# JUNE 7th SPECIAL SESSION 2018 CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE

### LR No. 18-09

Introduced by the Judicial Committee

A Legislative Resolution Titled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE CONFIRMING APPELLATE JUDGE NOMINEE KENNETH PITT IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 3, CHAPTER III, SECTION 3-3-308 OF THE CROW LAW AND ORDER CODE

### LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS,

WHEREAS, the Crow Tribal Legislature ("Legislature") has the power and duty under Article V, Section 2 of the 2001 Crow Constitution to promulgate and adopt resolutions in accordance with the 2001 Constitution and federal laws for the governance of the Crow Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 Crow Tribal Constitution provides for the election process and qualifications for the Judicial Branch Judges shall be in accordance with the Crow Law and Order Code; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has the lawful authority to confirm Judicial Branch Appellate Judge nominees; and

WHEREAS, Title 3, Chapter III, Section 3-3-308 Appellate Judge, the Appellate Judge shall be appointed by the Chief Judge and confirmed by a majority vote of the Legislature. The appointment shall be made after recommendations of qualified candidates from the Chairman of the Executive Branch, the Speaker of the Legislature, and the Tribal Attorney General, each of whom shall be given at least ten days' notice and opportunity to submit their recommendations to the Chief Judge. If the Chief Judge fails or neglects to appoint a candidate within a reasonable time after a vacancy occurs, the Chairman may propose a candidate to the Legislature for confirmation. A reasonable time may not be more than sixty days after the vacancy occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chief Judge of the Crow Tribal Court, Honorable Leroy Not Afraid has submitted a nomination for Kenneth Pitt as a candidate for the vacancy of the Crow Appellate Judge on April 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Judicial committee held a confirmation hearing April 20, 2018 and Kenneth Pitt appeared and testified before the Judicial Committee. Mr. Pitt has extensive knowledge of federal Indian law, tribal law for Tribes in Montana and is admitted to practice in the State of Montana. The Judicial committee determined through a consensus of the committee for a recommendation to confirm Kenneth Pitt as the Appellate Judge for the Crow Tribal Court.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE IN SPECIAL SESSION:

The Legislature by this Legislative Resolution, Kenneth Pitt is duly confirmed as the Appellate Judge for the Crow Tribal Court and shall exercise all authority vested in the Crow Tribal Court as an Appellate Judge in accordance with all applicable federal law and Crow tribal law upon approval of the Crow Tribal Legislative Branch. That the four year term shall commence upon the administration of the oath of office by the Speaker of the House, or his designee.

#### BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon becoming duly adopted by the Legislature.

#### BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be immediately delivered to the Crow Tribal Chief Judge by the Secretary of the Legislature.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this Resolution titled A RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE CONFIRMING APPELLATE JUDGE NOMINEE, KENNETH PITT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 3, CHAPTER III, SECTION 3-3-308 OF THE CROW LAW AND ORDER CODE was duly approved by the Crow Tribal Legislature with a vote of 16 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained and that a quorum was present on this 7th day of June 2018.

Senator Patrick Alden, Jr. Speaker of the House Crow Tribal Legislature

ATTEST:

Senator Lawrence DeCrane Secretary of the House Crow Tribal Legislature



# A RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE CONFIRMING APPELLATE JUDGE NOMINEE KENNETH PITT IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 3, CHAPTER III, SECTION 3-3-308 OF THE CROW LAW AND ORDER CODE

Bill or Resolution: <u>LR18-09</u> Introduced by: <u>Judicial Committee.</u> Date of Vote: <u>6/7/2018</u> Number

REPRESENTATIVE:	Yes	No	Abst	ained
M. White Clay	X			
D. Spotted				
F. White Clay	X		i .	
L.Hogan, III	X	-		
B. Brown	X			
S. Real Bird	·	-		n.
V. Nomee	X			
T. Yellowtail	X			
T. Gros Ventre	X			
M. Not Afraid	X			
G. Bouyer	X			
J. Demontiney	X	-		
B. Hugs	X			
N. Old Crow, Jr.	X	MANAGEM TO THE PARTY OF THE PAR		The second secon
B. Good Luck	X			
H. Stone, Jr.	X	-		
L. DeCrane, Secretary of the House	X	-	Turking and the second	
P. Alden, Jr., Speaker of the House	X			
Total:	16	0	(	)
Result of Vote:				
Passed	Not Passed	Tabled	Veto-Override	•
Senator Pat Alden, Jr.	O-R-18 Sen	autenu ator Lawrence	De Crane	6-7-18 Date
Speaker of the House	Secretary of the House			



# Judicial Branch of the Crow Tribe

# Crow Tribal Courts

P.O. Box 489 Crow Agency, Montana 59022 Telephone: 406-638-7400 Fax: 406-638-7415



BY: Jackie

April 2, 2018

Legislative Branch Crow Tribe of Indians P.O. Box 309 Crow Agency, MT 59022



Dear Sirs:

This letter is to inform you of my appointment of Kenneth P. Pitt as Crow Tribe Court of Appeals Judge. Counselor Pitt is a licensed attorney in private practice in Polson, Montana, and is well versed in tribal law among many other areas of expertise. He has been a panel member of the Crow Tribe Court of Appeals, and as such, is familiar not only with Crow laws but also the pending matters before the Appeals Court. I strongly encourage prompt confirmation of Counselor Pitt in order to maintain consistency through these cases and to uphold the existing professionalism of the Appeals Court.

Pursuant to CLOC § 3-3-308(3), I provided written notification of the recent appellate court vacancy to the Crow Tribe Executive Branch Chairman, the tribal attorney general, and the Speaker of the Crow Tribe Legislature. More than ten (10) days have passed since that notification, and I did not receive judicial recommendations during that statutory time. Thus, I now make this appointment of Counselor Pitt to you, and am attaching his Curriculum Vitae here for your reference.

I would appreciate notice and the opportunity to appear for Counselor Pitt's confirmation hearing, and I look forward to your expeditious review of this appointment. Ahó.

Sincerely,

Leroy M. Not Afraid Chief Judge

Cc: Alvin Not Afraid, Jr., Chairman of Crow Tribe Executive Branch Ron Arneson, Esq., Crow Tribe Attorney General Pat Alden, Jr., Speaker of Crow Tribe Legislative Branch Kenneth P. Pitt, Esq., Crow Tribe Court of Appeals Panelist

### CURRICULUM VITAE

Kenneth P. Pitt
Attorney at Law (Montana Bar # 2916)
Mission Mountain Legal Services, P.L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1162, Polson, MT 59860
406-887-2108; 406-361-0841 (cell)

kpittlaw@aol.com.

### Education:

- Bachelor of Science with high honors in Wildlife Biology, minor in Zoology, University of Montana, School of Forestry, 1982.
- Juris Doctor with honors, University of Montana, School of Law, 1985.
- National Judicial College, Considerations for Rural Judges, September 2015

#### Licenses and Certifications:

Admitted to the Montana Bar in 1985, the Federal District Court Bar, District of Montana in 1985, the United States Supreme Court Bar in 1993, and the Salish Kootenai Tribal Bar in 2012. Independent Contractor, Montana Dept. of Labor and Industry, 2011 to present.

Wildfire Origin and Cause Investigator (FI 210); Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - 2013

# Professional Experience:

#### Post University:

In House Counsel, Native Fish Keepers. Inc. A Tribal Corporation whose mission is to market and sell filleted invasive Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) that are out competing Bull Trout in Flathead Lake. Proceeds from sales go to Lake Trout eradication efforts. December 2017 – present.

Associate Justice (Contract), Apsaalooke (Crow Nation) Court of Appeals. Deciding appeals from the Crow Nation Tribal Courts. June 2017 - present.

Legal Subject Matter Expert for Plaintiff. (Federal Tort Claims Act-Discretionary Function); Keller Special Trust, et al. v. United States of America, Civ. No. 16-5014-JLV, District of South Dakota. February 2017- present. Casper, et al. v. United States of America, Civ. No. 15-5087-JLV, District of South Dakota. October 2017 – present.

Hearings Officer (Contract), Montana Office of Public Instruction. Conducting hearings under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act." July 2016 - Present

# <u>Professional Experience:</u> Post University (Continued):

Board Chairman & Hearings Officer, Shoreline Protection Board, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes ("CSKT"), Polson MT. Review of applications to build structures in watercourses (87A), or Flathead Lake (64A), and the approval or denial of same. 2013 - Present

Jocko Valley Consulting: Contract legal services. St Ignatius, MT. Providing forensic analysis of fire trespass Reports of Investigation, Wildfire Origin and Cause Reports, and or other government report that may be used in litigation or a contested case in any forum. 2012 - Present

Associate Justice (Contract), Court of Appeals: CSKT, Court of Appeals, Pablo, MT. Deciding appeals from the CSKT Tribal Courts. March 2013 - March 2016.

**Subject Matter (Legal)** Expert: Fire Investigation Working Team, National Wildfire Coordinating Group ("NWCG"). Boise ID. Providing legal guidance and insights to the Working Team in its efforts to revise and update international wildland fire investigation courses FI 210, FI 310, and FS 311. 2008 - present.

Adjunct Professor of Natural Resource Policy and Administration, NRSM 422, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, Missoula, MT. January 2015 - May 2015. Faculty Affiliate, and Contract Legal Researcher, August 2015 - present.

Private Practice Attorney: "Mission Mountain Legal Services, P.L.L.C." Polson, MT. Sole proprietor of small legal practice, focusing on Tribal contracting, environmental, natural resource and arson investigation issues. June 2011 - Present.

Adjunct Instructor of Environmental Law, Natural Resource Policy, Water Law, and Watershed Management: Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, MT. 2012 - present.

Communications Specialist ESF #14: Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"), Long Term Community Recovery Unit in Bismarck and Minot, ND. Prior to this deployment completed FEMA's basic Incident Command training and went through FEMA's security background check. July 2011.

# <u>Professional Experience:</u> <u>Post University (Continued):</u>

Vineyard Co-Owner: "Spotted Bear Vineyards and Lavender Farm," Finley Point, MT. Grower of lavender, and the wine grapes L'Acadie Blanc, Marquette, St. Pepin and Leon Millot. We also have a Lake County, MT, permitted agratourism vacation rental. 2007 - present.

Affirmative Claims Enforcement (ACE") Attorney: USDA-Office of the General Counsel, Golden CO. Responsible for reviewing all R2 Forest Service Wildland Fire and other trespass, Reports of Investigation ("RORs") reports prior to referral to the U.S. Justice Department for civil, and often criminal, prosecution, to ensure they were legally defensible. 2002 - 2011.

General Attorney GS-14-10: December 1989 to June 2011. Was requested in 1989 by OGC's national agency supervisor, the General Counsel, to move to the new OGC Mountain Regional office in Golden, Colorado, to provide regional leadership to OGC attorneys and USDA client agencies in the growing fields of hazardous materials, clean air and water, and state and federal based water rights.

Multi Regional (14 Rocky Mountain and Great Basin States), and National Legal Duties.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Representative: Duties involved representing USDA, and its agencies such as the Forest Service, before, and testifying at, legislative sessions, legislative commissions, state and federal regulatory agencies. Also involved analyzing the impact of Congressional and legislative actions and proposals on USDA programs and policies.

Multi-Regional and National - Environmental & Natural Resource Law Counsel: Duties involved providing legal assistance and representation to the Forest Service and other USDA agencies on the Clean Air Act ("CAA"), the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"), Federal Indian Law, Arson Investigation and Trespass Claim Enforcement, and federal law enforcement support.

Legal Duties Within the USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region (Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas). Provided advice on laws and issues to Regional Foresters and Station Directors (both Forest Service and USDA Agricultural Research Service), Forest Supervisors, and District Rangers.

# <u>Professional Experience:</u> Post University (Continued):

Duties involved providing legal advice and representation to the Forest Service, and other USDA agencies, in the following fields of law and issues:

- Law Enforcement Support;
- Wildland and Prescribed Fire Support;
- Affirmative Trespass Claim Enforcement;
- Federal Range Management;
- Archeological Resource Protection Act;
- O National Historic Preservation Act,
- NAGPRA and AIRFA;
- Renewable Energy;
- o Travel Management;
- Public and Private Access to Federal Lands;
- Family and Estate Law:
- Recreational, Range, and Land Use Special Use Authorizations;
- Real Property Law;
- Homeland Security;
- NEPA, NFMA and FLPMA;
- Endangered Species Act;
- Federal Tort Claim, Bivens (1983), and Environmental Liability;
- Oil and Gas Leasing;
- Federal Grants and Agreements:
- FOIA and Privacy Act, and Others.

Special Assistant United States Attorney: Water right litigation before the Montana Water Court on behalf of the USDA Forest Service, the DOI National Park Service (Yellowstone NP and Grant Kohrs Ranch NM), and the USDA Agricultural Research Service ("ARS"). 1985 – 1993.

Administrative Trial Counsel: OGC trial counsel for the USDA Forest Service in mineral contest proceedings before the Interior Board of Land Appeals. 1985 – 1993

### **During University:**

Bear Management Ranger: Glacier National Park. Seasonal duties included monitoring and capturing problem grizzly and black bears, fighting wildland fires as a type II firefighter, performing search and rescue duties (including SCUBA searches), providing visitor information, and patrolling Glacier's wilderness back country by foot, boat, horse, and skis. 1980 - 1983.

# **During University (Continued):**:

GS -7 Legal Intern: United States Justice Department, Marine and Wildlife Resource Section, Washington D.C. Duties involved researching federal and international wildlife, and public land, law. 1984.

Editor: "Public Land Law Review," University of Montana, School of Law. Wrote and edited legal articles for publication. 1984-1985

**Legal Clinical Intern**: United States Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel ("OGC"). Missoula, Montana. Duties involved researching federal and state public land law. 1982 to 1983.

GS -7 Legal Intern: United States Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel ("OGC"), Missoula, Montana. Duties involved researching federal and state public land law, and writing formal Opinions on same. 1984.

Volunteer in Parks: Glacier, Yellowstone, and Crater Lake National Parks, Visitor contact, ski and snowmobile patrol, groomed and set out ski trails, manned entrance stations, trained with National Park Service personnel in arson investigation, Emergency Medical Technician and First Responder, monitored wildlife populations. Winters 1970-1984

### Prior To University:

National Park Concession Assistant Director – Retail: Glacier, Yosemite, Lassen, Grand Teton, and Crater Lake National Parks. 1972-1979

#### Awards, Honors and Major Accomplishments:

- National Park Winterkeeper: Glacier Park Incorporated. Served with wife as isolated wintercreepers in Glacier National Park's Many Glacier Valley where we saw no other humans for almost seven months. 1978 1979.
- More than 23 federal (and Canadian) Certificates of Merit, and similar numbers of Certificates of Appreciation.
- Awarded a Legal Services contract with the University of Montana, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, Bolle Center. April 2016.

# Awards, Honors and Major Accomplishments (Continued):

- Appointed as Associate Justice, Court of Appeals, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes ("CSKT"). March 2013 – March 2016. Appointed as CSKT Hearings Officer, January 2015.
- Recipient of the Forest Service's Director of Law Enforcement "National Merit Award for Provision of Legal Services" and made an "Honorary Law Enforcement and Investigations Officer." May 2011
- In 2008, requested by the Forest Service's Law Enforcement and Investigations Washington Office to be its legal representative on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's ("NWCG") efforts to develop a civil arson "origin and cause" course. Members of the NWCG include representatives from Homeland Security, Forest Service, National Park Service, BLM. BIA, Fish and Wildlife Service, several states, and international representatives from Canada, Australia, Greece, South Korea and Japan. Have continued in this capacity even after retirement from federal service, now working as a Subject Matter Expert for updates to the FI 210, FI 310, and the proposed FS311 Fire Investigation Working Group.
- From 2002 to 2011, was assigned as the Affirmative Claims Enforcement ("ACE") attorney for claims originating in Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region. Successfully assisted the U.S. Justice Department negotiate some of the largest awards ever received by the Forest Service across the nation in wildland fire suppression repayments (\$2.5 million). Was looked to as a national USDA resource on ACE matters.
- In 2007, 2009 and in 2010, assisted the Forest Service in its dealing with the Rainbow Family of Living Light's summer gathering.
- In 2005, and again in 2010, attended the Forest Service/BLM FI 210 Fire Origin and Cause training.
- From 1997 through 2004, and again in 2009 & 2010, gave annual national presentations on "Water Resources for Line Officers (Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act(s)."
- From 2009 through 2011, represented the Forest Service before the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission ("COGC") while COGC promulgated highly controversial state rules for the regulation of oil and gas operations on federal lands.

# Awards, Honors and Major Accomplishments (Continued):

- From 2006 through 2009, represented the Forest Service in its successful negotiations with the Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota Historical Commissions regarding the preservation and/or disposal of historical structures, and in issues of governmental contractual liabilities.
- In 2006, successfully represented the Wasatch National Forest in Utah, the Tonto National Forest in Arizona, the Sawtooth National Forest in Idaho, and Cibola National Forest in New Mexico against state DEQ allegations of Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act violations.
- In 2004, attended and completed the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's "Law Enforcement for Managers" program.
- In 2002, received the Forest Service Chief's national "Ecosystem Management Award," for assistance to the Forest Service's, National Park Service's, and Fish and Wildlife Service's national working group, the Federal Land Managers' Air Quality Related Values Phase 1 Workgroup ("FLAG"), which created and implemented national, multiagency, programmatic guidelines regarding air quality.
- In 2001, represented the Santa Fe National Forest against a EPA claim of alleged Safe Drinking Water Act violations at a Forest Service campground. Successfully negotiated a settlement, and prepared and taught the SDWA training class agreed to in the Supplemental Environmental Project.
- In 1998, represented the Forest Service when the State of Colorado passed air quality legislation which openly discriminated against federal land managers. Because of expertise with the CAA, diplomatic skills, and experience in working with state legislators and agencies, was assigned to assist the Forest Service in its successful actions in having this discriminatory state law legislatively modified.
- In 1996, was again assigned by the General Counsel to represent USDA in EPA's national rulemaking sessions regarding the Conformity Provisions of the Clean Air Act.
- In 1994, was assigned by the General Counsel to represent USDA in the Commerce Department's Oil Pollution Act rulemaking sessions as they occurred across the nation.

# Awards, Honors and Major Accomplishments (Continued):

- In 1992, was recognized by the award of the Sally Thane Christensen Award, at that time OGC's highest award, for a detail to OGC's Natural Resource Division in Washington D.C. for several months and assisted the Forest Service's Washington Office formulate policy and manual direction on Natural Resource Damage Actions, and other cleanup issues, under the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("Superfund or CERCLA").
- In 1987, the State of Idaho commenced its general water right adjudication under the McCarren Amendment, 43 U.S.C. § 666. After commencement, Idaho attempted to assess more than \$18,000,000.00 in filing fees against federal agencies and the Fort Hall Shoshone Bannock Tribes situated in Idaho. Played a major role in the successful appeal to the United States Supreme Court of several adverse state court rulings and no filing fees were paid.
- In 1985, was appointed to be a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Montana in the Montana Water Court and represented the USDA-Forest Service, the USDOI National Park Service, and the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in protecting their federal and state based water rights.

## Litigation Training and Support.

Responsible for insuring that USDA Forest Service, ARS and AHPIS policies and procedures were consistent with the intent of the law and administratively sound.

Reviewed many NEPA, ESA, Forest Plan, and other documents to ensure defensibility. Trained Forest Service, BLM, and NPS managers in the requirements of federal and state environmental, and other, laws so that they could avoid unnecessary litigation.

Has given national, regional and local presentations and advice covering a broad range of legal areas, which includes almost all the program areas as described above.

### Publications:

- Indians and Eagles: The Law and the Survival of a Species, 18 Public Land Law Review, 1984.
- The Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burro Act: A Western Melodrama; 15 Environmental Law Review, 1985; reprinted in 26 Public Land and Resources Digest, 1986.
- The Ceded Strip; Blackfeet Treaty Rights in the 1980s. Although this article was never publically published, rights to same were owned the American Indian Law Review, University of Oklahoma. It was also the basis of federal legislation unsuccessfully sponsored by former Montana Senator John Melcher. 1985.
- Fish and Wildlife Management on Federal Lands: Debunking State Supremacy;
  "Environmental Law," Lewis and Clark Law School. Co-authored with M. Nie, C. Burns,
  J. Haber, J. Joly, and S. Zellmer. 2017

### Community Service:

Vice Chairman and Hearings Officer, CSKT Shoreline Protection Board.

As contract attorney developed and wrote a Background Check Policy for CSKT compliance with federal Public Law 101-630, "the Indian Child Protection & Family Violence Prevention Act." 2012.

Formerly under contract with CSKT's Division of Fire in a Wildland Fire Origin and Cause investigation in the 2012 Garceau Fire, and in reviewing its MOU revisions with CSKT's Law & Order Department.

Formerly under contract with CSKT's Natural Resource Department – Fisheries, in reviewing its draft Flathead Lake - Lake Trout EIS for NEPA, and other, legal compliance.

Under contract with CSKT's Environmental Protection Division-Pesticides (EPA-FIFRA) to provide litigation training to tribal inspectors.

In 2012, on behalf of the Montana Human Rights Network, authored a Legal Opinion which debunked the legal merits of the then proposed Montana Senate Bill 117 ("County Coordination").

03/14/18