

Smith River Rancheria Elk Valley Rancheria Karuk Tribe of California Resighini Rancheria Yurok Tribe Quartz Valley Reservation Big Lagoon Rancheria Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria Fort Bidwell Indian Community Hoopa Valley Pit River Tribe Alturas Indian Rancheria Cedarville Rancheria Blue Lake Rancheria Table Bluff Reservation Bear River Band of Rhonerville Valley Indian Tribes Cahto Indian Tribe Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians Greenville Rancheria Sherwood Valley Rancheria Redwood Valley Rancheria Grindstone Indian Rancheria Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria Coyote Valley Reservation Pinoleville Pomo Nation Potter Valley Tribe Guidiville Rancheria Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Berry Creek Rancheria Robinson Rancheria Habermatolel Pomo of Upper Lake Enterprise Rancheria Manchester Point Arena Tribe Colusa Indian Community Mooretown Rancheria Hopland Band of Pomo Big Valley Rancheria Elem Indian Colony Cortina Rancheria Stewarts Point Rancheria Cloverdale Rancheria Dry Creek Rancheria Middletown Rancheria United Auburn Indian Community Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Graton Rancheria Shingle Springs Rancheria Wilton Rancheria Lytton Rancheria Buena Vista Rancheria Lone Band of Miwok Indians Jackson Rancheria California Valley Miwok Tribe Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians Washoe Tribe Bridgeport Indian Colony Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe Picayune Rancheria Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians Bishop Paiute Tribe Table Mountain Rancheria Big Sandy Rancheria Cold Springs Rancheria Big Pine Paiute Tribe Fort Independence Paiute Reservation Santa Rosa Indian Community Lower Lake Rancheria Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation Tule River Indian Tribe Tejon Indian Tribe Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Chemehuevi Indian Tribe San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Morongo Band of Mission Indians Colorado River Indian Tribes Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Ramona Band of Cahuilla Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians Cahuilla Band



CALIFORNIA
INDIAN
LEGAL SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

of Misson Indians Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Pala Band of Mission Indians Pauma Band of Mission Indians Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Capeño San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians Inaja-Cosmit Band of Mission Indians Barona Band of Mission Indians Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians Capitan Grande Band Ewiiapaayp Band Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation La Posta Band of Mission Indians Jamul Indian Village Manzanita Band of Mission Indians Campo Kumeyaay Nation Quechan Tribe

Our mission is to protect Indian rights, foster Indian self-determination, and facilitate tribal nation building.



This victory makes public safety more equal across reservations.

Congratulations quote on the lower court's ruling in favor of Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians v. Department of the Interior et.al.

Our Fifth Decade of Advocacy and Counting!



Prior to California Indian Legal Services' inception legal representation for Native Americans and tribes was limited to California Rural Legal Assistance, a farmworker program. The complexity and breadth of legal problems faced by California's Native population compelled the formation of an Indian Services Division to deal with these unique issues. In 1967 George Duke and a young Hoopa activist named David Risling, incorporated a distinct program earmarked to address Native American issues.

During the 1970s CILS maintained an East Bay office, then added field offices in Bishop, Escondido, Eureka and Ukiah. As CILS' caseload grew, it handled major issues such as: restoring reservation lands; quantifying tribes' reserved water rights; obtaining equitable federal funding for California Tribes; litigating discrimination and civil rights; and fortifying tribal governments to name a few. At a time when the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as trustee for tribes, did not act, CILS served as a watchdog for California Tribes. Legal support for tribes in drafting constitutions and ordinances was, and is, an ongoing component of protecting tribal sovereignty. CILS has produced some of the best Indian lawyers in the country, including the attorney who established the Native American Rights Fund.

Through the 1980s CILS succeeded in protecting pristine and sacred forests for the Yurok, Karuk, Tolowa and Hoopa people. Its lawsuit restoring 1950s terminated tribes remains a seminal case for securing tribes' federal recognition.

As tribal governments matured in the 1990s a new era of economic development began. When a former CILS attorney challenged California's outlawing bingo—in the landmark Supreme Court case *Cabazon Band of Mission Indians v. California*—it opened the national door for tribes to develop gaming facilities, and use the revenue on reservation. CILS negotiated some of the original compacts for tribes, and then developed the necessary regulatory codes



and gaming framework. As a result of gaming, many tribes today have become financially independent and rely less on federal government funding. For tribes who continue to strive for economic independence, CILS continues to assist with free or low cost, quality legal services.

During the last ten years CILS has targeted specific work groups to address the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA), state taxation of individual's income, and discrimination in local schools. To that end, CILS was instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 678, extending federal ICWA protection to California's Indian children. CILS drafted the original California Judge's Benchguide in 2010 and updated it in 2012. CILS was instrumental in obtaining provisions in the AIPRA enabling Native Americans (including non-members) to pass their allotments by Will.

CILS remains at the forefront of assisting tribes in developing courts and law enforcement agencies by providing trainings, drafting codes and orchestrating statewide conferences.

CILS remains attuned to the changing needs of Native communities in California. Our four offices—Bishop, Escondido, Eureka and Sacramento—serve all 58 counties in California. Its Board of Trustees is comprised of tribal and community leaders, client eligible California Native Americans, and members of the State Bar.

Dear Friends of CILS

Welcome. I am pleased to report that CILS had another challenging and prosperous year. We lost some old friends but gained some new ones. In August of 2014, Charlene "Char" Betsillie passed to the spirit world. Char worked as an Administrator in the CILS Oakland Principal Office from 1972 until she retired in 2004. She will be sadly missed and appreciated for her almost 30 years of service to CILS.

New to CILS is Nicole Scott, our Director of Marketing and Development who works in the Escondido Principal Office. Nicole joined CILS in August of 2014 and is helping us build our social media and community outreach services, as well as, developing new revenue streams. CILS welcomes this new addition to the CILS team.

We had a successful year of both small and major victories in the courts and before administrative agencies. CILS successfully fought discriminatory practices in school districts and for a Native American student to honor his achievement in graduation from high school by wearing traditional regalia at the graduation ceremony. CILS continued to be "On the Road" throughout the state providing community education on issues most relevant to tribal leaders and members. We also seized every opportunity to speak to the non-Indian community in an effort to bridge the gap of misunderstanding and knowledge of federal Indian law and tribal sovereignty.

CILS's achievements and accomplishments could not have been possible without the hard work of our staff and dedication of our Board of Trustees and most importantly the support and contributions from all those who are friends of CILS. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a rewarding 2015!

*We had a successful year of
both small and major victories
in the courts and before
administrative agencies.*



Sincerely,

Dorothy Alther

Dorothy Alther
Executive Director

Dear Community

Members and Supporters of CILS

A couple of years ago, we completed an extensive needs assessment which included surveys, questionnaires, community meetings and focus groups. This needs assessment was to address how CILS was meeting the needs of the California Indian Community and was to be the basis for the development of a strategic plan to address community and organizational priorities.

The CILS Board and Staff working together (Committee meetings and Board/Staff retreats) completed our Strategic Plan which provides guidance to providing high-quality legal services to our clients, supporting the empowerment of Tribal Governments and protecting Native American and Tribal rights. We completed our Strategic Plan in September 2014, and immediately began implementation of the Plan.

Goal 8 of our Strategic Plan is to achieve greater financial security through diversification of our funding and new fundraising initiatives. One of the strategies under this goal was to employ a Director of Marketing and Development which we have done. Another strategy which is a part of this goal is to achieve and maintain 100% contributions (cash donations) by the Board and Staff. I am pleased to report that by December 31, 2014, we attained 100% contributions of the Board and Staff. I want to thank the Board and Staff for their demonstration of commitment to CILS. When we ask you and others to contribute and support the important work of CILS, we can say that everyone in our organization financially supports the mission of CILS.

Goal 9 of our Strategic Plan is to re-establish the "Friends of CILS" to support CILS particularly in the area of resource development and public relations. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please let us know.

We look forward to working with you as we continue the implementation of the Strategic Plan. We rely on you and appreciate your continuing support and assistance.



Respectfully Yours,

Rachel A. Joseph
Chairwoman

We rely on you and appreciate your continuing support and assistance.

2014—By The Numbers

Protecting and servicing Tribes of California and their communities



Persons served:

32,469

including

8,368
read Legal Education
materials online

16,029
downloaded
Pro Se materials

3,257
referrals to other
resource providers

604
direct service cases

119
were cases involving
Indian Child Welfare Act



M → F

18

staff members at



4
offices
in

7
attorneys

5
principle staff

6
office support staff

Good Stories

TAX WORKSHOPS

CILS conducted a tax assistance workshop and met with low-income tribal members to complete and file their 2013 income tax returns. One of these tribal members was a 22-year old mother of two. She was awaiting her third child and had recently stopped working due to her pregnancy. CILS prepared her tax returns at no-cost to her.

Since she lived and worked on her reservation, and CILS was familiar with the exemptions from state income taxation for Native Americans, she correctly paid no state income taxes. Due to a combination of her employer withholdings, eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Credit and her status as a student, she received \$6,768 in a federal income tax refund. This sizable refund was welcomed news to the young mother who said she would make good use of this money to help support her family since she would not be able to work for a time after her baby's arrival.

BIRTH RECORDS

The social service needs of an alcoholic are extensive, yet in rural areas services can be difficult to obtain, particularly culturally appropriate services. In a remote area of California, with very few services in the community outside of the local Tribe, a client was homeless and an alcoholic. Born at home and raised by his biological grandparents, the individual's birth certificate was inaccurate and listed his grandparents as his parents. His mother, his half-siblings, and the community recognized that he was his mother's son, but he had no legal documentation establishing the connection. While this would not have been an issue in many circumstances, his mother was a member of the local Tribe but his grandparents were not. The client could not enroll with his Tribe, and receive services, unless he could legally establish the biological connection to his mother.

CILS represented the individual in his petition to amend his birth certificate. After collecting declarations, other supporting documentation, and the support of the Tribe, a petition was filed in the Superior Court. At the hearing, the judge indicated that this was the first case of this sort she had ever encountered and thanked CILS for the clear, concise petition and briefing. The Court granted the petition to amend the birth certificate; the client received his new birth certificate from the Department of Public Health Office of Vital Statistics. He is currently in the enrollment process with his Tribe and will soon begin receiving culturally appropriate services.



CILS On The Road

As part of its funding and grant applications, CILS delivers trainings and presentations to Native American communities, government organizations, and private citizens, all designed to educate them on various aspects of Indian law.

Below is a list of some of the trainings and presentations provided by CILS staff throughout California during the 2014 Fiscal Year.

PL 280 TRIBAL LAW TRAINING

2/25/2014

Cal Western Law School
San Diego, CA

3/11-12/2014

Sherwood Valley Rancheria
Sacramento, CA

3/17-18/2014

Bishop, CA

ICWA TRAINING

3/21/2014

Tule River Indian Reservation
Sacramento, CA

4/2/2014

Tule River Indian Reservation
Sacramento, CA

4/14/2014

Legal Aid Society of Contra Costa
County
Sacramento, CA

5/19/2014

Juvenile Dependency Counselors
Sacramento, CA

6/18/2014

Statewide ICWA Conference
Lemoore, CA

11/24/2014

Big Pine Paiute Tribe
Bishop, CA

12/8/2014

Tekamuk ICWA Conference
Temecula, CA

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1/24/2014

Indian Law & Order Commission
at UCLA
Los Angeles, CA

2/21/2014

Tax Presentation
Cahuilla Casino
San Diego, CA

3/26/2014

SD Law Library Presentation
San Diego, CA

3/31/2014

Tribal Customary Adoption
Hoopa, CA

4/28/2014

AIPRA Probate Presentation
Big Sandy Rancheria
Sacramento, CA

7/15/2014

Cross-Court Educational
Exchange
Eureka, CA

8/7/2014

Housing Presentation
Los Coyotes Band
Warner Springs, CA

9/25/2014

Tribal Tax Presentation
Rincon Band
Valley Center, CA

10/16-17/2014

Tribal Justice
CILA Conference
Temecula, CA

11/12/2014

Inter-Tribal Council of California
San Diego, CA

12/15/2014

Law Presentation
Lone Pine Reservation
Bishop, CA

12/18/2014

SD Law Library Presentation
San Diego, CA

SENIOR PRESENTATIONS

3/13/2014

Winter Gathering 2014
Toiyabe Elders Program
Bishop, CA

5/7/2014

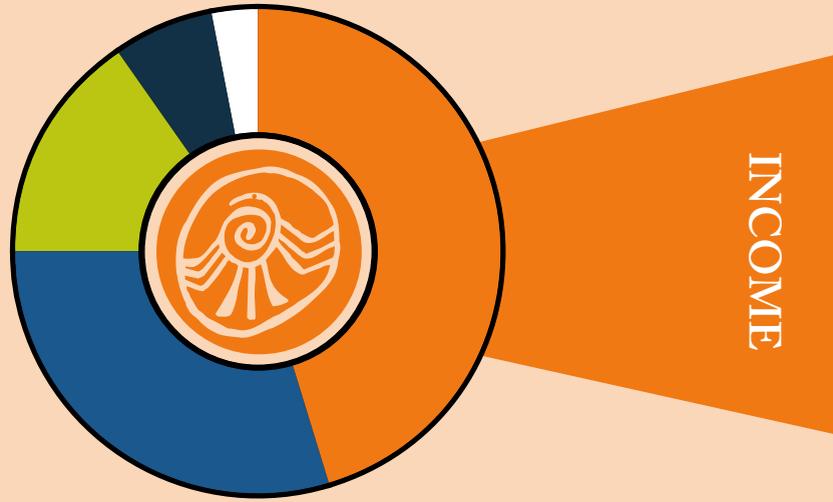
Tecopa Senior Center
Tecopa, CA

6/18/2014

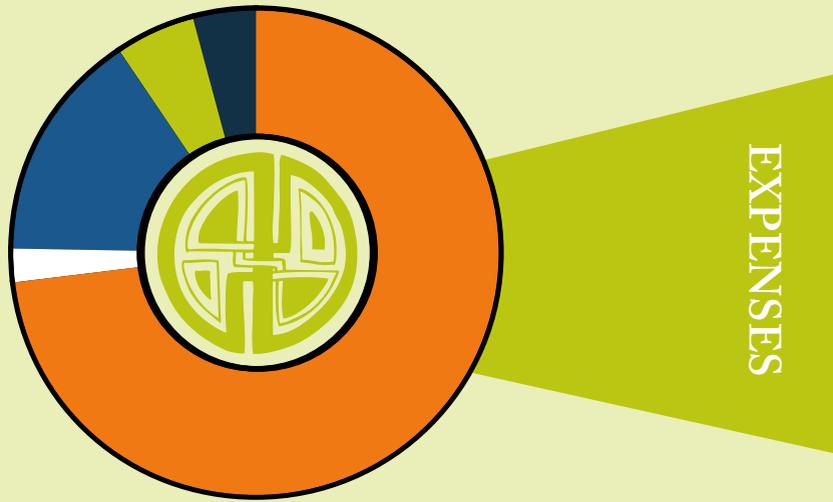
Walker Senior Center
Walker, CA

CILS Financials

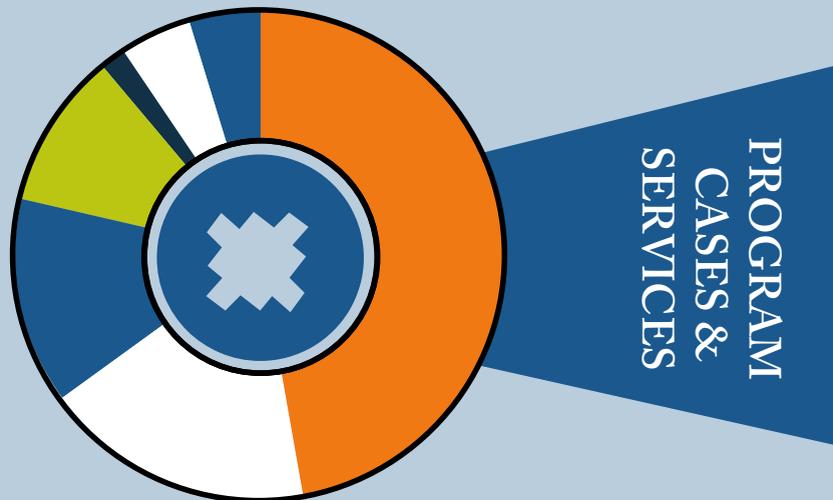
-  Government Contracts
\$890,407
-  Program Services Revenues
\$582,729
-  Grants
\$302,687
-  Other Income
\$129,625
-  Contributions
\$57,506



-  Grant Funded Services
\$1,063,023
-  Client Funded Services
\$529,216
-  Support Services
\$223,530
-  CILS Funded Services
\$76,448
-  Senior Services
\$58,135



-  LSC/CA State Bar 395 Cases
-  OLS 150 Services
-  Private Funding 114 Cases
-  Private Pay 86 Cases
-  IMSLP Sr. 40 Cases
-  ESLAP 38 Cases
-  BJA 13 Cases



Key

BJA = Bureau of Justice Sub-Grant

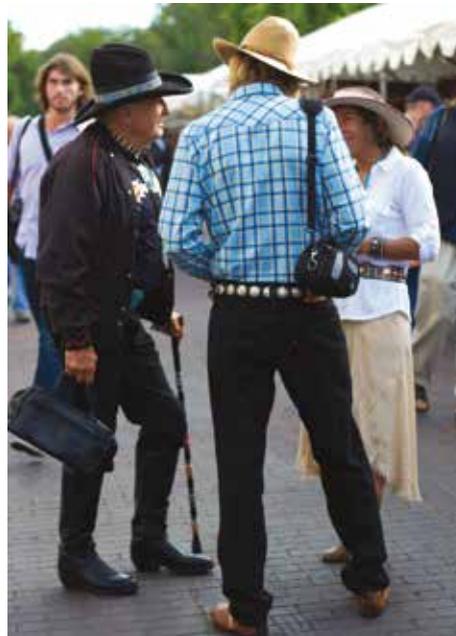
ESLAP = Eastern Sierra Legal Assistance Program

IMSLP = Inyo Mono Senior Legal Program

LSC/CA State Bar = Legal Services Corporation/CA State Bar

OLS = Other Legal Services-eligible person referred to another provider after case assessment

The selected financial data was derived from California Indian Legal Services, Inc.'s financial statements. The financial statements of California Indian Legal Services, Inc., are audited annually and are available upon request.



Impact Work

LOS COYOTES BAND OF CAHUILLA & CEPEÑO INDIANS VS. JEWELLS, 729 F. 3d 1025 (9th Cir. 2013). In a disappointing opinion, the Court upheld the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs denial of the Tribe's request for law enforcement funding through a Self-Determination contract (commonly known as a "638 contract"). The Tribe presented substantial evidence demonstrating that the BIA's denial of law enforcement funding was because of an agency "policy" that law enforcement funding will not be allocated to tribes in Public Law 280 states. The Court nonetheless relied on the 1993 Supreme Court case *Lincoln v. Virgil* to hold that an agency's decision on how to allocate a lump sum appropriation from Congress, where there are no conditions or directions on how the money is to be distributed, is not subject to judicial review.

While the Court was sympathetic to the Tribe's need for funding, the Court appeared to find that it was a matter of Congress to address, not the courts.

CILS HAD TWO MAJOR SUCCESSES before the CA Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and the Board of Equalization (BOE) this reporting period.

a. CILS successfully represented a Smith River Rancheria Tribal Member in a use tax dispute with the BOE. Our client had purchased a vehicle from a dealership in Oregon. Although the dealership generally made deliveries of purchased vehicles, including to northern California, it refused to deliver to an Indian reservation. Our client was forced to take

delivery in Oregon and drive the vehicle back to the Rancheria, which led the BOE to conclude that because the technical requirements of Regulation 1616 had not been met, the vehicle was not exempt from use tax. On appeal, CILS obtained a full exemption, as well as dismissal of all related fees and penalties.

b. CILS also successfully challenged the FTB's garnishment of a tribal employee's federal tax refund to satisfy a state income tax lien from eight years earlier. Not only did our client lose half of his federal refund, he faced the same situation year after year. CILS presented evidence that demonstrated our client was a tribal member living on his Tribe's reservation and earning income there, making him exempt from state income taxation. The FTB recognized its error and promptly remitted over \$4,000 of improperly collected taxes.

SCHOOL DISCRIMINATION

After repeated complaints from parents and students from the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, the Wiyot Tribe and the Pit River Tribe of students being subjected to verbal and physical harassment and excessive discipline, CILS filed race discrimination complaints cases against the Loleta Union School District in Humboldt County and the Fall River Joint Unified School District in Shasta County. In the case against the Loleta District, CILS partnered with the ACLU of Northern California and the National Youth Law Center. Both cases were accepted for investigation by the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights and featured in local

media and Indian Country Times. In both cases, the OCR investigations are still on-going. The OCR has collected data, met with parents, students, and teachers. We anticipate receiving findings from the OCR in the next several months, allowing us to move toward negotiating appropriate remedies.

BIG LAGOON RANCHERIA V. STATE OF CALIFORNIA, 758 F.3d 1073 (9th Cir. 2014) In this case the Tribe sued the state for failing to negotiate a gaming compact in “good faith.” Relying on the 2009 Supreme Court case *Carciari v. Salazar* the state argued that the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs cannot take land into trust for a tribe unless the tribe was under federal jurisdiction in 1934, the year that the Indian Reorganization Act was passed. Because Big Lagoon was not under “federal jurisdiction in 1934”, the BIA had no authority, in 1994, to take the land being considered as a location for its casino into to trust for the Tribe. The lower court held in favor of the Tribe and the State appealed.

The 9th Circuit Court issued a decision on June 1, 2014 finding that the proposed location of the casino was not “Indian Land” because the Tribe was not “under federal jurisdiction in 1934.” Although the BIA action in question was more than 14 years ago and long past the statute of limitation to challenge agency action, the Court allowed the State to raise the *Carciari* issue as a collateral attack in the Tribe’s “good faith” civil case. The Tribe sought and was granted an en banc rehearing in September, 2014 and no decision has been issued as of this writing.

CILS worked with Supreme Court Project (NARF, NCAI, Big Lagoon attorneys and other interested tribal legal counsel) on the preparation of an amicus (friend of the court) brief and also submitted a

“Letter Brief” supporting the Tribe’s request for an en banc hearing. CILS also supported the Tribe’s case by participating in a moot court hearing at the University of California Irvine to assist the Tribe’s attorneys in preparation of the en banc hearing. Executive Director, Dorothy Alther, acted as a 9th Circuit Court Judge on the moot court panel with other distinguished panelists.

WHITE ET.AL V. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ET. AL AND KUMEYAAY CULTURAL REPATRIATION COMMITTEE (KCRC), 765 F.3d 1010 (9th Cir. 2014). KCRC is a tribal consortium of the 11 Kumeyaay tribes in San Diego County and is dedicated to the proper repatriation of human remains, artifacts and funerary objects.

At issue in this case are 9000 year old human remains discovered on University of California San Diego property in 1976.

KCRC sought repatriation of the remains under the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) but its request was denied after a determination by the University that the remains could not be “culturally affiliated” with Kumeyaay. In 2010, the National Park Service (NPS) issued its long overdue regulations on the disposal of human remains determined to be culturally unaffiliated directing institutions to repatriate such remains to the tribe whose aboriginal lands the

remains were found, which in this case would be Kumeyaay lands. On the eve of the transfer, three University of California professors filed an injunction stopping the repatriation, arguing, for the first time, that the human remains have never been determined to be “Native American” and thus not subject to NAGPRA. The professors added KCRC to its complaint after the University argued that KCRC was a necessary and indispensable party. Both the University and KCRC were successful in having the professors’ case dismissed on the grounds that KCRC is a tribal entity and has not waived its tribal immunity to suit. Further, KCRC is an indispensable party and cannot be joined because of tribal immunity the case must be dismissed.

The professors appealed the lower court’s ruling and on August 27, 2014 the 9th Circuit Court upheld the lower court’s finding dismissing the professors’ law suit. The professors filed a petition for an en banc hearing on September 10, 2014 and we are waiting on a decision from the Court on whether it will grant the petition.

GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON OF D.W., A MINOR, 221Cal. App.4th 242 (Cal.App.1st Dist. 2013), CILS intervened, on behalf of the Karuk Tribe, into a state guardianship case involving a tribal member child. The lower court determined that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) did not apply in probate guardianship cases and refused to follow both state and federal ICWA provisions. CILS and the other respondent appealed the ruling to the California Appellate Court, First District, Fourth Division, which overturned the lower court’s decision and clearly held that the ICWA applied in the case. Additionally, CILS petitioned the Appeals Court to publish the opinion so that it can be cited as controlling authority. The Appeals Court granted CILS’s request.

More Good Stories

FAMILY BURIAL GROUND CASE

Over the course of several years, CILS assisted a northern California tribal member and his family in regaining access to their family burial ground. The case included documenting the family's history of use; investigating the history of an adjacent public cemetery; and examining possible alternative means of access. There were numerous meetings with the County (who held title to the land on which the burial ground was located and also to the public cemetery), a local church (who owned the land on which the access road was located and who wished to terminate that access), and nearby landowners. A private law firm provided CILS with valuable pro bono litigation support. Shortly before the trial date, a settlement was negotiated between the church, County, and family, declaring the road open to the public and establishing it as access to both the family burial ground and the adjacent public cemetery.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY AT THE CAPITOL



As in past years, CILS staff attended the ceremonies celebrating California Native American Day at the State Capitol in Sacramento. CILS gave out hundreds of legal education materials on issues facing the Native American community and strengthened relationships with other native organizations across the State.

Quotes from Clients and Community Members

"I will always be thankful to the California Indian Legal Services for their and your (CILS attorney) support to help us accomplish our goals..."

"I would like to express my gratitude for the excellent customer service and high quality of legal expertise my father ... and I received from your office during the preparation of the Indian will."

"You are one of the truly kind, decent, and ethical lawyers out there who fight to do the right thing for those who need our help most."

The Year in Review

It has been a busy reporting period for CILS, with litigation in federal and state courts and administrative challenges before several government agencies, all discussed in greater detail in our Impact Work. We have also remained active in our tribal community as demonstrated in our "On The Road" section, that reflects the many community education events we have hosted or attended as presenters. But CILS has also been active in many other areas.

TRIBAL AND STATE JUSTICE SUMMIT

The Summit was a collaborative effort with the California Attorney General's Office, the California State Sheriffs' Association, the California Tribal Chief of Police Association and CILS. The event was held November 18th and 19th at the Rincon Harrah's Resort and Casino.

The goal of the Summit was to bring tribal and state law enforcement stakeholders together to share ideas, best practices, and collaborative efforts that are working to protect tribal communities.

Attendees included tribal leaders and members, sheriffs from six counties, including San Diego Sheriff Bill Gore, Tribal Police Chiefs from ten Tribal Law Enforcement Departments, the Assistant U.S. Attorney's Tribal Liaison for the Southern District of California, San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis; Special Agent in Charge Carleen Fisher from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Service; and other hon-

ored guests and speakers. As law enforcement in Indian Country remains a challenge for both tribes and local law enforcement the Summit provided an opportunity and forum for sharing problems and more importantly solutions.

STRONG HEARTED NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION AND CILS RECEIVES \$500,000 GRANT

The Office on Violence Against Women funded a collaboration between SHNWC and CILS to support comprehensive legal services through direct representation and advocacy for Native American victims in order to enhance victim safety and autonomy. The 3 years grant will be used to provide holistic, culturally appropriate advocacy and legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

CILS'S DOROTHY ALTHER RECEIVES AWARD

Ms. Alther was honored with an Outstanding Achievement in California Indian Law Award from the California Indian Law Association (CILA). For the first time ever, the CILA honored a legal professional who has made significant contributions to California Indian law.

Dorothy Alther has been an attorney with California Indian Legal Services (CILS) since 1989 and has practiced Indian law since 1985. Her current work focuses on tribal issues including environmental law, housing law, tribal ordinance development, and land acquisition. She serves as legal counsel for several Tribes and tribal entities and has worked on tribal court and law enforcement development and a variety of other tribal matters. Ms. Alther has been a trainer on Public Law 280, the Indian Child Welfare Act, housing law, civil and criminal

jurisdiction in Indian Country, tribal law enforcement and the Tribal Law and Order Act. Dorothy is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and graduated from University of South Dakota and earned her J.D. from Northeastern University. Ms. Alther is also the recipient of the national 2010 Pierce Hickerson Award which is granted to distinguished Indian legal services attorneys.

"I am deeply honored for this



recognition from my colleagues. I have had the privilege to work with so many outstanding California Indian lawyers and to be selected as one of them means so much to me. I will continue to strive to do the best I can for California tribes and native people in order to live up to this prestigious award," said Dorothy Alther, Executive Director of CILS.

Hon. Christine Williams, Chief Judge for the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Tribal Court and 2013-2014 CILA President said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors of the California Indian Law Association, it is with deep admiration that we recognize Dorothy Alther for all of her great contributions to California Indian Law, with the inaugural 'Outstanding Achievement in California Indian Law Award.' We could not think of a more deserving candidate."

Meet CILS's Staff and Board

CILS STAFF 2014

Principal Office

Dorothy Alther, Executive Director
Robert Glen Bryson, Controller
Tara Edmiston, Executive Assistant
Patricia De La Cruz-Lynas, Director of Administration
Nicole Scott, Director of Marketing and Development

Bishop Office

Jasmine Andreas, Staff Attorney
Adora Bissonette, Legal/Administrative Assistant

Escondido Office

Summer Morales, Intake Advocate
Mark Radoff, Senior Staff Attorney
Mark Vezzola, Directing Attorney

Eureka Office

Delia Parr, Directing Attorney
Jedediah Parr, Staff Attorney
Laura Svoboda, Legal Secretary

Sacramento Office

Karen Graham, Legal/Administrative Assistant
Nicholas Mazanec, Directing Attorney
Sonia Montero, Advocate

CILS BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014

Board Chairperson

Rachel A. Joseph
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone

Board Vice-Chairperson

Mark Romero
Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians

Northern Region

André Cramblit, Karuk Tribe of California
Jessica Goodrow, Round Valley Indian Tribes
Hillary Renick, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Victorio Shaw, Hoopa Valley Tribe

Southern Region

Rachel A. Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone
Mark Romero, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians

State Bar Appointees

James Ham
Cary Lowe
Steve Otto
Sheila Quinlan



Tara Edmiston, Dorothy Alther, Patricia De La Cruz-Lynas & Robert Glen Bryson



Cary Lowe, James Ham & Mark Romero

Donations and Acknowledgements

The majority of CILS funding comes through grants from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and the State Bar of California as CILS is a statewide provider of legal services to California tribes and Indian individuals served in four service territories across the state. CILS receives grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance designed to assist tribes with developing tribal justice systems. Smaller grants subsidize overall legal aid services and allow our Bishop Office to serve that area's senior population. Of equal importance is contract work in the fields of economic development, tribal government services and child dependency cases, all of which help CILS fulfill its mission.

CILS CONTRIBUTORS

CILS would like to thank the following contributors whose donations allow the organization to continue moving forward in advocating for the needs of California Native Americans and Indian Tribes.

Dorothy Alther	Cary Lowe	Jeanne Smith
Jasmine Andreas	Patricia De La Cruz-Lynas	Keith & Amy Louise Smith
Adora L. Bissonette	Sonia Montero	Southern California Edison
Glen & Teresa Bryson	David Olinger	Laura Svoboda
Alex Cleghorn	Joan Olive	Tarbell Family Foundation
Robert Cochran	Steve Otto	Thermo Fisher
Ida May Cooney	Delia Parr	Amos Trip
André Cramblit	Jedediah Parr	Sonia Truelsen
Jessica Goodrow	Mike Pfeffer	United Way
Karen Graham	Sheila Quinlan	Julie Clements & Nathan
James Ham	Mark Radoff	Voegeli
Pansky Markle & Ham	Hillary Renick	Mark Vezzola
Cheyaña Jaffke	Mark Romero	Tom Bliss & Merrily Weiss
Rachel A. Joseph	Nicole Scott	Hermaine Weyer
Juvenile Dependency Counselors	Victorio Shaw	And many anonymous donors

Donate Today: Invest in California Indian Legal Services

What your contribution can help CILS do:

- Draft Indian Wills for clients with trust assets
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