

# Barrow paralegal session is a success

The goal of bringing adequate justice services to the North Slope villages was brought closer this year by the recent success of the series of Paralegal Training Sessions at Barrow, sponsored by the Alaska Legal Services Corporation office there. Successful participants were Homer Bodfish (Wainwright), Raymond Neakok, Sr. (Barrow), Hazel Oktollik (Point Hope), and Willie Tukrook (Point Lay).

The April meeting of the training sessions brought together experts from many parts of Alaska. Chief Trainer was Steven Conn, a Professor at the University of Alaska Criminal Justice Center in Anchorage. Joining him for this session was Yako J. Andrew,

a full-time paralegal working with the District Attorney's office in Bethel.

Paralegal Andrew shared his experience as an investigator and translator for the District Attorney, and he also provided some expert commentary on a misdemeanor jury trial that the paralegals witnessed at the Barrow Court on the session's closing day. Barrow Magistrate Charlotte Brower presided at the trial.

The Paralegal Training Sessions began in October, 1978. Barrow has been the site for most sessions, which have been held once every three months. The schedule in 1980 was tailored

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to the subsistence hunting activities of the paralegals; three sessions were held January to April, and there will be a break during the summer hunting and fishing season.

The class training at Barrow is supplemented by on-the-job training and supervision from Attorneys Michael Jeffery and John Holmes, and Paralegal Raymond Neakok, Sr., during their regular village visits for Alaska Legal Services.

The goal of the training is to train the village residents in basic skills so that they can serve their communities in dealing with the impact of federal and state officials and the legal system on village people.

Under Steve Conn's direction, a number of training formats have been used: lectures, group discussions, watching an actual jury trial, "moots" (role-playing of situations the paralegals might face in dealing with legal problems), legal research projects, and interviews with expert resource people in the Barrow community.

Resource people who have shared their experience with the

paralegals include Charlotte Brower, Barrow's Magistrate; Annie Brower, Director of Social Services of the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope; Edith Attungowruk and Carol Morris of the North Slope Borough Health and Social Services Agency; Edith Nashoalook of the North Slope Borough Housing Department; and Suzanne Jaeger, Coordinator of the Arctic Women in Crisis Center at Barrow.

Rural outreach Specialist Dee Olin Hoffman, former mayor of Ruby, presented information on the Office of the Ombudsman during the April session. Michael Jeffery and John Holmes, the attorneys for Alaska Legal Services in Barrow, also actively participate in the training sessions.

The training is currently being funded by the CETA Manpower Program of the Alaska Federation of Natives in Anchorage. AFN/CETA Deputy Director Marie Morrison has been a key link in arranging the funding and administration of this grant. The grant also pays for the salaries of the village residents who are serving as Paralegals.

Other current participants in



MEETING TOGETHER AFTER THE APRIL TRAINING SESSION IN BARROW ARE (FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT) DEE OLIN HOFFMAN (RUBY), HAZEL OKTOLIK (POINT HOPE), YAKO J. ANDREW (BETHEL), AND HOMER BODFISH (WAINWRIGHT). (BACK ROW, FROM LEFT) CHARLOTTE BROWER, (BARROW MAGISTRATE), STEVEN CONN (U OF A, ANCHORAGE), WILLIE TUKROOK (POINT LAY), JOHN HOLMES (ALSC ATTORNEY, BARROW), RAYMOND NEAKOK, SR. (ALSC PARALEGAL, BARROW), AND MICHAEL JEFFERY (ALSC ATTORNEY, BARROW).



PARALEGALS WILLIE TUKROOK (POINT LAY), HOMER BODFISH (WAINWRIGHT), AND RAYMOND NEAKOK, SR. (BARROW) AND TRAINER STEVE CONN (U OF A, ANCHORAGE) LISTEN TO YAKO J. ANDREW'S PRESENTATION OF HIS PARALEGAL EXPERIENCE IN BETHEL. THEY ARE SITTING IN THE JUDGE'S CHAMBERS AT THE BARROW COURT HOUSE.

the Paralegal program who could not attend the April session in Barrow are Mark Ahmakak (Nuigsut) and Angeline Kanayurak (Atqasuk). Past participants include Alfred Linn, Jr. (Kaktovik), Allan Paneak and Elfreda Ahgook (Anaktuvik Pass), Nora Shugluk (Atqasuk), and David Pausanna and Maggie Kovalsky Nuigsut.

As secretary in the Barrow

Alaska Legal Services Office, Melba Ekowana Collett provides an essential link in the administration of the paralegal program.

Recent cutbacks in the CETA funding for Alaska threaten the future of the paralegal training program. "Just as these paralegals have gained some solid experience and skills to serve their village communities, President Carter's cutback in CETA funding will mean that the village paralegals will no longer have a job."

The freeze on new hiring prevents sharing this paralegal training with other North Slope village people," stated Michael Jeffery, coordinator of the program in Barrow. "An active search for alternate funds to save this program is now underway," he said.