

Law school proposed

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State Sen. Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue requested \$9.4 million last Thursday to establish a three-year law school in Anchorage.

In 1975 former state Attorney General John Havelock published a report showing that Alaska needed a law school that could train Alaska Lawyers, both Native and non-Native, to handle land law, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act matters, oil and gas issues, natural resource law and corporate law as it pertains to the regional Native corporations.

In recent years, more and more Anchorage lawmakers have proposed a law school because the need for Alaska lawyers trained to handle Alaska's special urban and rural needs in-

creases daily.

Last year, Patrick Anderson, the recruitment chairman for the Alaska Bar Association and the University of Alaska Criminal Justice Center successfully found funds to present a six week course for minority students interested in attending law school. Sixty-four applications were received for the course.

This past March, Anderson met with Elaine Abraham, the student orientation services coordinator for Anchorage Community College, Jackie Guzialak, chairman of the Native Education Coalition, Bert Campbell, Chairman for the Commission on Judicial qualifications, Havelock, the director of legal studies at the University of Alaska (UAA) and many others to form an Alaskans for Pre-Law Education Committee.

Anderson and Campbell re-

cently met with Ferguson to request funds for a local law school to be located in Anchorage.

Havelock supported the creation of an Anchorage-based law school but UAA officials and the state Board of Regents have never considered the establishment of a three year law school as a high priority for UAA.

Ferguson discussed the appropriations amounts with Havelock but he has not spoken with the UAA officials or the Board of Regents about his proposal.

The \$9.4 million appropriations bill (SB497) has been referred to the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee, now chaired by Fairbanks Democrat Charlie Parr, a former professor at the UA, Fairbanks campus.