



## LUNCH AND LEARNING

Session - Friday

July 21, 2017 Noon - 1:30

### TOPIC

## Seeking Justice in the Civil Court System

*Guest Resource – Attorney Gregory Gahan*

**Definitions:** *Civil* - relating to a citizen, relating to public life, befitting a citizen

*Justice* - the quality of being just or fair; the administration of law; the act of determining rights and assigning rewards or punishments of all civil rights legislation

- ✓ **What does civil justice mean?** When you go to the police to get **justice** because someone has committed a crime against you, you're seeking criminal justice. A criminal penalty is the outcome. When you sue someone in **civil** court to seek compensation because someone has caused you harm (see TORT – *meaning a wrong*), then you're seeking **civil justice**. Reference: [centerjd.org/content/what-does-a-civil-justice-mean-0](http://centerjd.org/content/what-does-a-civil-justice-mean-0)

## Let's take a little quiz

### Which of the following describes civil justice?

- Civil justice is a way for individuals to achieve a fair solution when they have been injured or harmed due to another person's negligence, recklessness, or malpractice.
- Civil justice is a way to bring criminals to justice.
- Civil justice refers to laws that address criminal behavior.
- All of the above

### What can you recover in a civil case?

- Money damages
- The other person gets jailed
- The other person gets arrested
- All of the answers are correct

### 2. What is the first step in the process to bring a case before a civil court?

- File a complaint
- Go before the grand jury
- Give a deposition
- Talk to an attorney

Source: Introduction to Political Science: Tutoring Solution / Social Science Courses

**Possible Resource - 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court Pro Bono Volunteer Attorney Program at 1-877-266-9861**

**NIA/NM'S RESOURCE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENT DEATH**

**First Wednesday of Each Month**