

A Deck, A Deal, A Stack, No Cut

A year ago I asked in these pages for the Oregon State Bar to come to Siletz and investigate Craig Dorsay. They—I mean the lawyers who judge such matters for the State Bar—declined, saying that they could find “no violation of the Code of Professional Responsibility by Mr. Dorsay.”

My first thought on reading this news was that I must be all wet. But then again, it occurred to me, a system like the Oregon State Bar where lawyers are in

charge of making sure that lawyers stay ethical is sort of like having an alcoholic tend bar. Not a good situation if you want to make sure people leaving the bar stay upright.

So despite what the learned have said, I still my old opinion keep. Something is fishy when a lawyer can draft the following resolution and then advise a Tribal Council to adopt it:

WHEREAS, the Siletz Tribal Council has entered into a Development Agreement with First Astri Corp. III, with regard to establishing and financing [a] gaming operation; and

Whereas, it will be less expensive to the Tribe in terms of making profits from the proposed gaming operation to use the Tribe's present lawyer rather than First Astri's higher priced [sic] private legal counsel

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Siletz Tribal Council hereby approves the attached Specific Counsel Contract between Craig J. Dorsay and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hourly rate to be paid attorney under said Specific Counsel Contract shall be at the rate of \$90.00.

The best thing to say about this resolution is that it's a very good advertisement of Craig Dorsay's legal skills. What better way to drum up business than to have a law passed that declares you work cheap?

The advertisement is also cheap itself. Inside sources confirm that Dorsay did not pay a dime to get this advertisement in circulation. And because this advertisement is also a law, it will look very good on Craig's resume. How many other lawyers can declare that it is a matter of law that they work cheap?

Who knows, this might be only a start. Other Tribes might soon pass similar laws pronouncing that Craig J. Dorsay works cheaper than other attorneys. With the right connections, Craig Dorsay might even get the State of Oregon to declare that he can save people money on legal matters. It sounds sort of far-fetched, but I can even imagine the United Nations coming out with an International Declaration of Craig

Dorsay's Cheap Rates.

If there is something wrong with all this, it must have to do with the question of truth in advertising. How, after all, do we know that Craig Dorsay (self-described as inexperienced with Indian gaming law) was able to work on the cheap? Isn't it just as likely (or **more** likely) that the “higher-priced” attorney—that is, the one with more experience and expertise—would have been able to save the Tribe some money?

And what about the money? First Astri were the people footing the bill, so how could the fact of Craig Dorsay substituting for First Astri's attorney save the Tribe money?

This is highly questionable advertising. I, for one, would like to see if it is proper for a lawyer to make such unsubstantiated and questionable business claims. Therefore, I call upon the Better Business Bureau to investigate the dealings of Craig Dorsay. □

OF THE NATIVE YOUTH AND ELDERS

responsibility of passing on the knowledge to the coming generations. But our assimilation into an unnatural world has separated our Elders from their responsibilities, as does happen when a people come to depend on other people to take care of them.

By turning back towards our Elders with a strong, sincere, commitment to work for a better future for our children, maybe we can find that balance between the two worlds that we—as a Nation—must establish to secure a future free of the confusion and bitterness that is turning our children to the alcohol and drugs.

There is much work to do to prepare for this Gathering. We will be having meetings in Siletz and other areas to prepare for this Gathering. Anyone interested in helping may contact the following people:

Darelle Butler/Juanita (503) 996-6316
Selene Rilatos (503) 444-4222 or 1-800-922-1399
or Lorraine Metcalf (503) 444-2031

We pray for the people, all our relations.