

Alaska Native Bar Association

There is a new association in the state. The Alaska Native Bar Association was recently formed and is reaching out to the 50 or so Alaska Native law graduates, the majority of whom reside in the state. Pat Anderson, newly elected and the first president, is gathering names of potential members. At this time he has 15 local Native lawyers and is actively seeking others interested in supporting the professional efforts of Native attorneys, law graduates and law students.

In addition to President Anderson, other officers of the new association are: Paul Tony, vice-president; Kari Bazzy-Garber, vice-president; and Carlene Faithful, secretary. These officers and their growing membership gather every two months in Anchorage. Their next meeting will be during the week of the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention.

In addition to the membership drive of the association, the purpose of the group is to be very active on issues important to all Native people. In the changing environment of the state, the Alaska Native Bar Association will be a voice of support

and advocacy for Alaska's Native society in a world of Western laws. The association is also trying to increase the number of Native attorneys working in public and private practices.

If you would like to join this new association or know of someone who could benefit from membership, call **Pat Anderson** at 277-1953. Pat also has a list of Native attorneys willing to assist rural clients with their legal needs. There is something here for everyone in rural Alaska – from Grandma needing a will to the village corporation in need of legal representation. Information on upcoming meetings of the association can also be received through Anderson.

Remember that the best time for a small business to develop a relationship with its professional consultants, such as attorneys and accountants, may not be when you are faced with an IRS audit or a lawsuit. Pick up the phone now and determine who is best qualified to meet the professional needs of your business.

