

Tribal Court In Brief

Chief Judge John Roe issued an order dated October 25, 1990 dismissing the claims brought by tribal member Andrew Viles. Viles filed a complaint in Tribal Court last April alleging that tribal government had violated various constitutional rights during and after his discharge from tribal employment.

According to the order, the "court [sic] heard arguments from both parties and having reviewed the records and files determines that the petitioner failed to prove his claim for relief and his petitioner [sic] is hereby denied."

Roe has 25 days in which to issue a written opinion in support of the order.

Neither Phil Rilatos or Delores Pigsley, both respondents in the case, were willing to comment on the order.

Tribal Council Attorney Craig Dorsay said, "I'm glad that a decision has been issued so that we can put the matter behind us. I think that it's unfortunate that it went to Tribal Court in the first place."

What does the order mean for tribal members? "I'm not sure that it means anything for tribal members," Dorsay said. "I think that it was limited to the unique circumstances of the case."

Asked for a response, Viles wrote the following:

"Without a full opinion, it's hard to say what the full effect of the Court's decision will be.

"But the claims were pretty common. Tribal employees have the right to print letters in the newsletter. Tribal members have the right to work for the Tribe without threat of being fired for insufficient cause. Tribal members cannot be banned from working for the Tribe without due process of law. Those are things I still believe in.

"It looks like the Court agreed with the other side."

Tribal Stock Falls

Tribal money invested by two firms in the U.S. Stock Market showed losses for the month of September. The portfolio invested with Atalanta Sosnoff dropped in value from \$855,613 to \$842,785, during the month of September. The value of the Tribe's account on January 1, 1990 was \$887,131.

Prospects of war in the Persian Gulf, Tokyo's market collapse and loan losses suffered by domestic banks were all cited as causes for the drop in assets.

The net worth of the Tribe's other stock market investment showed heavier losses, dropping from \$684,916 to \$645,393 during the month of September. The account is managed by Gabelli & Company, Inc. and had a value of \$841,665 on January 1, 1990.

Both tribal stock market investments began in 1988 with opening balances of \$700,000. From then to now, the Sosnoff account shows an increase of \$142,785, compared with a loss of \$54,607 on the \$700,000 invested with Gabelli & Co. □

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