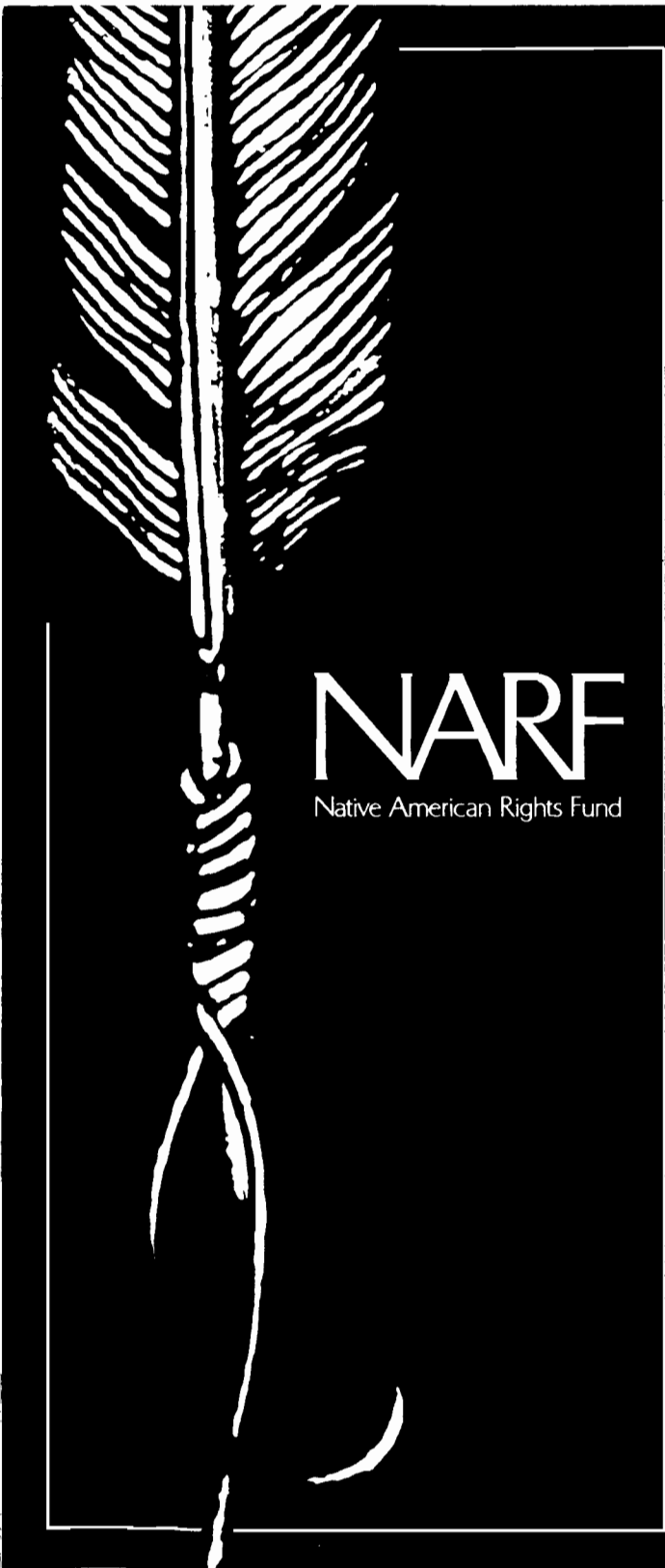
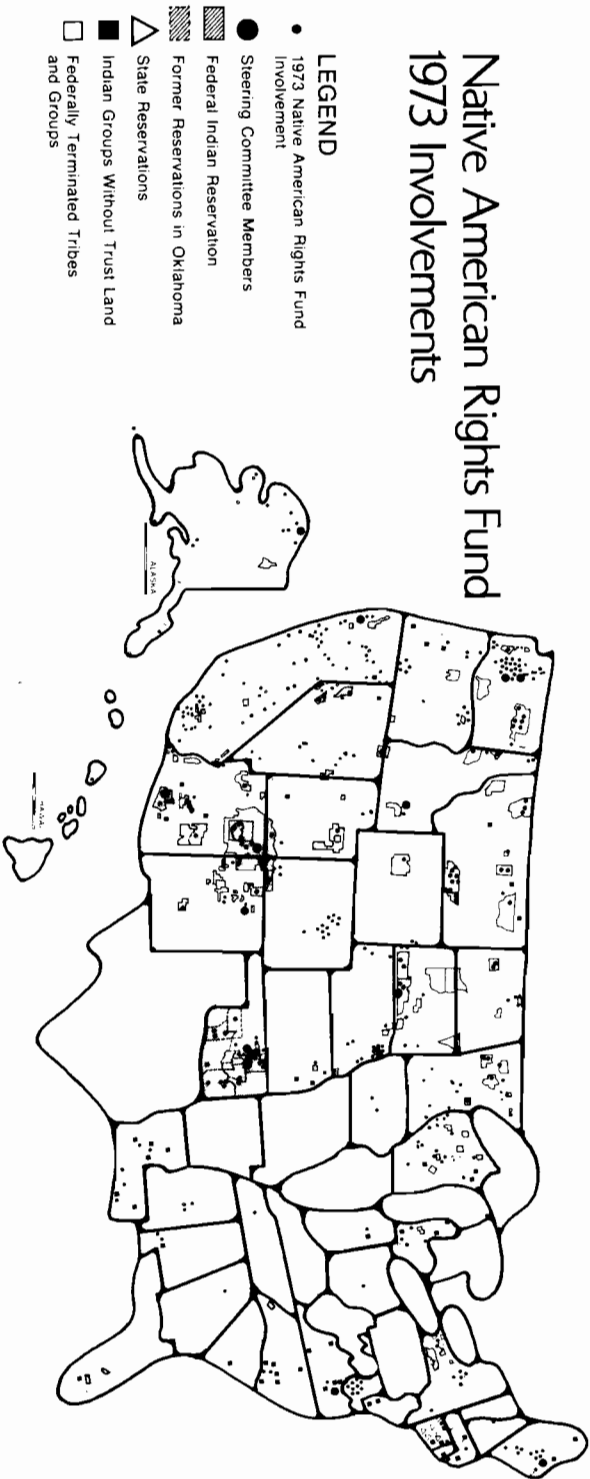




History of NARF

Established in 1971, with the support of the Ford Foundation, the Native American Rights Fund is the only national Indian legal assistance program. The idea that led to the development of NARF was to bring together lawyers experienced in Indian law and to have them begin to work on the most critical legal problems facing Native American people today. The specific problem areas have been designated by an all Indian Steering Committee which guides the legal staff in its work.

The results have been excellent. NARF has won 98% of the cases it has brought on behalf of Indian clients.





“Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law.”

Nez Perce Chief Joseph, addressing congressmen and cabinet members, 1879

NARF Priorities

The Steering Committee of the Native American Rights Fund has decided to concentrate NARF legal resources on the following problem areas:

Tribal Existence: Enabling tribes to continue to practice their religion and Indian ways, protecting their original treaty rights, as well as insuring their independence on reservations.

Tribal Resources: These efforts concentrate on protecting Indian lands, water and other natural resources from abuse—including economic development programs that are harmful to the health and well-being of Indian people.

Human Rights: NARF is concerned with securing for Indians their rights to an education which complements their culture, to adequate medical care, and to equitable treatment for Indian prisoners.

Accountability: Indians are controlled by more laws than other Americans. NARF works to make certain that governments—federal, state, local, and tribal—are accountable for proper enforcement.

Indian Law Development: NARF hopes that by joining efforts with many groups working on Indian legal problems that it can insure an orderly development of the body of law affecting Indians and strengthen the other available Indian legal resources.

Accomplishments

Some Examples of accomplishments during the past three years where NARF legal assistance has:

1. Brought additional water to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, for the Pyramid Lake Tribe of Paiute Indians at a time when further destruction of the beautiful desert Lake meant economic and cultural devastation to the Paiutes and the Lake's fisheries.
2. Ended racial discrimination and misuse of Title I and Johnson-O'Malley funds for Navajo and Zuni students in New Mexico which has led to one of the worst Indian educational situations in the country.
3. Secured monies for special Indian education and health funds despite attempted impoundment by the President.
4. Secured over 1,000 additional acres of land for the Cocopah Indians who live on a tiny reservation in Arizona.
5. Assisted the Menominees of Wisconsin in their long and difficult efforts to obtain restoration and federal recognition after ten years of disastrous termination.



NARF Steering Committee

LaNada Boyer, Shoshone-Bannock, Resident, Fort Hall Indian Reservation, Blackfoot, Idaho

Val Cordova, Taos Pueblo, Chairman, All Indian Pueblo Council, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Curtis L. Custalow, Sr., Mattaponi, Chief, Mattaponi Tribe, West Point, Virginia

Martha Grass, Ponca, Director, American Indian Referral Center, Marland, Oklahoma

John Clifford, Rosebud Sioux, Educator, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Leo J. LaClair, Muckleshoot, Reginald Heber Smith Fellow, Seattle Legal Services, Seattle, Washington

LeRoy Logan, Osage, Rancher, Hominy, Oklahoma

Cipriano Manuel, Papago, Project Director, National Center for Native American Language Education, D-Q University, Davis, California

Janet McCloud, Tulalip, Member, Tulalip Indian Tribe, residing at Yelm, Washington

Francis McKinley, Ute, Director, National Indian Training and Research Center, Tempe, Arizona

David Risling, Jr., Hoopa, Coordinator, Native American Studies, University of California, Davis, California

John Stevens, Passamaquoddy, State Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Augusta, Maine

Joseph Upicksoun, Inupiat Eskimo, President, Arctic Slope Native Association, Barrow, Alaska

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