The Tribe's Indigenous Territory encompasses Sacramento County. We provide a robust offering of services to our community through a variety of Departments including Cultural Preservation, Education, Elder, Enrollment, Health, Housing, Human Resources, and Indian Child Welfare. With year-round temperate weather plus a family-oriented community with easy access to two major freeways and the Sacramento International Airport, Wilton Rancheria is the ideal blend of traditional community values with access to state-of-the-art amenities.

Wilton Rancheria was terminated in 1959 by the federal government. After years of struggle, the Tribe regained its federal recognition in June 2009. In November 2011, the Tribe adopted its modern Constitution, and since that time, the Tribe's leadership has worked diligently to implement and further develop the tribal government. Wilton Rancheria's government is divided into four separate branches: a General Council, an Executive branch, a Legislative branch, and a Judicial branch. For more information about our Tribe please visit our website: <http://wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov/>

Judicial Branch - The Wilton Rancheria Courts

The Tribe's Constitution provides that the judicial branch of the Tribe shall be the Tribal Court. Wilton Rancheria's judicial branch consists of the Tribal Court, The Appellate Panel, and the Traditional Court. Together they are known as the Wilton Rancheria Courts.

Honorable Christine Williams, a Yurok Tribal member licensed to practice law in California, was appointed as the Chief Judge of the Wilton Tribal Court in March of 2020. The Judicial Branch is now being developed and implemented under the direction of the Chief Judge and according to the framework provided in the

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9728 Kent Street, Elk Grove, CA 95624

Constitution and laws of the Tribe. Judge Williams brings to the Wilton Rancheria Courts twenty years' experience in the field of Indian law and ten years' experience serving as a judge for tribes. The Tribal Court will hear various cases primarily within the government/administrative law, family law and social services law fields.

Wilton Rancheria is carrying forward their cultural identity through the Traditional Court. The Traditional Court shall advise the Tribal Court on matters of custom and tradition, which represent the Tribe's common law. The Traditional Court will serve as a non-adversarial forum for dispute resolution guided by a panel of elders from the Tribe. In this manner, the traditional values of Wilton Rancheria shall be kept at the forefront of the Tribal Court's decision-making process.

The Appellate Panel will be available for review of decisions of the Tribal Court. Transparency, accuracy, consistency, and fairness are the foundation of the Wilton Rancheria Courts. The three courts work together to ensure a fair and accessible system of justice.

About the Position

Commitment and Expectations

This service is offered by the Wilton Rancheria Tribal Court to Wilton Rancheria Tribal members. The self-help attorney will be expected to provide advice and assistance to tribal members on a variety of legal matters both within the Tribal Court and other forums. Expected areas of law include family law, social services, and government/administrative law. The self-help attorney will be expected to work independently without assistance from the Chief Judge or substantive assistance from Tribal Court staff. As time allows, the self-help attorney may also be asked to assist in the development and improvement of court forms, documents, and procedures. The self-help attorney will not provide representation in any court as part of this position. The self-help attorney will be expected to engage with the tribal leadership, staff, and larger community in a meaningful way. Only applicants dedicated and interested in tribal nation building should apply.

The self-help attorney position requires a commitment of at least sixteen (16) hours per month. The work is a blend of remote and in-person, with some work performed onsite at the Tribal Court. Compensation for this role will be determined based on the candidate's experience in self-help work, falling within the range of \$100 to \$200 per hour.

Minimum Qualifications

To qualify, the candidate must be in the greater Sacramento area or able to serve the 16 hours required onsite at the Tribal Offices. Compensation for travel to the Tribal Offices will not be provided. The candidate must be able to demonstrate they are licensed to practice law in California and in good standing in all jurisdictions which they are admitted to practice, have no felony convictions, have no convictions within the last ten years of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, corruption or dishonesty, have familiarity with Federal Indian law, and a breadth of knowledge in other areas of related law. Preference will be given to candidates with 2-3 years' experience in family law.

Submissions and Additional Information

If interested, please submit a letter of interest and qualifications highlighting your professional experience related to this position along with a resume and a list of three professional references via electronic mail to

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Tribalcourtinfo@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov. Submissions are due no later than **June 30, 2024**, at 5:00 pm PST. The self-help attorney will serve as an independent contractor through the Wilton Rancheria Tribal Government. Native American Preference will be applied.