Closing Remarks for Albuquerque Common Ground Conference

##### Intro and thanks you’s

* Hello everyone, my name is Tracey Thomas and I’m a staff attorney at the FTC. I work on the agency’s Legal Services Collaboration which seeks to work with legal services advocates to address problems affecting their clients.
* First off, I’d like to thanks everyone for coming out to this event. It has been extremely interesting and informative.
* I’d also like to thank our co-sponsors, New Mexico Legal Aid, the Department of the Interior’s Indian Arts and Crafts Board, DNA-People’s Legal Services, and the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office. You all helped make this event a success, and your ideas and expertise really helped us frame these conversations so that we were focused on issues that are relevant to the advocates and consumers in the Native American community.
* Thank you also to all our wonderful panelists for their contributions. It was so helpful to hear from some of the experts in these areas and gain a better understanding of the problems we’re facing and how we might deal with them.

##### Reflection

* I hope everyone found the break-out groups to be a productive way to not only discuss the important consumer protection issues we’re facing, but also to come up with useful ways to address them, particularly ways to collaborate with each other so that we all can benefit from our collective knowledge, skills, and resources.
* We all saw that [issue/topic\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_] is an important problem/something we’re going to need to address, as well as [issue/topic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]

##### Concrete Outcomes

* Another big takeaway from these conversations is the interest in substantive trainings, so I’m happy to announce that we are planning a series of free webinars for all of you on some of the topics you’ve identified.
* As we’re putting these together over the next few months we’d love to hear from you about when we should do them and the specific issue areas we should cover first. We’ve already heard that trainings in the afternoon are easier for most people to listen in on. I’m going to ask for a show of hands here—in terms of the day of the week you’d generally prefer, if people had to choose between a webinar on Wednesdays or Thursdays, how many people would prefer Wednesday? Thursday?
* We’re really excited to put these together and we’ll keep you informed as we set them up.

##### Next Steps

* There are a few things we’d like to ask of all of you. One of our primary goals at the FTC is to protect members of every community from unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent practices in the marketplace, and we’re trying to understand how particular kinds of fraud affect different communities. We capture a lot of information generally speaking but we don’t get a lot of demographic data. This is where you can help.
* File complaints with us. Just go to ftc.gov/complaint and let us know what you’re seeing and what organizations you’re from. Better yet, put a link to our online complaint form on your organization’s website. It’s quick and easy. We’ll create the link for you. And it will tell us automatically that those complaints are coming from your organization and its clients. That will really help us see which problems are affecting your community the most.
* Also, if you want to know about what we’re doing, and what information and resources we have that are relevant to legal services advocates, sign up for our list serve. I mentioned that I work on our Legal Services Collaboration. You can email me directly at [tthomas@ftc.gov](mailto:tthomas@ftc.gov), or you can get in touch with anyone here from the FTC and they will point you in my direction. You won’t get a ton of email, usually no more than two a month. The goal of the list serve is to help us keep you informed and make sure that the resources we’re making available actually get into your hands.
* In conclusion, I just want to reiterate our thanks for the time you’ve all taken to be here today and I hope you have a wonderful weekend and that we can continue to collaborate with each other going forward.