

**April 27, 2006 LISTENING CONFERENCE
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION BY JOSEPH J. HEATH, ESQ.
GENERAL COUNSEL FOR ONONDAGA NATION:**

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TRADITIONAL ONONDAGA/
HAUDENOSAUNEE SYSTEM:
 - a. Same sovereign system in place for centuries, since well before European intervention
 - b. Oral system
 - c. Clans and Clan Mothers
 - d. Chiefs and Faithkeepers
 - e. Longhouse and ceremonies
 - f. No courts
 - g. No police, but:
 - i. Nation patrol
 - ii. Neighborhood watch

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION:
 - a. Community based
 - b. Begins in Clans, with Clan Mothers
 - c. “Using the good mind to work for a solution that benefits all”
 - d. If not resolved in Clans
 - i. Can be brought into the Longhouse
 - ii. Full opportunity for everyone to have their say
 - iii. Based upon holding individuals responsible

3. COOPERATION WITH OUTSIDE GOVERNMENTS:
 - a. Written agreement with Onondaga County Sheriff's Office since 1979
 - i. Tested and approved in US District Court
 - ii. Sheriffs do not come onto the territory unless:
 - (1) Invited by a Chief, of
 - (2) Life threatening situation
 - iii. Has worked well and to both parties' satisfaction
 - b. Arrangement with local Onondaga Town Court:
 - i. Written forms used to refer cases into court; and
 - ii. Cases can be taken out of court and returned to the Nation; based upon individual's acceptance of responsibility and authority of Nation

4. *46 Buffalo Law Review 1011, 1998:*
 - a. Generally on the 1997 State Trade and Commerce Agreement, relative to excise taxes
 - b. Section II (a) (1) through (3), pages 1022 through 1026 has a brief description of various, non-traditional Native governments within New York boundaries.