Agenda

ICWA Expert Witness Academy: Courtroom Skills Practicum

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 | Raddison Hotel Phoenix Airport

Day 1

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Check-in and welcome
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Academy opening, participant goals, and courtroom-skills framework
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	ICWA roles in state and tribal court proceedings
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Break
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Preparing case files for hearing, testimony, and active efforts review
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Active efforts under 25 U.S.C. Section 1912(d): documentation and courtroom presentation
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Identifying gaps before court: records, services, placement, and family engagement
4:15 PM - 5:00 PM	Group exercise: building a courtroom-ready ICWA case summary

Day 2

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Morning check-in and review
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	How to organize testimony for clarity, credibility, and responsiveness to the court's questions
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Preparing to testify on direct examination: explaining active efforts and placement recommendations
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Qualified Expert Witness and tribal representative testimony
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Break
2:30 PM - 4:15 PM	Courtroom simulation: podium practice, questioning, and feedback
4:15 PM - 5:00 PM	Debrief and coaching notes

Day 3

Thursday, September 24, 2026

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Morning check-in and preparation
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Common courtroom challenges in ICWA cases
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Preparing to be cross-examined: staying accurate and composed under questioning
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Evidentiary foundations: records, reports, services, and recommendations
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Break
2:30 PM - 4:15 PM	Final courtroom practicum and participant feedback
4:15 PM - 5:00 PM	Closing discussion, next steps, and Certificate of Completion