

April 29, 2025

VIA EMAIL




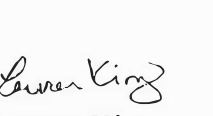

Hon. Jesse Furman
Chair, Advisory Committee on the Rules of Evidence
Administrative Office of the United States Courts
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Judge Furman,

We write to support the proposed amendment to Federal Rule of Evidence 902(1) that would add federally recognized tribes to the list of governmental entities that can provide sealed and signed documents for self-authentication. For the reasons stated in the United States Department of Justice's March 28, 2025 letter to the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Evidence, documents of federally recognized tribes should be included in the types of domestic public documents that are self-authenticating.

Based on our experience, we emphasize that treating tribal public documents the same way federal courts treat the public documents of other sovereigns is not only consistent with tribes' status as sovereign governments, but it will also alleviate the burden and cost of requiring tribal officials to travel from often remote locations to provide testimony that is not required of any other sovereign's officials. This unnecessary requirement prolongs jury trials, increasing costs to the federal judiciary at a time when our budget is already well below our needs.

Sincerely,

				
Ada Brown	Sara Hill	Diane J. Humetewa	Lauren King	Sunshine Sykes
District Judge for the Northern District of Texas	District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma	District Judge for the District of Arizona Former Appellate Tribal Court judge	District Judge for the Western District of Washington Former appellate tribal court judge, Indian law practitioner, and adjunct professor of Federal Indian Law	District Judge for the Central District of California Former Indian law practitioner
Citizen of the Choctaw Nation	Former Indian law practitioner Citizen of the Cherokee Nation	Citizen of the Hopi Indian Tribe	Citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Citizen of the Navajo Nation