

Glenna Is Paralegal Assistant to ALSC on Claims



GLENN A STERLEY, of the Kotzebue area, recently hired as a Native Allotment Para-legal assistant by the Alaska Legal Services Corporation in Fairbanks.
— (Photo by MARC OLSON)

By MARC OLSON

To see that all who are eligible for land get it is the goal of Alaska Legal Services Corporation, according to Edward T. Noonan, Supervising attorney in

Fairbanks.

To assist in working on its some 350 Native Land Allotment cases, ALSC has hired Glenna Sterley of the Kotzebue area as a para-legal assistant in Native Land

Allotments, a position funded by the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Her job is to organize cases, obtain statements, and help ALSC attorneys prepare appeals.

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Paralegal...

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Her job is an important one, for there is much confusion concerning Native Allotments. It ranges from confusion between the Allotments, Land Claims, and Homesteads, to faults in communications and translation, to the problems of older people who fulfill requirements for allotments but no longer live on the land.

The objective of the program is to find out if applicants have legal claim to land, and build cases for those who fill the requirements to receive lands.

The Federal Act which allows for allotments was in existence from 1906 until the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was passed in 1971.

It provided for 160 acres of land for Natives who meet certain requirements, which include living on the land for a specified period of time. There were few applications before about 1970, when the number increased heavily.

Alaska Legal Services is a non-profit corporation, and receives funding from the Federal government. It also is aided by the BIA in allotment cases. Its main objective is to provide free legal aid in civil cases to those who are eligible for services on the basis of income. It has ten offices around the state.

Para-legals are a "growing thing," according to Noonan, and ALSC employs several. There are welfare and old age para-legals as well as allotment para-legals in Bethel, Anchorage and Fairbanks.