



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) Conflict Criminal Defense Attorney

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION (CTUIR) Umatilla Tribal Court

Date Issued: February 17, 2026

*Administrative and Technical Contact: Matt Johnson (matthewjohnson@ctuir.org)
541-429-7342*

1. Background

In 2011 the General Council approved an amendment to the Constitution that vested the judicial power of the CTUIR in the Tribal Court and recognized the Court as the sole body to adjudicate disputes and enunciate principles of law within the CTUIR legal system. A Court Code has been adopted that governs judicial appointments and qualifications, grants the Court rulemaking authority for how it conducts its business, provides for a public rulemaking process, and sets out general rules of judicial conduct and bar membership. Due to implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2013, indigent defense representation, retention of court hearing records, transcripts fees for indigent defendants, and other safeguards are mandated. See Criminal Court Directive (available online).

2. Scope

The attorney will be appointed as public defender for indigent defendants when the primary public defender has a conflict of interest that prevents representation. Services shall be provided from initial charging document (arraignment) through to disposition including appeal in Tribal Court, if necessary.

The professional service agreement entered under this proposal will remain in place for the remainder of calendar year 2026 unless terminated earlier by either party. The agreement could also be extended into 2027 depending on need, such as whether the attorney has pending cases that continue into next year.

3. Applicable Documents

The Criminal Code, Court Code, and Criminal Court Directive are each posted on the CTUIR website on the Codes/Statutes/Laws page available at:

<https://ctuir.org/departments/office-of-legal-counsel/codesstatuteslaws/>

4. Requirements

J.D. from an accredited law school. Membership in good standing with a state bar and the Umatilla Tribal Court Bar. Minimum 5 years of criminal law experience preferred. Basic knowledge of federal Indian law, especially regarding tribal court jurisdiction required. Experience litigating before American Indian tribal courts preferred.

5. Rate

Umatilla Tribal Court shall pay for public defender services on a transactional basis when formal charges stem from an arrest (not per count but per alleged criminal episode or incident) at a rate of \$1,500 per felony complaint and \$900 per misdemeanor complaint. Payment shall be made at the conclusion of the matter (after disposition of the case). The maximum billable total through an agreement entered under this proposal shall not exceed \$14,400.

6. Submission of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted to the Administrative Contact (Matt Johnson email: matthewjohnson@ctuir.org) and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Electronic submissions are preferred. First review of proposals will take place on Monday, March 2, 2026.

Each proposal shall include:

- A cover letter expressing interest and confirming acceptance of the compensation rates in Section 5 (or any alternative compensation proposal not exceeding the maximum billable total).
- Resume or curriculum vitae detailing relevant experience.
- Proof of J.D., current bar membership in good standing, and admission (or eligibility for admission) to the Umatilla Tribal Court Bar.

- A statement addressing knowledge of federal Indian law and experience in tribal courts.
- Any additional information the proposer believes demonstrates qualifications.

The CTUIR reserves the right to request additional information or interviews.

7. Questions and Clarifications

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to the Administrative Contact.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors (not necessarily in order of importance):

- Relevant experience in criminal defense, particularly in tribal courts.
- Demonstrated knowledge of federal Indian law, VAWA, and CTUIR jurisdiction.
- Suitability and availability to provide conflict services promptly.
- References and past performance.
- Overall best value to the Tribe.

9. Reservations of Rights

The CTUIR reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals, for any reason or no reason.
- Cancel or reissue the RFP.
- Waive minor informalities.
- Negotiate contract terms with the selected proposer.