



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

POSITION STATEMENT

on

VAWA REAUTHORIZATION – TRIBAL COURTS JURISDICTION

NAWJ is the nation's leading voice for women jurists dedicated to preserving judicial independence and ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities, and other historically disfavored groups. In accordance with this mission, NAWJ supports reauthorization of VAWA in a form that protects all victims of domestic violence and dating violence, including tribal victims living on reservations. Specifically, to improve the administration of justice, NAWJ supports the approach of the Senate version of the VAWA bill, which contains Section 904, a provision that would restore tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians for certain crimes of domestic violence and dating violence committed in Indian Country. It is important that VAWA protect all victims of domestic violence, including those tribal members who are victims of domestic violence committed in Indian Country.

**Adopted by the Board at its Executive Committee Meeting
December 17, 2012**

Joan V. Churchill

**Honorable Joan V. Churchill
President, NAWJ**