

LAWSUIT DESCRIPTION

It is an honor for the staff of Mohrman & Kaardal, P.A. to represent over 7,000 individual members of the Minnesota Mdewakanton Dakota Oyate in *Wolfchild et al. v. United States* litigation, which we filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in 2003. Attorneys representing another approximately 15,000 plaintiffs and interveners are also involved in the case.

The lawsuit contains claims against the United States for monetary damages that stem from past trust mismanagement and for an injunction stopping the United States from further trust mismanagement.

In the late 1800s Congress appropriated funds to purchase lands for the exclusive and equal benefit of the Minnesota Mdewakanton Sioux residing in Minnesota on May 20, 1886, and their lineal descendants. In accordance with the appropriations acts, federal Indian agents purchased lands in Prior Lake, Prairie Island, and Lower Sioux (1886 Lands).

The 1886 Lands have been used to benefit the Lineal Descendants, but not in an equal and exclusive way as Congress intended. Since the introduction of casino gaming on Indian lands and the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the communities at Prior Lake, Prairie Island, and Lower Sioux have restricted membership and casino per capita payments to existing members - whether or not they are the trust beneficiaries Congress intended. The United States as trustee mismanaged the trust by not ensuring that benefits from the 1886 Lands were exclusively and equally shared by the trust beneficiaries.

See court documents.

Drafted by:

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