# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (	(a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
	KONIAG, INC.				KURT KANAM, individually and as Tribal Attorney for the Native Village of Karluk, and ORBIE MULLINS, individually and as Village of Karluk Tribal Court Judge for the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk					
(	(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)					(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)					
					NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)					
(	(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)									
James E. Torgerson, John R. Evans (Stoel Rives LLP)										
!	510 L Street, Suite 50	0, Anchorage, AK 9950	01	ĺ						
11.	BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	ı One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES			
D I	U.S. Government X 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)				(For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF DEF  DEF  Itizen of This State  D 1 D 1 Incorporated or Principal Place  Of Business In This State					
☐ 2·	U.S. Government Defendant	🗖 4 Diversity		Citize	en of Another State	12 🗇 2	Incorporated and I		<b>□</b> 5	<b>D</b> 5
	Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)				of Business In Another State				
TX /	ALA TREEDE OF CLUT	T			en or Subject of a reign Country	<b>1</b> 3 🗇 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	<b>D</b> 6
<u>1V.</u>		(Place an "X" in One Box On	ly) RTS	FOR	FEITURE/PENALTY	BAN	KRUPTCY	OTHER	STATUT	ES
	10 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJUR		10 Agriculture		al 28 USC 158	☐ 400 State R		
	20 Marine 80 Miller Act	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	362 Personal Injury - Med, Malpractice		20 Other Food & Drug 25 Drug Related Seizure	☐ 423 Witho		410 Antitru 430 Banks		1974) or 1972
<b>1</b> 9	40 Negotiable Instrument	tiable Instrument Liability 🗇 365 Personal Injury -		.	of Property 21 USC 881	28 USC 157		☐ 450 Commerce		
	Recovery of Overpayment  & Enforcement of Judgment			630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck		PROPERTY RIGHTS  820 Copyrights		☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and		
	1 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers'	Injury Product	□ 6	50 Airline Regs.	■ 830 Paten	t	Corrupt	Organizati	
ו עו	52 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability  340 Marine	Liability PERSONAL PROPER	TY	60 Occupational Safety/Health	☐ 840 Trade	mark	480 Consum 490 Cable/S	at TV	
п	(Excl. Veterans) 53 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product Liability	☐ 370 Other Fraud ☐ 371 Truth in Lending		90 Other LABOR	SOCIAL	SECURITY	810 Selectiv		dities/
	of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle	380 Other Personal		10 Fair Labor Standards	□ 861 HIA (	1395ff)	Exchange	ge	
	60 Stockholders' Suits 90 Other Contract	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	Property Damage 385 Property Damage	.   0 7	Act 20 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	☐ 862 Black ☐ 863 DIW	Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 875 Custom 12 USC		ge
	95 Contract Product Liability 96 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Product Liability	<b>3</b> 7	30 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act	☐ 864 SSID ☐ 865 RSI (4		890 Other S		ctions
	REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIO		40 Railway Labor Act	FEDERA	L TAX SUITS	🗇 892 Есопоп	nic Stabiliz	
	t0 Land Condemnation 20 Forcelosure	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment	510 Motions to Vacat Sentence		90 Other Labor Litigation 91 Empl. Ret. Inc.	l l	(U.S. Plaintiff endant)	☐ 893 Enviro ☐ 894 Energy		
IJ 23	0 Rent Lease & Ejectment	443 Housing/	Habeas Corpus:		Security Act	☐ 871 IRS—	Third Party	☐ 895 Freedor		
□ 24	10 Torts to Land 15 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations  444 Welfare	530 General 535 Death Penalty			26 US	□ 7609	Act 900Appeal	of Fee Dete	rmination
X 29	00 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	540 Mandamus & Otl	10г				Under E	qual Acces	
		Employment  446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	☐ 550 Civil Rights ☐ 555 Prison Condition					to Justice 950 Constitu		f
٠.		Other  440 Other Civil Rights						State Sta	itutes	
V.	Original D 2 R	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from	Remanded from Appellate Court			ferred from	□ 6 Multidistr	ict 🗇 7 🛚	Appeal to fudge fror Magistrate fudgment	n
	. A TOCCCUMP		atute under which you a	re filing (	Do not cite jurisdictions	al statutes ur	less diversity):		٠	12.007.04
٧I.	CAUSE OF ACTIO	DN Brief description of co			olief	<u>ibal (</u>	Court Jur	<u> (15                                   </u>	0 n	
VII	, REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P	IS A CLASS ACTION . 23	( <b>Q</b>	EMAND \$		HECK YES only JRY DEMAND:	_	complain X No	t: .
VII	I. RELATED CASE IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			
DAT	4/9/12		SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY	OF RECORD	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·			***************************************
FOR	OVFICE/USÉ ONLY		/ /					··· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	.,	
: RI	ECEIPT# A	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		лирде		MAG. JUD	GE		

James E. Torgerson (Bar No. 8509120) John R. Evans (Bar No. 1005035) STOEL RIVES LLP 510 L Street, Suite 500 Anchorage, AK 99501

Telephone: (907) 277-1900 Facsimile: (907) 277-1920 jetorgerson@stoel.com jrevans@stoel.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff Koniag, Inc.

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

### FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

KONIAG, INC., an Alaska corporation,

Plaintiff.

Case No.: 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT** 

v.

KURT KANAM, individually and as Tribal Attorney for the Native Village of Karluk, and ORBIE MULLINS, individually and as Village of Karluk Tribal Court Judge for the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk,

Defendants.

### I. NATURE OF THE CASE

1. Koniag, Inc. (Koniag) brings this action for injunctive and other prospective relief to prevent Kurt Kanam, individually and as Tribal Attorney for the Native Village of Karluk, and the Honorable Orbie Mullins, individually and as Village of Karluk Tribal Court Judge, for The Karluk Tribal Court For the Native Village of Karluk (Kurt Kanam and Orbie Mullins are the "Defendants" and either one of them is a "Defendant"), and individuals and entities affiliated with and acting in concert with either Defendant from violating federal law by unlawfully exercising jurisdiction in the Karluk Tribal Court over Koniag in the Karluk Tribal Court case styled *The Native Village of Karluk, Plaintiff, against Koniag Corporation, Defendant*, Cause VERIFIED COMPLAINT *Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al.*, 3:12-cv-00077-JWS Page 1 of 12

No. 3-19-12-1. The unlawful actions of Defendants are evidenced in part by an Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Affidavit in Support executed by Defendant Kanam and Order to Show Cause executed by Defendant Mullins ordering Koniag "to show cause within 20 days [of March 19, 2012] and by 4-20-2012 date why this court should not grant Plaintiff's requested relief." The Plaintiff in said Complaint and Order to Show Cause is the Native Village of Karluk. A copy of the Complaint, Order to Show Cause, Proposed Declaratory Judgment, Summons and related documents received by Koniag (collectively, the Karluk Tribal Court Documents) are attached to the Declaration of John Evans, which is Exhibit A to this Complaint.<sup>1</sup>

- 2. The Proposed Declaratory Judgment served on Koniag declares that the Native Village of Karluk is entitled to unspecified "awards" against Koniag and directs that the "The Federal District Court is obliged to register the Declaratory Order of this court under the Uniform Foreign Judgments Act."
- 3. Without temporary, preliminary, and permanent prospective prohibitory, and if necessary mandatory, injunctive relief, Defendants' illegal conduct will subject Koniag to the jurisdiction of the Karluk Tribal Court in violation of federal law and subject Koniag to irreparable injury and harm and immeasurable and unspecified monetary damages.

### II. THE PARTIES

4. Koniag is an Alaska corporation with its principal place of business on Kodiak Island. Alaska.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 2 of 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Karluk Tribal Court Documents are Exhibit A-1 to the Declaration of John Evans (Evans Decl.). Exhibit A-2 to the Evans Decl. is the March 30, 2012 "Response to Bar Application" issued by the Karluk Tribal Court.

- 5. On information and belief, Koniag alleges that the "Koniag Corporation" so named in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Affidavit in Support, Proposed Declaratory Judgment, Summons, and Order to Show Cause means Koniag, the Plaintiff in this action.
- 6. Koniag is an Alaska Native Regional Corporation established pursuant to section 7 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA), 43 U.S.C. § 1606(d).
  - 7. Koniag is not a member of the Native Village of Karluk.
  - 8. The Native Village of Karluk is not a Koniag shareholder.
- 9. The Native Village of Karluk is not a regional or village corporation under section 8 of ANCSA, 43 U.S.C. § 1607(a).
  - 10. The Native Village of Karluk is a federally recognized Indian tribe.
  - 11. The Native Village of Karluk is located on Kodiak Island, Alaska.
- 12. The Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk is an instrumentality and agency of the Native Village of Karluk.
  - 13. The United States does not hold land in trust for the Native Village of Karluk.
- 14. The Native Village of Karluk does not currently have a reservation recognized as such by the United States.
- 15. Kurt Kanam is an individual and, in his official capacity, Tribal Attorney for the Native Village of Karluk.
- 16. The Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment executed by Kurt Kanam includes as Attachment A substantially identical affidavits by 14 persons claiming to be "eligible voting member[s] of the Native Village of Karluk" made under the laws of the State of Alaska, notarized by an Alaska notary, and asserting each affiant's "vote" among other things for "return

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT** 

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 3 of 12

of the Old Karluk Reservations lands to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Native Village of Karluk."

- 17. The Old Karluk Reservation referenced in said affidavits was located on Kodiak Island, Alaska.
- 18. Orbie Mullins is an individual and, in his official capacity, Village of Karluk Tribal Court Judge, for The Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk.
- Koniag received copies of the Karluk Tribal Court Documents on March 27,
   2012.

# III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 20. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because among other matters Koniag's cause of action is based on questions of federal law, including federal common law of tribal jurisdiction over non-members and ANCSA.
  - 21. Venue is appropriate in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

### IV. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 22. Koniag's business and other transactions with the Native Village of Karluk do not have a nexus to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment executed by Kurt Kanam, Defendant Kanam's Proposed Declaratory Judgment, or Order to Show Cause executed by Defendant Orbie Mullins.
- 23. Koniag has had no consensual relationship with Kurt Kanam, Orbie Mullins or the Native Village of Karluk "of the qualifying kind," *Strate v. A-1 Contractors*, 520 U.S. 438, 457 (1997), that establishes a nexus to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment executed by Kurt Kanam, Defendant Kanam's Proposed Declaratory Judgment or Order to Show Cause executed by Defendant Orbie Mullins.

#### VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 4 of 12

24. Koniag has not taken any action that authorizes the exercise of Native Village of Karluk Tribal Court jurisdiction under federal law, including *Montana v. United States*, 450 U.S. 544 (1981).

25. Koniag has not consented to jurisdiction in the Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk as to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment executed by Kurt Kanam, Defendant Kanam's Proposed Declaratory Judgment or Order to Show Cause executed by Defendant Orbie Mullins.

26. Defendants' assertion of jurisdiction over Koniag is "presumptively invalid." *Atkinson Trading Co, Inc. v. Shirley*, 532 U.S. 645, 659 (2001) (where the party subject to that presumption "fail[s] to establish" the basis for tribal court jurisdiction over a non-member, "the presumption ripens into a holding").

27. The Old Karluk Reservation referenced in affidavits attached to Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment as Attachment A was revoked by Congress by enactment of 43 U.S.C. § 1618(a) of ANCSA.

28. The Native Village of Karluk does not exercise territorial jurisdiction over any federally recognized Indian reservation or Indian trust allotment that is relevant to the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment executed by Kurt Kanam, Defendant Kanam's Proposed Declaratory Judgment or Order to Show Cause executed by Defendant Orbie Mullins.

29. Under the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Alaska v. Native Village* of Venetie Tribal Government, 522 U.S. 520, 527 (1998), where an Indian reservation and Indian allotments held in trust are not at issue, tribal "Indian country" jurisdiction "depends on whether [land] falls within the 'dependent Indian communities' prong of 18 U.S.C. § 1151. To qualify as "dependent Indian communities," lands must "satisfy two requirements–first, they must have

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT** 

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 5 of 12

been set aside by the Federal Government for the use of the Indians as Indian land; second, they must be under federal superintendence." 522 U.S. at 527.

30. The Native Village of Karluk does not exercise territorial jurisdiction over any "dependent Indian communit[y]" that is relevant to Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment executed by Kurt Kanam, Defendant Kanam's Proposed Declaratory Judgment or Order to Show Cause executed by Defendant Orbie Mullins.

31. On March 19, 2012, Kurt Kanam signed, as Karluk Tribal Attorney, the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, including Affidavit in Support, in the case styled The Native Village of Karluk, Plaintiff, against Koniag Corporation, Defendant, Cause No. 3-19-12-1.

32. The court whose jurisdiction is invoked for Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment Cause No. 3-19-12-1 is identified as "The Karluk Tribal Court For the Native Village of Karluk."

33. A copy of the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, The Native Village of Karluk, Plaintiff, against Koniag Corporation, Defendant., Cause No. 3-19-12-1, served upon Koniag bears a stamp, stating, "Filed March 19, 2012, Karluk Tribal Court."

34. A Summons in the Karluk Tribal Court case styled The Native Village of Karluk, Plaintiff, against Koniag Corporation, Defendant, Cause No. 3-19-12-1 is stamped "Filed March 19, 2012, Karluk Tribal Court" shows a signature over a line stating "Clerk of Court".

35. The Summons described in the preceding paragraph states in part: "Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day received it) . . . you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 6 of 12

Rules of Civil Procedure." The Summons also states in part: "If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint."

- 36. An Order to Show Cause in the Karluk Tribal Court case styled The Native Village of Karluk, Plaintiff, against Koniag Corporation, Defendant, Cause No. 3-19-12-1 showing the signature of Orbie Mullins, Village of Karluk Tribal Court Judge, states in part: "Done 3-19-2012" and bears a statement "Filed March 19, 2012, Karluk Tribal Court".
- 37. The Order to Show Cause described in the preceding paragraph "orders the defendant to show cause within 20 days and by 4-20-2012 date why this court should not grant Plaintiff's request for relief."
- 38. The Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and a Proposed Declaratory Judgment served upon Koniag describe "Plaintiff's [Native Village of Karluk's] request for relief."
- 39. No right of appeal is available to Koniag to any Alaska state or federal court to control the unlawful exercise of jurisdiction by the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk as to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, Order to Show Cause or Proposed Declaratory Judgment.

## V. CAUSES OF ACTION

# **First Cause of Action**

Violation of Federal Common Law of Tribal Court Jurisdiction

40. Koniag re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 39.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 7 of 12

41. Defendants, acting for and on behalf of the Native Village of Karluk, are engaged

in a course of conduct that is intended to, that has, and that threatens to continue to assert civil

jurisdiction of the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk over Koniag.

42. Federal common law provides that Koniag can sue the Defendants in both their

individual and official capacities in circumstances such as those here. Ex Parte Young, 209 U.S.

123 (1908).

43. Federal common law provides that imposition of tribal jurisdiction over non-

members is presumptively invalid.

44. Federal law places the burden of proving such jurisdiction on those asserting

tribal jurisdiction over non-members.

45. Federal common law provides that when those asserting tribal jurisdiction over

non-members fail to establish a basis for the exercise of such jurisdiction, the presumption

against such jurisdiction ripens into a holding.

46. Koniag does not bear the burden of proving it is exempt from jurisdiction of the

Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk.

47. Koniag has not consented to suit in the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village

of Karluk as to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, Order to

Show Cause or Proposed Declaratory Judgment.

48. There is no basis under federal common law for assertion by Kurt Kanam, Orbie

Mullins or the Native Village of Karluk of jurisdiction by the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native

Village of Karluk over Koniag as to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory

Judgment, Order to Show Cause or Proposed Declaratory Judgment.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 8 of 12

49. The Defendants' actions asserting jurisdiction of the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk over Koniag violate Koniag's federal common law right to be free of such jurisdiction.

50. No right of appeal and no writ of mandamus or writ of prohibition is available to Koniag to any court of the State of Alaska or to any federal court to control the unlawful exercise of jurisdiction by the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk as to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, Order to Show Cause or Proposed Declaratory Judgment.

# VI. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Koniag requests the following relief:

1. Entry of temporary, preliminary and permanent prospective injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants, their agents, servants, employees and all others acting in active concert and participation with Defendants from directly retaining, exercising or threatening to retain or exercise jurisdiction of or by the Karluk Tribal Court for the Native Village of Karluk over Koniag as to matters described in the Original Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, Order to Show Cause, Proposed Declaratory Judgment or Summons in Karluk Tribal Court case *The Native Village of Karluk, Plaintiff, against Koniag Corporation, Defendant*, Cause No. 3-19-12-1;

2. Entry of preliminary and permanent prospective mandatory injunctive relief, if and to the extent necessary, requiring Defendants, their agents, servants, employees and all others acting in active concert and participation with Defendants, to dismiss with prejudice Karluk Tribal Court case *The Native Village of Karluk, Plaintiff, against Koniag Corporation*,

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT** 

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 9 of 12

Defendant, Cause No. 3-19-12-1, not later than ten (10) days after this Court's order requiring such action; and

3. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

DATED: April 9, 2012

STOEL RIVES LLP

By:/s/ James E. Torgerson JAMES E. TORGERSON (BAR NO. 8509120) JOHN R. EVANS (BAR NO. 1005035)

Attorneys for Plaintiff Koniag, Inc.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 10 of 12

# VERIFICATION

I, <u>Serveson</u>, having been duly sworn depose and state that I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint for Injunctive Relief, and that the information stated therein is factual and true, and those factual matters that are stated upon information and belief are believed to be true.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to or affirmed this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2012, in Anchorage,

Alaska.



Notary Publicin and for the State of Alaska My Commission expires: (1) 129, 2015

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-\_\_\_\_

Page 11 of 12

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on April 9, 2012, I filed a true and correct copy of the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court – District of Alaska by using the CM/ECF system. I further certify that Defendants were served same date electronically and via U.S.P.S. Certified Priority Mail as follows:

Mr. Kurt Kanam Tribal Attorney Karluk Tribe 2103 Harrison Street, #143 Olympia, WA 98502

Email: kurtkanam@gmail.com

Honorable Orbie Mullins Village of Karluk Tribal Judge Native Village of Karluk PO Box 237 Toledo, WA 98591

Email: karluktribalcourt@gmail.com

/s/ James E. Torgerson

James E. Torgerson

71396930.5 0078125-00029

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Koniag, Inc. v. Kanam, et al., 3:12-cv-00077-JWS

Page 12 of 12