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5  
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

7 PAUL GRONDAL, a Washington  
Resident; and THE MILL BAY  
8 MEMBERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a  
Washington Non-Profit Corporation,

9 *Plaintiffs/Counter-Defendants,*

10 vs.

11 THE UNITED STATES OF  
12 AMERICA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
INTERIOR; BUREAU OF INDIAN  
13 AFFAIRS; WAPATO HERITAGE,  
LLC, CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF  
14 THE COLVILLE RESERVATION,  
FRANCIS ABRAHAM, CATHERINE  
15 GARRISON, *et al.*, allottees of Moses  
Allotment 8,

16 *Defendants/Cross-*  
17 *Defendants/Cross-*  
*Claimants/Counter-Defendants.*

Case No. 09-CV-00018-JLQ

DECLARATION OF  
JAMES RITTENHOUSE BELLIS

18 I, James Rittenhouse "Rit" Bellis, upon my oath, state and declare as  
19 follows:

1           1.     This Declaration is based upon my personal knowledge; I am  
2 competent to testify in the matter asserted in this Declaration.

3           2.     I was hired as a Reservation Attorney for the Confederated Tribes of  
4 the Colville Reservation ("CCT") in August, 1998. I continued to work for CCT  
5 until approximately August, 2007.

6           3.     In or around 2004, the cases in Chelan County Superior Court  
7 captioned as *Grondal v. Webb*, No. 02-2-00441-6, *Grondal v. Chief Evans, Inc.*,  
8 No 02-2-01100-9, and *In re the Estate of William Evans, Jr.*, 03-4-00185-8 were  
9 pending. CCT was not a party to any of that litigation, and I did not participate in  
10 it on behalf of my client at any time.

11           4.     I was present at the offices of Stokes and Lawrence where the  
12 mediation was held in relation to this litigation in early August 2004. I do not  
13 recall if I attended a second mediation session alleged to have been held in  
14 September of 2004. Neither the Colville Business Council ("CBC") nor any of its  
15 other Attorneys attended or participated in the mediation.

16           5.     I attended outside the mediation at the request of my client, the CBC,  
17 in order to be available to some Colville Tribal Members who might be or were  
18 participating in or attending the mediation and because CTEC (wholly owned by  
19 CBC) operated Mill Bay Casino pursuant to a sublease with Chief Evans Inc..  
20  
21

1           6.     I waited in the lobby outside the mediation with Bruce Didesch,  
2 attorney for the Colville Tribal Enterprise Corporation, and Gene Nicholson, BIA  
3 Colville Agency, Superintendent.

4           7.     I do not recall entering the room where the mediation occurred or  
5 being asked to enter. To the best of my recollection, no one inside the mediation  
6 ever came out to talk with me. I do recall exchanging greetings with several  
7 Colville tribal members on breaks they took from attending the mediation. I may  
8 have been introduced to the mediator. To the best of my recollection, no one asked  
9 me any questions at that mediation, and I was never inside the room while  
10 mediation was on-going.

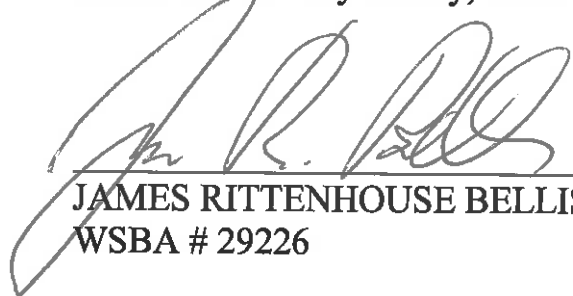
11          8.     Neither I, nor anyone else on behalf of CBC, participated in this  
12 mediation beyond my presence at the mediator's offices and outside the room  
13 where the mediation was held.

14          9.     I signed no mediation agreement on behalf of my Client, the CBC,  
15 and had no actual or apparent authority to sign any such agreement. I had no  
16 authority to bind the CCT or the CBC in any way that day, as the laws of the CCT  
17 at all times I worked there required that the CBC itself authorize all agreements  
18 binding the CCT to any position or agreement. This policy arises from the inherent  
19 sovereignty of the CCT, and the CCT Constitution and Tribal Code, and cannot be  
20 waived or delegated except by express written and numbered resolution of the

1 CBC. I was not in any way authorized to bind the CBC or the CCT on any matter  
2 related to this State litigation on that day or on any other, and did not do so.

3 10. I declare under the laws of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville  
4 Reservation and of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct  
5 to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

6  
7 Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

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9   
10 JAMES RITTENHOUSE BELLIS  
WSBA # 29226