

# Dennis G. Chappabitty

Attorney at Law

Federal Practice

January 29, 2003

Hon. Orrin Hatch  
United States Senate  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4402

Dear Senator Hatch:

I represent the individual terminated "mixed-blood" members of the Uinta Band of Ute Indians. On November 4, 2002, the terminated Uintas took the initiative and filed an action in the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, contending that the defendant U.S.A., Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs failed to properly implement the "Ute Partition Act", thereby illegally stripping each of them of their "Indian" status. *Felter, et al. vs. Norton, et al.*, 1:02CV02156 RCL. We will prove that the plaintiffs never voluntarily decided to end their relationship as "Indians" with the U.S. government.

The plight of my clients is unprecedented in the history of civilized nations. The federal policy of "termination" has been rejected as a failed social experiment on Native Americans. However, the "mixed-blood" Uinta Band of Utes remain cut off from their homeland as a consequence of morally incorrect federal policy. This has resulted in non-Indians enjoying the immense profits arising from a corporation, the Ute Distribution Corporation, that was established for the benefit of my individual clients in course of federal efforts to force them to become "mainstream" Americans.

Our government criticizes other nations for their bad international human rights records. The last century stood for the destruction of backward and abhorrent policies of Apartheid in South Africa, Jim Crow in the South and Communism in the Soviet Bloc. Yet, this Nations' coerced termination and mistreatment of the individual "mixed-blood" Uinta Utes stands as one of the civilized world's darkest stains brought into this new century from events arising in the State of Utah where the powerful "dominated the weak and intimidated the poor", to borrow President Bush's words in his State of the Union speech.

On behalf of my clients, I invite you and members of your staff to attend the scheduled February 8<sup>th</sup> event described in the enclosed flyer. We are committed to tell the terminated Uintas' story to all so that their efforts in seeking final justice in the federal courts to resolve