

Struggles in Federal Indian Law: Alaska Native Rights and the Katie John Litigation

Free — This may qualify for 1.0 General CLE Credit



4:30 - 6:00 p.m. / Thursday, January 26, 2018

Beus Center for Law and Society, W. P. Carey Armstrong Foundation Great Hall,
111 E. Taylor Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004-4467

Robert T. Anderson

*Director, Native American Law Center and Professor of Law,
University of Washington and Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor
of Law, Harvard Law School*

Aboriginal land claims in Alaska were not settled until 1971 with passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). ANCSA was an experimental approach that contained aspects of the termination policy as well as the self-determination policy. While sovereignty and land tenure issues remain in some degree of flux, Native rights to hunt, fish, and gather were not adequately dealt within ANCSA. This lecture will review the settlement of aboriginal claims, and focus on the litigation over the right to fish at a traditional village and fish camp site by upper Ahtna people. This battle was led by Katie John, a revered Alaska Native elder who refused to accept the State of Alaska's closure of a customary and traditional Native fishery. Katie John's journey through the federal courts reveals a story of determination, and deep flaws in the ANCSA respecting hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

Professor Anderson is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe. He spent twelve years as a Staff Attorney for the Boulder based Native American Rights Fund where he litigated major cases involving Native American sovereignty and natural resources. He was one of two attorneys who opened NARF's Alaska office in 1984. From 1995-2001, he served as a political appointee in the Clinton administration under Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, providing legal and policy advice on a wide variety of Indian law and natural resource issues. Professor Anderson was the co-chair of the Obama transition team for the Department of the Interior in 2008, and one of five members of the National Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform.

The Indian Legal Program presents the 11th Annual William C. Canby Jr. Lecture,
named in honor of William C. Canby Jr. of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, a founding faculty member of the ASU College of Law.

Free and open to the public. Public reception to follow.
RSVP online at law.asu.edu/canby or email: ILP@asu.edu

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