

# Chief Judge Hired

John Roe, tribal member from Vancouver, Washington, was named Siletz Tribal Court Chief Judge on November 20, 1989. Roe assumed duties in early December, after completing work as a member of the STEDCO Task Force.

The Tribal Court had been without a principal judge since June when former Chief Judge Martin Henner resigned under pressure from the Tribal Council.

Tribal Council's choice of Roe as Chief Judge is the third such appointment in the post-restoration era. For Roe, the appointment marks the second time that he has been Chief Judge. His first term (1984-1988) ended when Roe resigned because of family responsibilities.

Roe identified the creation of a law-and-order ordinance to cover people living in the new reservation housing and the streamlining of judicial procedures and practices as likely areas in which the Court will see some changes.

"It would be a big improvement," Roe added, "if there could be an advocate for some persons before the Court who are now unrepresented." The problem now, according to Roe, is that judges sometimes are forced to ask too many questions.

"It's tough for a judge to ask questions of the parties and witnesses without appearing to be a proponent of one side or the other," Roe said.

A licensed Oregon attorney and graduate of Lewis

and Clark College's Northwestern School of Law, Roe also works as a judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System.

"I've sat as both a tribal court judge and also as an appellate court judge for the Chehalis Tribe, the Skokomish, the Upper Skagit, Tulalip, Hoh, Quileute, Nooksak and possibly others," Roe said. Roe has also served as judge pro-tem of the Suquamish and Quinalt nations.

Does being a STEDCO Commissioner and Tribal Court Chief Judge raise a question of conflicting interests?

Roe answered that his "stated intent at the time I was appointed Chief Judge was to resign from STEDCO. But because of the problems at STEDCO recently, with some of the commissioners resigning, in order to maintain a quorum, I've stayed on the Board at the request of the other commissioners."

"As soon as new commissioners are appointed," Roe said, "I will resign. And, of course, I wouldn't be able to hear any cases that have arisen out of STEDCO during my term as Commissioner." □

## Elections Slated

Nine tribal members are still in the running for three Tribal Council positions. Elections in all the Area Offices as well as in Siletz will determine the three winners.

According to Eloise Case, Election Board Member, two tribal members have withdrawn from this year's race. Raymond "Rocky" Hoiness and Illene Somes, both citing family responsibilities, dropped out of the running in January.

This year's candidates include incumbents Alfred "Bud" Lane, III, Priscilla "Pat" Morrell, and Frank Simmons and newcomers Lillie Butler, John "Bill" Christensen, Leonard Flanary, Jr., Monte Kentta, Marita "Sylene" Lynch, and Mary Service Viles.

Voters will also be asked to say yeah or nay to a ballot measure that would raise the hourly wage paid to Tribal Council members.

See page 11 for this year's polling places and times.

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