

# Bonnie Clairmont

Victim Advocacy Specialist, Tribal Law and Policy Institute



Bonnie Clairmont serves from TLPI's Minnesota office. Prior to her employment with TLPI, she was the Outreach/Client Services Coordinator for Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County, a rape crisis center. While employed there, Bonnie provided leadership in the development of Sexual Assault Response Teams and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs and offered guidance with multidisciplinary sexual assault protocol development. She has worked more than twenty-five years advocating for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. She has dedicated much of her work to providing and improving services for victim/survivors of sexual assault, battering, and child sexual abuse, particularly those from American Indian communities. For four years she coordinated the Strengthening the Circle of Trust Conference, a conference focusing on sexual assault and exploitation

perpetrated by American Indian spiritual leaders/medicine men. Bonnie co-edited a recently published book "Sharing Our Stories of Survival" an anthology of writing by Native Women who've experienced violence. Bonnie provided technical assistance to research conducted by Amnesty International USA that led to the report, "Maze of Injustice: The failure to protect Indigenous Women from sexual violence in the USA." She and her partner Jim Clairmont have two children and five grandchildren.

# Gayle Thom

FBI (retired)/Consultant

Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group



Gayle Thom is a veteran of the criminal justice field. Thom medically retired from the FBI during her tenth year as a Victim Specialist, on the nationwide FBI Rapid Deployment and Evidence Response Teams. In an agency-wide vote, Thom was one of six bureau personnel nationwide, tapped for the FBI American Indian/Alaskan Native Advisory Committee. For the past four years, she has been privileged to share from her education and experiences by providing training and technical assistance on a part-time basis to Alaskan villages and Native American tribal communities. Much of Thom's more recent career focus has been on managing and assisting programs statements of organizations in nontribal and tribal communities and focusing on crime victims

in what the Department of Justice refers to as "Indian country."

In October 2006, she received the highest award bestowed on FBI employees, The Director's Award for Excellence, for her team's response to the tragic Red Lake Nation School shooting. She was honored with the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Award in 2001 and in 2004. For ten years, Thom was assigned to the Tribal Lands in South Dakota, responding to crime scenes and assisting victims. Most recently she was privileged to serve the Rosebud and Oglala Sioux tribes. While serving on Pine Ridge, she was humbled to receive the Oglala Lakota Nation Dedicated Service Honor in May 2004 and again in 2009. She was also nominated for the 2005 Service to America Medal and the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety. Most recently Gayle has worked with National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) developing the TribalResourceTool.org, an online lifeline of resources for AI/AN victims, survivors, and victim service providers.