



CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES

BISHOP ♦ ESCONDIDO ♦ EUREKA ♦ SACRAMENTO

Since 1967, California Indian Legal Services has represented individuals and tribes on legal issues they face every day, from taxation, trust land issues, religious freedom to discrimination. As the first Indian-controlled law firm organized to provide specialized legal representation to Indians and Indian tribes, CILS has helped thousands of individuals and nearly every tribe in California.

CILS continues to represent individuals, especially when the case will have a lasting impact, like Kim Anderson's case:



Mrs. Anderson had two daughters preparing to graduate from high school. Proud of her and her daughters' Native American heritage, Mrs. Anderson wanted her daughters to wear a sash designed and hand made by their tribal relatives at the graduation ceremony. After Mrs. Anderson attempted to meet with the Principal for months, the Principal informed Mrs. Anderson that her daughters would not receive their diplomas if they wore the sashes. No reason was given for this stance, other than the sashes would violate the dress code. Students of different cultures and religions would be allowed to wear culturally significant clothing, like a turban, to the graduation ceremony, but Native American students could not wear tribal sashes.

Mrs. Anderson then requested to be on the agenda at the next school board meeting to discuss the matter, but the Superintendent refused, that is when Mrs. Anderson contacted CILS.

CILS contacted the Superintendent, the Principal, and the President of the School Board. After obtaining letters of support from the tribe, CILS accompanied Mrs. Anderson to meet with the School District representatives. The School District's attorney said that the matter could be resolved without going to the School Board, yet offered no written assurance. Rather than delaying the matter, Mrs. Anderson went to the School Board meeting, at CILS' suggestion, and told them of the ordeal and the discrimination she faced. The next day, Mrs. Anderson and CILS were informed that the School Board had instructed the Superintendent to allow the girls to wear their sashes, and to change the policy to help avoid future discriminatory actions.

Mrs. Anderson is a good advocate, but without CILS' help and knowledge of the educational system, she was not able to reach the people she needed to influence. With CILS' help, Mrs. Anderson not only helped her daughters in showing the importance of their culture, but changed the policy for other Native American students in the District.

Every day, it is people like Mrs. Anderson who continue to struggle for justice for Native Americans. With your financial help, CILS can continue to represent individuals like Mrs. Anderson to help combat discrimination and insure the rights of all Native Americans and tribes.

Name/Title (as you want it to appear on our publications/website):

I prefer to remain anonymous (yes or no): _____

Tribe/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Make checks payable to "CILS"

Yes, I want to support CILS! Please return this form with a check payable to "CILS" to:

CILS Principal Office
609 S. Escondido Blvd.
Escondido, CA 92025

or visit our website at www.calindian.org and follow the "Just Give" link:



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