

filing a brief amici curiae with the Native Village of Karluk so that these villagers may come to court for the first time to speak for justice in their own behalf. It is an amazing situation that those whose lives and property are at issue must petition to be heard as "friends of the court" in order to state their case!"

The case was begun by the fishing companies in June 1946 and is on appeal before the October Term of the Supreme Court from a decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals of San Francisco in November 1947. The primary issue at stake is whether the right of a native people who live by fishing to the resources they use or occupy includes the waters on which they depend as well as the coastline on which their houses are built. The Secretary of the Interior, when he established the Karluk Reservation in 1943, included in it the tidelands and waters 3,000 feet from shore as a traditional area of native use and occupation and one indispensable to the economic life of the villagers. The fishing companies are suing a government official to invalidate the reservation and the principles on which it is based.

The Association on American Indian Affairs and the other organizations who have come to the support of the Native Village of Karluk are concerned that the United States shall not deal unjustly with a helpless native community, that this case must not be a preamble to systematic impoverishment and decimation of our Alaskan native citizens, and that the United States maintain good faith before the world in discharging its obligations, based on solemn treaties and commitments, to its most helpless minorities.

"What is at stake in this case," says the Association brief, "is not an ancient wrong to ancestors of those who now seek redress; it is a present assault, recently initiated and not yet fully consummated, against the basic human rights of the Karluk Natives who seek the protection of this Honorable Court."

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