The Justice System of Indian Nations by Steven Nemec

Possessing a quarter-century of experience in law enforcement, Steven Nemec has held positions with the [United States Department of Defense](http://www.defense.gov/%E2%80%8E) and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Since 2010, Steven Nemec has performed as an administrator with the Justice System of Indian Nations and handles civil judgment cases in the tribal court system.

Throughout the United States, Native American tribes maintain judicial systems based on their own Tribal Constitutions and Tribal Codes. Over 200 police departments serve Indian Country, and each nation oversees their own courts that make rulings on conflicts within the nation. Currently, there are more than 60 different constitutions, which have led to significant diversity throughout the courts, as well as differing levels of evolution and size.

The Justice System of Indian Nations follows a tradition going back before European settlers. For centuries, tribes used a system of debate and defense to settle disputes, but these were stopped with the rise of new inhabitants. In 1883, the Department of the Interior created the first modern tribal courts by starting the Courts of Indian Offenses. Although limited in scope, they established an important precedent. The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 further extended the amount of power tribes had over their own affairs and is seen as the genesis behind the present system.