



JUNE 3, 2026

THE WHITENER GROUP

**TREATY TALKS:
WA STATE
TREATY 101 &
OTHER KEY
HISTORIES**

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INSTRUCTORS



RON

Co-Owner & Director
of Justice Consulting

Ron Whitener provides tribal court and justice system development services for tribes.

Ron graduated from the University of Washington School of Law and upon graduation worked as in-house legal counsel for the Squaxin Island Tribe. He returned to the University of Washington Law School to teach & formed the Tribal Court Public Defense Clinic.

Among other awards, in 2011, Ron was named a Champion of Change by President Barack Obama for his work in providing public defense in tribal courts.

Ron frequently serves as a tribal court judge for tribes in the PNW and previously served as Chief Judge for the Tulalip Tribal Court and presided over their Healing to Wellness Court.



JENN

COO, Co-Owner

Jennifer Ulrich holds an MBA in Sustainable Business and is a co-owner & COO at TWG. She has a diverse professional background in Indian Country spanning 24 years including economic development, strategic planning, nonprofit organizational development, entrepreneurial systems, marketing & financial analysis.

As the former Business Development Director for Island Enterprises (IEI), the economic development corp. for Squaxin Island Tribe, Jenn handled marketing & advertising for IEI's eight diverse businesses. She was responsible for researching, writing & implementing business plans for many tribally owned corporations.

Jennifer loves getting to work with tribes across the country on a variety of projects and sharing the success stories in Indian Country with anyone willing to listen!

JUNE 3RD

9am - 12pm

Today we are going cover:

- > The history of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights in the U.S., focusing on WA
- > Colonization, The Marshall Trilogy (Ron's Fav!!) & Treaty-making
- > Key legal battles over fishing, hunting, and land rights
- > Guidance on working with tribal governments and fostering respectful collaboration
- > Live Q&A at the end for all your burning questions



**LET'S
GO!**

History Time with My Indian Law Professor Uncle!

WA Federally Recognized Tribes Not Able to Exercise Off Rez Treaty Rights (8 of 29):

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

U.S. v Washington - 1975

Also known as _____ Pertains to _____.

U.S. v Washington - 1994

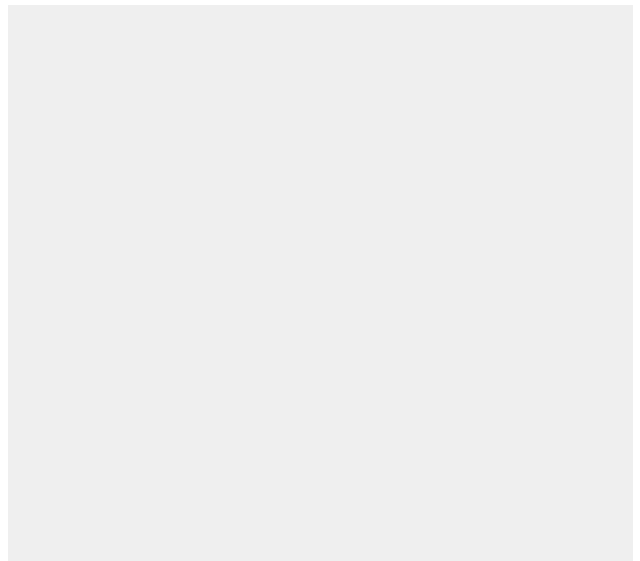
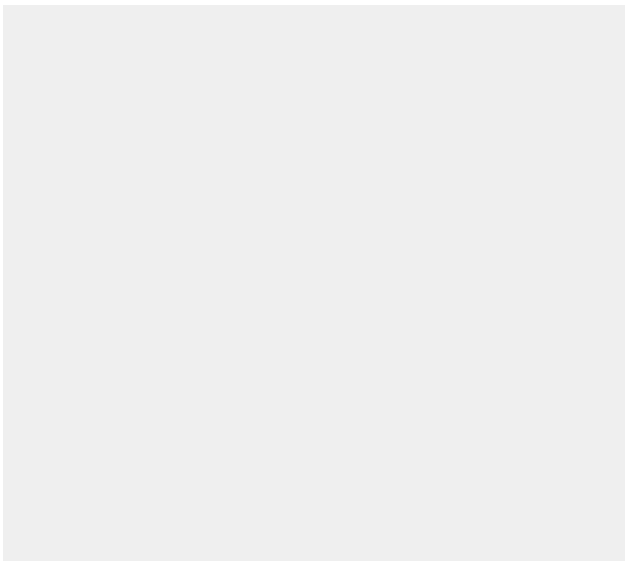
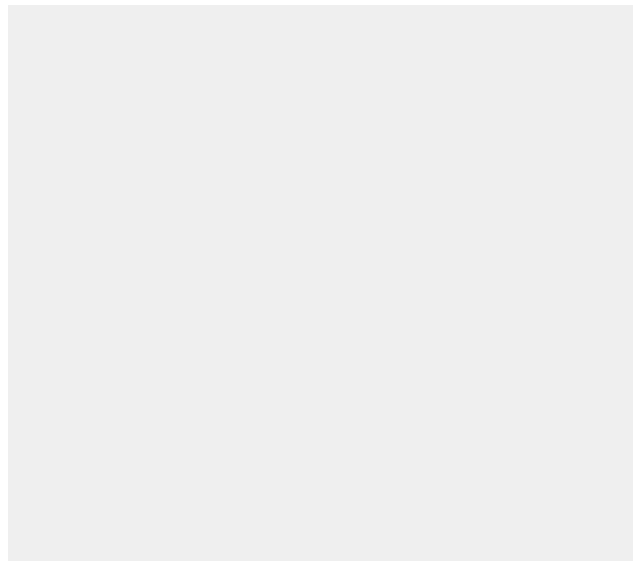
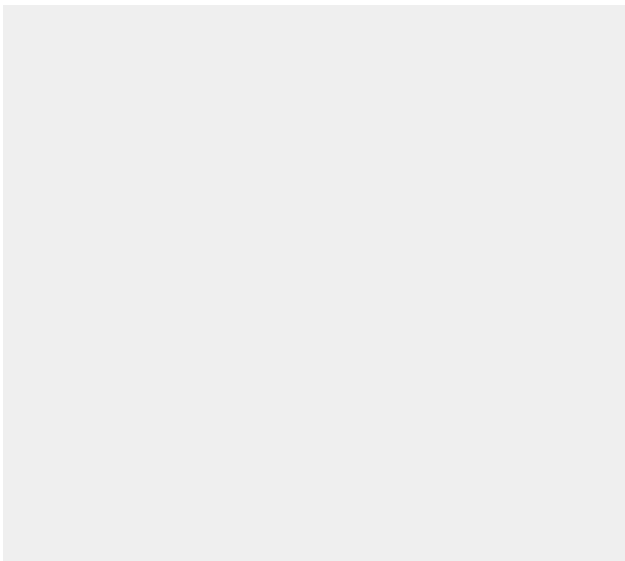
Also known as _____ Pertains to _____.

U.S. v Washington - 2013

Also known as _____ Pertains to _____.

Let's Reflect!

What was your key takeaway from Ron's talk?
Did you learn something new?
Anything surprise you?



THANK YOU!

The Whitener Group is a team of professionals dedicated to the advancement and sustainability of Indian Tribes. We believe that sharing knowledge among tribes is one of the most important ways for the advancement of Indian Country. Our team wants to share our experience with tribes as well as bring together other great minds to advance our common goals.



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