

Chippewa Indian named DOI Indian Affairs associate solicitor

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt today announced the appointment of Robert T. Anderson as Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs.

Anderson, a member of the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, has been an attorney in the Native American Right Fund office in Anchorage, Alaska, since 1984.

"Robert Anderson has extensive

experience in legal issues involving both Alaska Natives and American Indian tribes," Babbitt said. "His experience is especially important during this time when we are making strides strengthening the government-to-government relationship with the tribes."

Anderson was one of two attorneys responsible for opening NARF's Alaska Office and developing the organization's substan-

tive role in Alaska Native rights issues during the past 11 years. He has served as counsel for Natives in a number of landmark cases.

In addition, Anderson also has worked with tribes in the Lower 48 on water rights and other issues.

Anderson earned his B.A. Summa Cum Laude at Bemidji State

University and his J.D. Cum Laude at the University of Minnesota Law School. He is licensed to practice in Minnesota, Colorado and Alaska, and before the United States Supreme Court; Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and District of Columbia Courts of Appeals, and the Federal District Court for the District of Alaska.

As Associate Solicitor, Anderson is the Interior Department's leading lawyer for Indian affairs. He supervises a team of attorneys advising the Secretary, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and works with tribes to assert and protect their legal rights.