

# Barrow gets hearing

**BARROW** Superior Court Judge Jay Hodges signed a court order March 28 setting Barrow as the location for the Beaufort Sea lease sale suit. The hearing will be held at the State Court House in Barrow April 29.

The original hearing was scheduled for May 8 in Fairbanks.

The judge's order came in response to a motion filed by Alaska Legal Services on behalf of its clients: the villages of Kaktovik, Wainwright, Anaktuvik Pass, Point Lay and Archie K. Brower.

The motion was joined in by the attorneys for the

North Slope Borough, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Eben Hopson, Sr. and Jacob Adams.

Resolutions from the North Slope Borough Assembly and the City Council of Barrow supporting the Barrow court hearing site were filed with the motion. The Ukpeagvik Corporation, the Barrow village corporation created by the Native claims settlement act also supported the Barrow hearing location.

During the hearing, lawyers for the north slope Eskimo communities will make legal arguments that the State's decision to hold the Beaufort Sea oil and gas

lease sale on Dec. 11, 1979 violated several Alaska laws including the Alaska Land Act, Alaska Coastal Management Act, the Alaska Endangered Species Act and the Alaska Open Meetings Act.

A federal court has already blocked issuance of any leases on federal lease tracts and disputed lease tracts managed by the Federal Government until requirements of the federal environmental and wildlife laws are met. That decision has been appealed by the Federal Appeals Court in Washington, D.C. when arguments are expected in May.