

SONOSKY

SONOSKY, CHAMBERS, SACHSE, ENDRESON & PERRY, LLP

• A NATIONAL LAW FIRM DEVOTED TO REPRESENTING NATIVE AMERICAN INTERESTS •

PRESS RELEASE

FEDERAL COURT GRANTS FINAL APPROVAL TO \$940 MILLION CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT WITH INDIAN TRIBES

Washington, D.C. (Feb. 24, 2016)

This morning New Mexico Federal Judge James Parker granted final approval to the historic \$940 million class action settlement of contract claims by Indian Tribes against the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. This approval clears the way for settlement funds to be distributed to 699 Indian tribes and tribal organizations across the United States in the coming months.

Judge Parker's Order acknowledged that "Class members have suffered over two decades of underpayments for CSC that they had to cover by taking funds from other areas of their cash-strapped budgets." Approval of this landmark settlement will finally right those wrongs. Judge Parker concluded that "[t]he settlement amount of \$940,000,000 is fair, reasonable, and adequate in view of the intricacy of the claims and the risks associated with litigation of the amount of damages due to the hundreds of tribal contractors over a period of 20 years." Judge Parker also noted that "[t]he settlement amount of \$940,000,000 is unprecedented in the District of New Mexico." Judge Parker stated that the "plan of distribution . . . is fair and reasonable."

Sonosky Chambers partner Lloyd Miller served as co-class counsel in the 25-year old case, along with Class Counsel Mike Gross and Co-Class Counsel Bryant Rogers (both of New Mexico). Mr. Miller extends his congratulations to all of Indian country on achieving this remarkable settlement.

(The Sonosky Chambers firm serves as special and general counsel to many Tribes and tribal organizations across the country, working in such areas as tribal sovereignty, self-governance, health care, gaming, commercial transactions, land and water rights, hunting and fishing rights, labor law, transportation and infrastructure development, environmental law, child welfare matters, and the many diverse matters which come before Tribes as local governments. The firm

also has an active tribal rights litigation practice and, in recent years, has recovered hundreds of millions in damage awards against the United States.)

For additional information, feel free to contact Sonosky Chambers Partner Lloyd Miller at 907-229-6377.