

Tlingit-Haidas Get Award Of \$16 Million

A judge of the U.S. Court of Claims has fixed \$15.9 million as an award for a portion of the Tlingit and Haida land claim. But an attorney for the Tlingit-Haida group has indicated that he will file an appeal brief, apparently on the assumption that the award is too low.

The \$15.9 million is for 2.6 million acres of land in Southeast Alaska which the court in 1959 ruled was taken and for which the Tlingit-Haidas were due payment.

Still pending will be settlement for 16 million acres of the Tongass National Forest which the

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Tlingit-Haida . .

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court ruled was taken from the Tlingits and Haidas.

If the claim for the larger area follows the claim in the smaller portion, the total claim could easily exceed \$70 million.

The case has been pending since the early 1930's and involves about 10,000 Indians in Southeast Alaska and elsewhere.

News of the award came in a telephone call Tuesday from Isadore Weissbrodt, chief attorney for the Tlingit-Haidas in Washington, D.C., to Roy Peratrovich, area tribal affairs officer for the BIA in Juneau.