

From Colville Tribal Court Administrator

To become a member of the Colville Tribal Court Bar you need to follow the procedure as stated below:

Submit a letter of request with a fee of \$25.00 made payable to the Colville Tribal Court. Upon receipt of this fee or prior to, you may receive a copy of the Colville Tribal Law and Order Code from the Colville Tribes Reservation Attorneys Office or download it from our website at colvilletribes.com. You must pay the fee prior to taking the exam.

After you have had a chance to review the Code (approximately 30-60 days) you may contact the Court Administrator to schedule time to take your examination test. You will have two (2) hours to complete the test.

The Chief Judge will grade your examination test. If, you pass your test, the Chief Judge will have you make an appointment to sign your Spokesman's Oath and issue a Certificate of Membership. **You are required to get a percentage grade of 80% or higher to pass.**

After the first year, you will be required to pay an annual fee of \$15.00, to retain membership in the Colville Tribal Court Bar. Every June notice will be sent that your dues are required to be paid by June 30th. Failure to provide payment prior to June 30th may result in you having to take the examination test again.

If your tribal program wishes to pay for your fees, please make arrangements with the Court Administrator for a journal entry to the proper account.

The Colville Tribal Court does not have formal Code of Ethics for Tribal Court Bar members; however, attorneys practicing before the Tribal Court are expected to abide by the Code of Ethics for Washington State. The Court expects the spokesperson to abide by the Spokesman's Oath.

Bar Exam Information Sheet

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Colville Tribal Bar. The purpose of this information sheet is to make you aware of the process and substance of the exam.

A bar exam is not mentioned in the Code. However, the Code does require you to read the entire Law and Order Code (1-1-182) and to be approved by the Court (1-1-181b). In order to be approved by the Court and to assure that you have read the Law and Order Code, you must pass the exam.

Because the Spokesman's Oath requires you to read the Code, the exam properly covers the whole code. However, the great majority of the test is reserved for the Constitution and By-laws, and titles 1,2,3,5 and 9. This is simply because most of our cases arise from these Titles.

Two (2) hours are given for you to take the exam. It is closed book. There are true/false questions, fill in the blanks and multiple choice. There are also three short essay questions. The test is scored as soon as the Chief Judge has time to correct your exam and you will be notified immediately after.

The court requires a passing grade percentage of 80% or higher.

If you pass, you will need to sign the Spokesman's Oath(1-1-182). This can be done right after the exam is corrected or it can be scheduled for another day. Some members like to have their family present for the short ceremony.

If you have any questions in regards to the Bar Exam, please contact the Court Administrator at 509/634-2508.