

News Briefs from Around the World

Buchholdt aims legal services to village clients

At the age of 55, Jon Buchholdt, long-time Alaskan planner and community organizer, was admitted to the bar in June, 1992. In private practice in Anchorage, Buchholdt says he is making an effort to provide legal services to village families and businesses throughout rural Alaska.

Buchholdt's career in Alaska began in 1965 when, as a Public Health Advisor from the National Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, he directed Alaska's successful measles eradication program until 1967. He directed the old office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) - funded Community Action Program in Anchorage until 1970, when he entered business as planner serving clients in rural Alaska.

In 1991, Buchholdt graduated with the founding class of the District of Columbia School of Law, the successor to the Antioch Law School.

Buchholdt's work as a community planner in rural Alaska engaged him in the creation of the regional health corporations; extending public radio and television into rural Alaska; the organization of Native regional housing authorities; and the organization of regional corporations authorized by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

As a close associate of the late North Slope Borough founding Mayor, Eben Hopson, Buchholdt played an important role in the organization of the North Slope Borough, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, and Alaska's Arctic coastal zone management program.

In the context of coastal zone management, Buchholdt planned and led the development of the North Slope Borough's automated geographic information system.

Buchholdt's work in rural Alaska is based upon his belief that the Native land claims movement continues to evolve toward the re-tribalization of rural Alaska. He foresees the development of strong regional tribal courts able to adjudicate individual land claims and land use conflicts arising from ANCSA and ANILCA.

Jon is husband of former Alaska State Representative Thelma Garcia Buchholdt.

Jon Buchholdt, Attorney at law, 900 Hyder Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, (907) 279-8591, fax: (907) 276-0621.

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