

Obama's district court nominee to be sole American Indian on federal bench

NCAI urges swift confirmation of Assistant U.S. Attorney Arvo Mikkanen as federal district court judge

WASHINGTON – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) commends the Obama administration's nomination of Assistant U.S. Attorney Arvo Mikkanen to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

NCAI, the nation's oldest and largest American Indian and Alaska Native organization, is calling on the U.S. Senate to move quickly to confirm the appointment and fill the federal district court vacancy.

"Assistant U.S. Attorney Mikkanen has served our country for many years

as a federal prosecutor and with his vast experience in both federal and Tribal law, he is an excellent choice for the federal District Court in Northern Oklahoma," said Jefferson Keel, president of NCAI and lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, on Feb. 3. "We urge the Senate to act swiftly to confirm Mr. Mikkanen's nomination and make the federal judiciary more representative of all citizens of this country, including Native Americans."

When confirmed, Mikkanen will be the only American Indian serving on the federal bench, out of a total of 875 federal judgeships, and only the third American Indian in history to secure a federal judgeship.

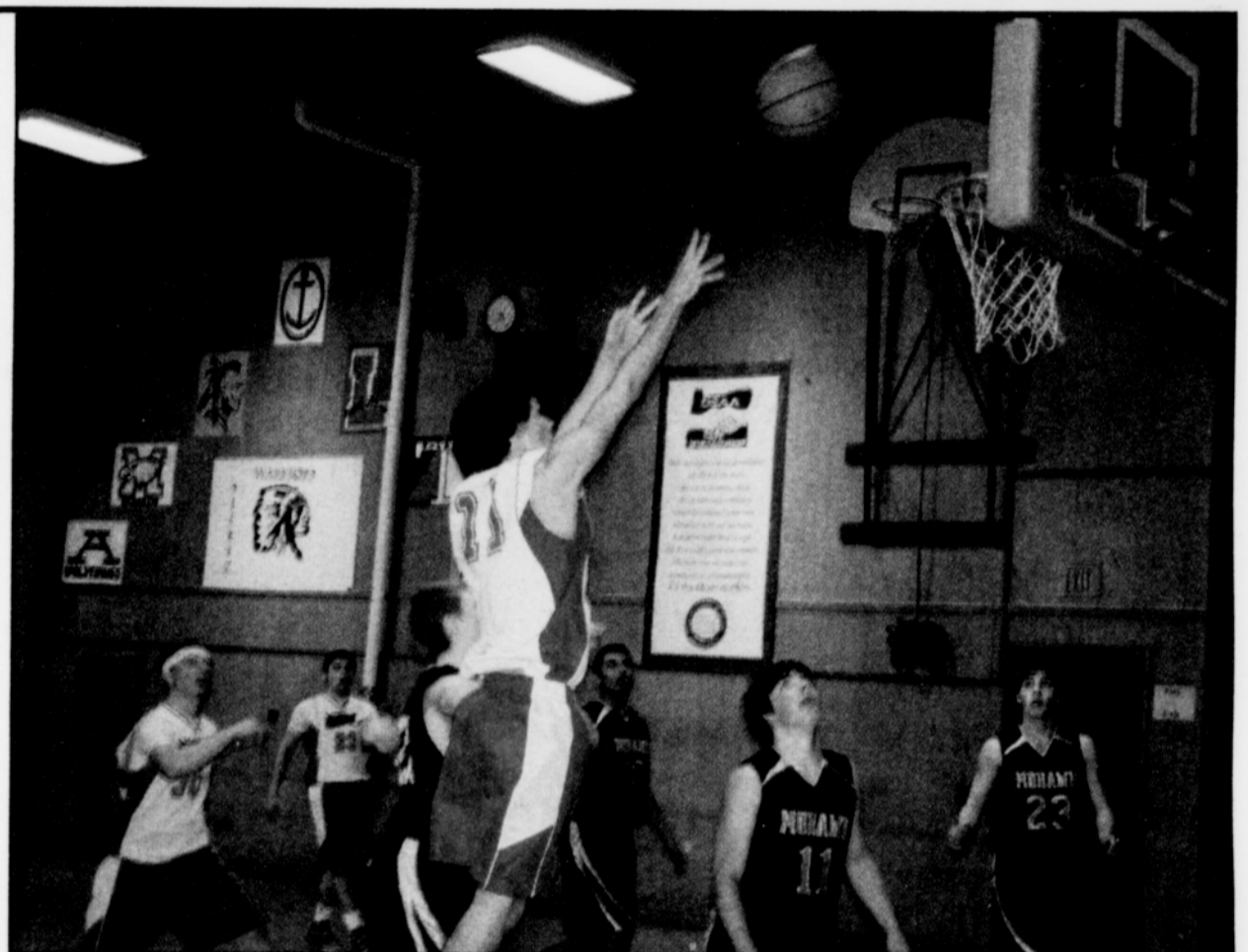
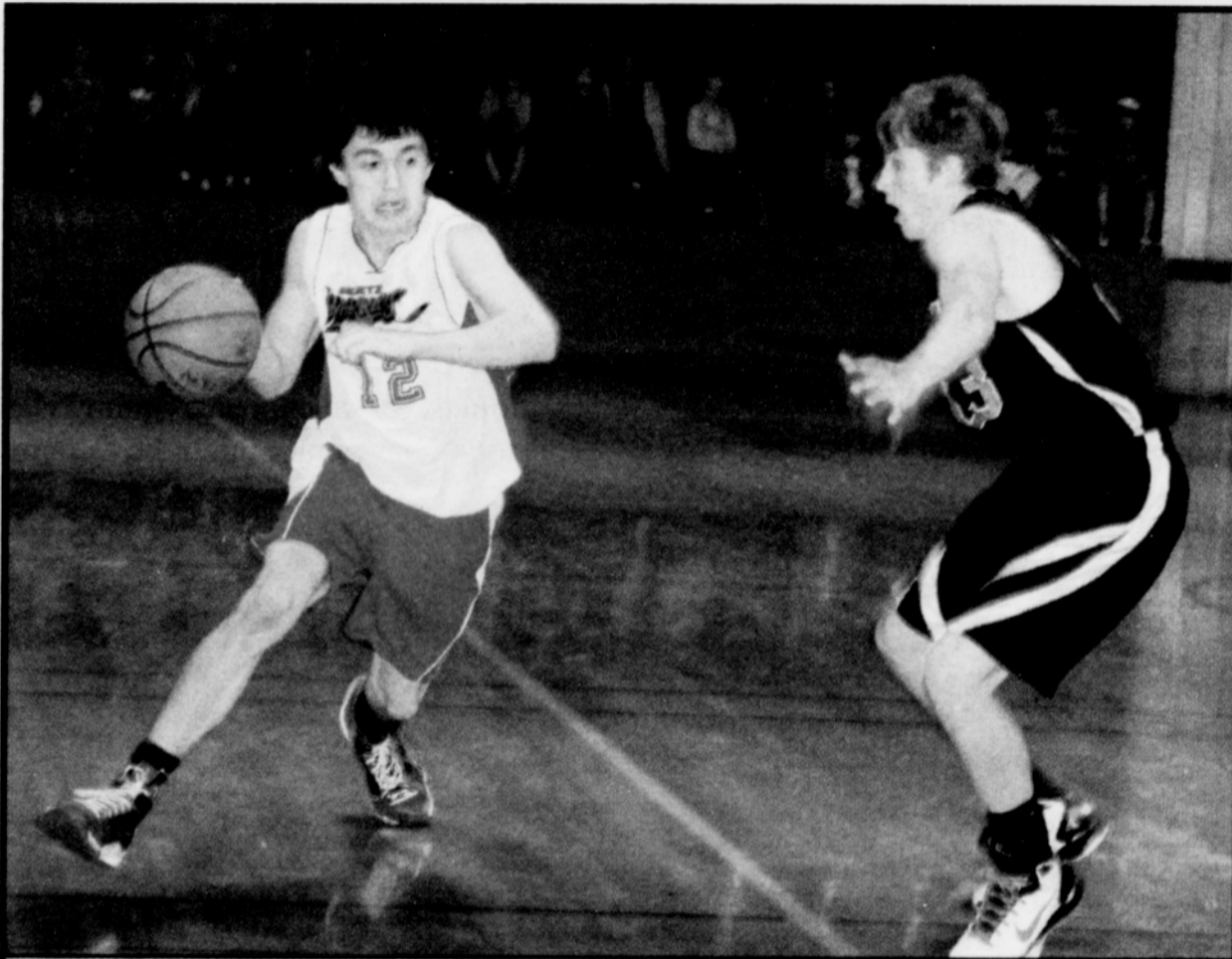
The other two American Indians to serve on the federal judiciary were Frank Seay (now on senior status), nominated by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, and Billy Burrage, nominated by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

Mikkanen, who has been an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District

of Oklahoma since 1994, is an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and has had a distinguished legal career.

He served as a trial and appellate judge for Court of Indian Offenses and Court of Indian Appeals for the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Wichita, Caddo, Delaware, Fort Sill Apache, Ponca, Pawnee, Kaw, Otoe-Missouria and Tonkawa Tribes from 1988 to 1994. He served as chief justice of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Supreme Court from 1991 to 1994.

He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Yale Law School.



Photos by Natasha Kavanaugh

Dakota Burgins (photo above) and Erick Rice (right photo) help lead the Siletz Warriors to a Mountain West League playoff win over Mohawk on Feb. 17. The team followed this victory with a one-point league playoff loss to McKenzie

on Feb. 19, but still qualified for the state playoffs. On Feb. 22, the Warriors of Siletz Valley Early College Academy won their first state playoff game by beating Camas Valley 86-68. As Siletz News was going to press, the team was preparing for a playoff game against Country Christian on Feb. 25.

Missing Moccasins

Ashley	Janice Kelsy	ADAMS	Teresa	Edelmira	ESPINO
Andrew	Michael	ARDEN	Sharlene	Marie	FISHER
Nicholas	Brown	ARDEN	Eyan	Scott	FISHER-MURPHY
Anthony	James	ARRINGTON	Jeremiah	Logan	FLANARY
Haley	Marie	ARRINGTON	Marcello	Riley	GAYTON
Naulena	Anita	ARTIAGO	David	Kevin	GOODELL
Darrel	David	ASHLEY	Bruce, III	William	GORR
Judy	Ann	BAKER	Christopher	Zane	GREENAWALD
Roy	Lee	BAKER	Jonathon	Adare	GREENAWALD
Shawna	Lee	BAKER	Zena	Lillie	GREENAWALD
Trayvon	Lamarcus	BAKER	Courtney	Nicole	HAMMETT
Ted	James	BEAL	Mackenzie	Lilly	HANEY
Kyle	Carl	BEALS	Chester, Jr.	Eugene	HENDERSON
Desteny	Rose	BECK	Todd	Michael	HOINESS
Kimberly	Ann	BLACK	Alexander	Joseph	HOLLAND
Lucille	Roxanne	BLACK	Leah	Lynn	JACKSON
Gilbert	James	BLACKETER	Monique	Fayette	JACKSON
Jesse	Lee	BLACKETER	Kimberly	Joi	JOHANSON
Jonathan	William	BLALOCK	Michael	Todd	JOHNSON
Larry, Jr.	Andrew	BOSTWICK	Clifton	Lawrence	KLAMATH
Bradley	Justin Romey	BREMER	Josephine	Cristina Rainbow	LOGAN
Jessica	Michelle	BROWN	Rachael	Angelique	LONG
Shane	Anthony	BROWN	Kristin	Jo	LOZANO
Randy, Jr.	Lee	BUTLER	Kadan	Jay	LUCAS
Ethan	James	CAMPBELL	Ramona	Lynette	LULEDJIAN
Anthony	Edward	COOK	Haily	Annamaria	MAGRUM
James	Russell	COOK	Keanna	Jolynn	MASON
Bryon	Michael	CRONIN	Tad	S.	MASON
Edith	Marie	CULTEE	Roman	Meril	McCARTY
Lars	Victor	EKSTROM	Carson	Willard	MCCLINTOCK
			Kristine	Marie	MCCORD

Missing Moccasins

Jason	Henry	MCKNIGHT	Eric	Alden	SAGE
Melvin	Francis	MCKNIGHT	Altagracia	C.	SANCHEZ
Rachael	Cassandra	MILLER	Everette	Clay	SAYLOR
Steven	Christopher	MILLMAN	Crystal	Ann	SELLERS
Kristopher	Michael	MORGAN	Diane	Lee	SERVICE
Tommy	Lee	MULLINGS	Paul	Garrett	SIMMS
Jacquelin	Marie	NAVARRO	Ralph, Jr.	David	STEELE
Karen	Mary	PARKER	Dennis	Clyde	SUITTER
Kristine	Michelle	PARROTT	Derek	James	SULLIVAN
Derek	David	PEARSON	Devin	Michael	SULLIVAN
Robert	Edwin	PEDDYCOART	Nawitka	Chee-Chako	TAYLOR
Tiernan	Rhyse	PETTIT	Mikel	Edward Thunder	THOMAS
Aundrea	Jean	PIRTLE	Tiana	Virginia Marie	THOMAS
Jennifer	Louise	PIRTLE	Thunder	Steven	TORREZ
William		PIZANO	Alicia	Joy	UNGER
Bradford	Robert	PRATHER	Rachael	Faith	UNGER
Veronica	Celest	PURDY	Daniel	James	WARREN
Ada	Nancy Lee	RAY	Michlene	Dee	WASHINGTON
Robert	Evan	REDNER-BUTLER	Ayana		WHEELER
Charles	Eugene	RICHARDSON	Koda	Lawrence	WHITE EAGLE
Robert	Carl	RICHARDSON	Derreck	Joseph	WILLIAMS
Brandy	Joleen	RIFE	Alexandra		WINDSONG
Dara	Chantell	RILATOS	Nicholas		WINDSONG
Frank	Lynn	RILATOS	Mari		WOOSLEY
Lee, II	Raymond	RUFF	Natane	Aiyana	WOOSLEY
Robert	Pauline	RUSSELL	Chad	Everett	ZIGLER

If you or anyone you know is on this list, please contact Loraine Butler in the Enrollment Department at 800-922-1399, ext. 1258, or 541-444-8258; or e-mail loraineb@ctsi.nsn.us. Or you can contact Angela Martin at 800-922-1399, ext. 1292 or 541-444-8292; or e-mail angelam@ctsi.nsn.us.