

Cobell v. Salazar Settlement Information

For

Pascua Yaqui Tribal Members

ALTHOUGH MOST PASCUA YAQUI MEMBERS WOULD NOT QUALIFY AS MEMBERS OF THE COBELL CLASS, PLEASE READ BELOW FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT.

Cobell v. Salazar is a class action lawsuit brought by Native American Representatives against the United States Government. The suit involved claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts (from monies primarily collected from farming and grazing leases, timber sales, mining, and oil and gas production from land owned by American Indians and Alaska Natives) and individual Indian trust lands, known as “allotments”. Therefore, to be an eligible Cobell class member the particular Native American must have some land ownership claim.

No enrolled member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe has ever had a land allotment through the Tribe because the allotment system occurred as a result of the Dawes Act in approximately 1896, and allotments were no longer being created by the time the Pascua Yaqui Tribe was recognized in 1978. Therefore, no enrolled member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe has ever received an interest in land from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe that would make them an eligible member of the Cobell class.

However, members of other tribes in the Phoenix area, such as the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, or their predecessors, may have had allotments, and therefore they, or their descendants, may, in fact, qualify as Cobell class members. So to the extent that an enrolled member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe may also be a descendant of a member of another Tribe or nation, they may qualify as a member of the Cobell class.

The deadline for filling out and mailing claim forms is **MARCH 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

For claim forms or further information, call 1-800-961-6109 or visit www.indiantrust.com.