

Estimated Claims Lawyer Fees— AFN Closes Washington Office

Compile Work Hours, Out of Pocket Expenses

By THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Barry W. Jackson, attorney for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, made available to the TUNDRA TIMES a compilation of estimated fees to be claimed by attorneys who have represented Native groups on the Native land claims issue.

The figures were accepted from the attorneys without prejudice, meaning that they may not necessarily match the final claims made by the lawyers.

Attorneys Ramsey Clark, Ken Bass, Ed Weinberg, and Thomas Kuchel, general counsel for the Alaska Federation of Natives, claim 5550 hours work plus out of pocket expenses of \$34,500.

Arctic Slope Native Association legal counsel Fred Paul, William Paul, Sr., James Wickwire, Lyle Guernsey, and Tyonek attorneys McCutcheon, Groh, and Berkert claim 23,600 hours plus out of pocket expenses of \$110,000.

Tanana Chiefs, Tlingit and Haida, Kenaitze, and Aleut League lawyers Kay, Miller, Libby, Jackson, Fenton, and Weissbrodt claim 7,500 hours work plus out of pocket expenses of \$42,000.

John Hendrickson, counsel for the village of Unalakleet, claims 750 hours plus out of pocket expenses of \$5,000.

Art Lazarus and Northwest Alaska Native Association lawyers Wilkenson, Cragon, and Barker claim 675 hours work plus out of pocket expenses of \$5500.

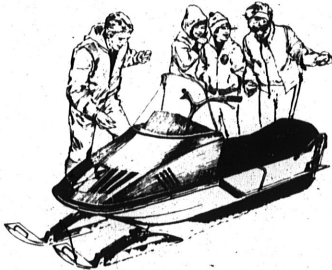
Attorneys Ely, Guess, Rodd, and Madsen have claimed no fee. Total estimated hours claimed by attorneys is 40,000. Estimated out of pocket expenses amount to \$200,000.

Depending on which provision is adopted by the House-Senate Conference on the Alaska Native land claims bill, attorneys could be compensated at a rate between \$20.90 and \$62.50 per hour.

With the nearing end of its lobbying effort, the Alaska Federation of Natives announced last week that it has closed its office at the Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington.

AFN representatives will work out of the Tribal Association Office in Washington from now on.

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How will your land rights be protected after legislation is passed? How will you as an individual benefit from the settlement?

—Appoint a constitutional committee who, upon passage of legislation, will draw upon expert advice and draft recommendations regarding the powers and duties of village, regional and state-wide associations and how they will work together.

—Hold a constitutional convention to hear, discuss, modify and /or adopt the recommendations of the constitutional committee.

—Charge AFN with the responsibility to continue to forcefully and effectively represent the interest of Alaska Natives before both the State of Alaska and the U.S. Government.

—Contract communications specialists to prepare a thorough but simple land claims information program to help explain the legislation to the villages.

Are you a member of a regional Native Association? Will your regional association be recognized under the land claims bill?

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