PRESS RELEASE

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Over Fifty years ago, on August 27, 1954, the U.S. Congress passed the Ute Partition Act (UPA), that victimized 490, Americans, adults and minors, who were "Mixed-Blood" members of the Uinta Band of Ute Indians in Utah. Based on the lies of federal officials, Congress stripped the 490 Uintas of their federally-recognized tribal identity through a failed "experiment" called "termination", a renounced federal policy of racial and cultural genocide by forced assimilation into the American mainstream society. There is no proof in the historical record that the Mixed-Blood Uintas ever voluntarily agreed to their termination at a legally conducted meeting held under the Ute Tribe's Constitution. Rather, officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs told Congress that the Mixed-Blood has knowing and voluntarily voted to end their status as federally-recognized Indians.

Soon after Congress enacted the UPA, federal and tribal officials were obligated to divide the valuable assets, land, water and grazing rights, between the "Full-Bloods" and the Mixed-Blood Uintas using an extremely complicated set of rules. Under the UPA the Full-Blood Utes were to be also terminated from federal guardianship after the Mixed-Blood Uintas were given their divided assets sent on their way to assimilate into mainstream American society.

Although the UPA prohibited the transfer or sale of shares in an organization called the "Ute Distribution Corporation" into the hands of non-Indians, officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs disregarded their legal responsibilities toward the transfer and sale of the UDC shares and the federal courts later justified the taking of these valuable shares by both non-Indians and the Ute Indian Tribe who was able to amend the UPA to evade their own termination.

As a consequence of the United States failure to insure that the UPA was carried out according to the original intent of Congress, the terminated 490 Mixed-Bloods were left at the mercy of unscrupulous dealings that led many of them to lose any chance of entering mainstream America.

On November 4, 2002, surviving members of the originally terminated 490 Mixed-Blood Uintas and their descendants filed a filed a complaint titled **"Felter, et al. -vs- Norton, et al.", Case No. 1:02CV2156 RCL, in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia.** Their lawsuit charges that the United States government, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, incorrectly implemented the Ute Partition Act, a federal law enacted in 1954 that purportedly "terminated" the federally-recognized "Indian" status of each named plaintiff as members of the Uinta Band of Utes.

One Cause of Action in the "Felter, et al. v. Norton, et al." complaint charges that the United States government grossly mismanaged and continue to grossly mismanage their interest in monies derived from the disposition of settlement funds earmarked and targeted for distribution to them arising from a $32 million dollar Indian Claims Commission judgment allocated under an Act of Congress approved on August 21, 1951. Plaintiffs seek an accounting of these funds charging the defendants with losing those funds and, thus, denying them and their children of the benefit of these judgment monies.

On May 20, 2005, the Felter plaintiffs filed a document in the action titled "Notice to the Court of Matters Under Advisement for more than Ninety (90) Days." This "Notice" was a reminder to the

presiding federal judge, Judge Roberts, that the United States defendants' Motion to Dismiss remains undecided since November 26, 2003, the date the federal defendants filed their Reply in Support of the Motion and briefing by all parties was closed. The fact that no decision has been reached by Judge Roberts after over a year and half is something out of the control of anyone, including the plaintiffs. Various reasons, likely the heavy case load of federal judges in the United States District Court, District of Columbia, impact on the length of time it takes the Court to issue its decision on the defendants' motion to dismiss. Dennis G. Chappabitty, plaintiffs' counsel of record in the case, stated that "no one is to blame for the fact that no decision has been reached by Judge Roberts". He further stated: "No one can go into the Judge's chambers and pound on his desk and demand that he render his decision right now - that just not the way it works and the "Notice" that has been filed is proof that we are doing our best to remind Judge Roberts that we believe his decision is long overdue."

A meeting will be held on July 2, 2005 in Roosevelt, Utah to update the Felter plaintiffs on the status of the case and ongoing efforts to educate the public and Congress on their dilemma and seek their support should it become necessary to go to Congress with a "restoration bill." Chappabitty stated that in situations where a tribe has suffered termination by Act of Congress that it is better to exhaust the judicial remedies available before petition Congress for restoration of status. Chappabitty stated that with the great controversy remaining in the air for over 50 years, it is shameful that not even Utah's Congressional delegation has taken a serious interest in helping advocate for the terminated Mixed-Blood Uintas. Chappabitty added that in those unique circumstances where Congress has passed legislation to restore terminated tribes, as in California, the issue of recovering damages for wrongfully lost or dissipated land or other valuables was not included in the restoration legislation: "The terminated Mixed-Blood Uinta situation is entirely different with clear cut evidence that the federal government utterly failed to protect the land and other assets of the 490 and that failure has resulted in the loss of millions and millions of dollars to the plaintiffs and their descendants". He added: "It is clear that no member of Utah's Congressional delegation wants to risk addressing this issue head-on by sponsoring restoration legislation when very powerful organizations, including the Ute Indian Tribe, now own the assets lost by my clients." "It is a very well guarded secret that the Ute Distribution Corporation is comprised of non-Indians and non-Indian organizations masquerading as members of the original 490 terminated Mixed-Blood Uintas." "Are these non-Indian organizations repeating the profits from hold Ute Distribution Corporation shares that Congress intended to be owned by the 490 Uintas paying federal taxes on those profits."

ONE GLARING ASPECT OF THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PLAINTIFF'S STATUS as federally-recognized members of the Uinta Band of Utes is that the United States Congress enacted a law along racial blood lines, classifying the plaintiffs as "mixed-blood" Utes possessing no more than 50% Ute Indian blood while classifying the members of the Uncompagre and Whiteriver Bands, originally from Colorado, as "full-blood" Utes. Only through this forced "branding" of the plaintiffs as "mixed-blood" Utes has the United States government been able to successfully strip them of their tribal identity and turn over to others their homelands and billions of dollars of valuable assets consisting of timber, water and mineral assets once held by the United States government in trust for their beneficial ownership. While Nations like South Africa have disentangled themselves from and renounced racially based governmental policies such as "apartheid", the fact that the Ute Partition Act remains law within the United States of America must be told to all of the honorable Nations in the World of Democratic governments.

IMAGINE SITTING IN your warm, cozy home on a beautiful Indian reservation with snow-capped mountains to the north, pines growing abundantly in their slopes and in the lush valleys where elk and deer roam. To the south lies a vast stark high-desert landscape against a crystal clear blue horizon for as far as you can see. Then, imagine that this reservation has been yours by Congressional decree since 1861. Your home sits on vast untapped reserve of mineral wealth and you drink water from crystal clear rivers and streams that your ancestors revered and prayed to with the highest spiritual regards.

SUDDENLY, YOU SEE STRANGERS ON YOUR LAND. These strangers, distant but related Ute bands, were moved over from another state on to your reservation by the U.S. Army. But hey, it's a big place, so you can let 'em stay, but so long as U.S. government just keeps them on those parts of your big and beautiful reservation so you, your family and own Uinta Band won't be disturbed. Next thing you know, they're in your living room by permission of the U.S. government telling you that you aren't Indian anymore, to move off the reservation and turn all your land, water, trees, animals and minerals over to the outsiders. OK, you say, just tell me, if I am not Indian anymore, why did the outsiders remain "Indian" when the U.S. government told all of us that none of us would be Indian anymore? No one, not even the U.S. government, gives you an answer that makes any common sense. Your parents and grandparents asked for a simple answer and never got one. They died wondering why their Indian identity was stripped from them, their lands stolen and why they got nothing in return but misery and poverty instead of the millions of dollars that the U.S. government used as "bait" to entice unsophisticated Indians led to "slaughter" by unscrupulous Indian agents and overreaching lawyers who were supposed to look out for your and their best interest.

SOUNDS LIKE A BAD DREAM THAT YOU CAN SIMPLY WAKE UP AND IT IS GONE. Sadly, this option is not available to the plaintiffs who filed an action against the U.S. government for its miserable failure to execute the refuted federal policy of "termination" against them and their parents that has left them without a federally-recognized status as members of the Uinta Band of Utes and left them without a right to live on their ancestor's spiritual homelands, the Uinta and Ouray Reservation in eastern Utah. Their legal action will require some reflection by the world on years of systematic destruction of their native culture, criminal meddling into their Uinta's family lives and political and economic disenfranchisement that isolated them from their homelands and left them in the most impoverished condition right in the middle of one of the most wealthy and democratic nations of the world - the United States of America.

THE "FELTER" CASE IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE TO RECLAIM *THE "MIXED-BLOOD" UTE'S IDENTITY AS TRIBAL PEOPLE AND TO GET BACK WHAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALLOWED TO BE LOST WHEN IT BOTCHED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UTE PARTITION ACT, SAT BACK AS "GUARDIAN" AND EITHER WATCHED OR OPENLY HELPED OTHERS ACQUIRE THE LAND AND VALUABLE RESOURCES FROM ITS "WARDS".*

DENNIS G. CHAPPABITTY, SACRAMENTO, CA, ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFFS, STATES THAT *"the Felter case is one of the worst examples of the federal government's approved policy of cultural and racial extermination coming from the 1950's and walking right into this new century. Those winding up with the plaintiff's land and other valuable assets try to say that the "mixed-blood Utes" willingly took money and gave up their right to tribal identity. However, the record shows that the plaintiffs objected to their "termination" from the beginning but were forced by the United States government into accepting it over their stringent objections and by a long series of unlawful acts by the federal government all executed with the most cunning effective and deceitful manner by numerous shady characters over many years. We will tell the Court about this shameful legacy that has been brought from the last century into this one by a Nation that hypocritically decries other Nations about their inhumane mistreatment of their citizens while it ignores the last remaining injustice left over from the western "Indian Wars"."*
