

with many of the conservators. While we believe that the subjects of these conservatorships require some assistance at this time in the management of their affairs we are of the view that this should be provided by other means.

B. Reduction of Fees

Prior to the creation of the Task Force, Bureau of Indian Affairs personnel had not formally participated in court proceedings involving Indian estates. At the request of the court, they had from time to time submitted comments to the judge on certain matters. These comments were not entered on the record and were often disregarded in the awarding of fees.

Following the creation of the Task Force and the appointment of the Regional Solicitor, Sacramento, as Special Assistant to the United States Attorney, a motion was granted whereby the Trust Officer of the Bureau's Palm Springs office was appointed amicus curiae to participate in probate proceedings involving Agua Caliente Indians. The Regional Solicitor was designated attorney of record for the amicus. In this way, the Department for the first time was enabled to participate formally in state probate proceedings involving Indian estates.

Since this procedure has been established, the amicus and his attorney have successfully negotiated reductions in fees claimed by fiduciaries and their attorneys in a number of situations.

Recent efforts to formulate guidelines for distinguishing between ordinary and extraordinary services have met with some success.