

Sarah Reckess, Esq.



Sarah Reckess, Esq., is the Director of the Center for Court Innovation's Syracuse office and a Senior Associate on the Tribal Justice Exchange team. The Tribal Justice Exchange provides technical assistance to tribal communities seeking to develop or enhance their justice systems by 1) increasing access to training and best practices research for problem-solving courts, 2) encouraging formal collaborations between tribal justice systems and state and local court systems, and 3) identifying and disseminating best practices developed in Indian country that could strengthen public safety elsewhere in the United States. Sarah has provided intensive on-site technical assistance to tribes around the United States in the areas of strategic planning for tribal justice systems, healing-to-wellness court best practices, and tribal-state collaboration. She has given a number of presentations at tribal conferences on healing-to-wellness court best practices, trauma-informed justice responses, and victims' rights in the tribal justice system. Sarah is the co-author of the practitioner monograph, "*State and Tribal Courts: Strategies for Bridging the Divide*," published by the Gonzaga Law Review in 2011/2012. She currently directs the planning and implementation of the Near Westside Peacemaking Center, which will establish a community-led peacemaking project in a Syracuse, NY, neighborhood using Native American peacemaking principles. Before joining the Center, Sarah provided legal services for the Cancer Legal Advocacy and Services Project and the Syracuse Medical-Legal Partnership. Sarah holds a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College, a M.A. from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law with a concentration in Family Law and Social Policy.