

# **Justice Dept. OK's Weinberg**

The U.S. Department of Justice this week ruled that former Interior Department solicitor Ed Weinberg can be engaged as legislative counsel by the Alaska Federation of Natives during the land claims legislation.

The question arose some time ago that if Weinberg was employed in the designated capacity, he would be violating the criminal code of the United States that prohibits a person from working on a similar matter after being employed by the government.

Weinberg as solicitor worked

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on Alaska native land matters before leaving the Interior Department last January.

The Justice Department ruling at this time has been received quietly in Alaska.

"I am deeply gratified at today's ruling," Weinberg told the press from Washington, D.C. "The decision is consistent with our informal advice from the Justice Department as well as with my own impressions of the matter."

AFN President Emil Notti concurred with the ruling in the following manner:

"I am certain that Mr. Weinberg's participation will expedite a just resolution of our claims. Mr. Weinberg brings years of experience in the public service as well as a deep feeling for the rights of our people to this cause.

"We were delighted when he was first brought into the case by Justice Goldberg and we are delighted now that he will be able to stay with us."