

April 25, 2011

Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator  
Attn: Devin Rhinerson  
Senate Hart Building 331  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
FAX: (202) 228-3841

**RE: SUPPORT “Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act”**

Dear Senator Feinstein,

My name is Nanci Meek and I support your bill. I am a private investigator. My career experience has helped to provide undeniable evidence of the fraudulent actions of a gaming profiteer. My story provides grounded reasons to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act that has allowed such profiteers to fraudulently abuse exceptions of restoration and acknowledgement of tribes to acquire land for gaming.

The “**Tribal Gaming Eligibility Act**” will require the Secretary of the interior to use strict criteria to make a determination of eligibility of land for gaming purposes as a first-step in the fee-to-trust process. This is important as restoration and acknowledgement overlaid by the exceptions in the Indian gaming regulatory act have created a political vacuum where there is ambiguity, confusion and profiteers waiting to create or manipulate newly developed Indian tribes to promote gaming.

**This is my personal story of a tribal gaming profiteer and the unfortunate investors, many who are senior citizens that were taken in by a multi-million dollar Ponzi scheme.**

While there have been many developers and investors with integrity, there are those who are nothing more than profiteers. One of the investors was my stepmother utilizing money obtained from cashing out our father’s stocks only three months after our father died.

Through manipulation and abuse of his trust by an attorney who was also one of four partners in a casino venture titled Pe Ji Ho Ta Casino we allege monies were taken. This is part of an ongoing scheme to bring a tribal casino to Salinas, California by a tribal group that was not even federally recognized and several questionable business men not part of the tribal group.

In September of 2003 my father Elvin Meek, an attorney and two time Mayor of Rialto, California was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Telephone records reflect Attorney Robert Jones, a partner in the PeJiHoTa LLC was contacted by our father’s wife of 11 years, Elizabeth Meek, a Palauan native and non-American citizen while our father was in hospice care and asked to draft a Second Amendment to his original 1996 Trust as well as a pour over will. The circumstances surrounding his last days are suspect given Elizabeth Meek failed to contact myself, my brother, my daughter (Elvin’s granddaughter), several other family and friends to inform us of our dad’s condition. Phone records obtained will reflect during the months of

August, September and October of 2003 several calls were placed to Robert Jones and his accountant Michael Gould but no calls were placed to family and friends. Calls placed by myself and my brother were ignored with the exception of one call placed on September 11, 2003 wherein my father sounded disoriented however we had no reason to fear he was in the shape he was in. A surprise visit by his long time friend of 35 years, Wes Stewart, on or about September 14<sup>th</sup> confirmed Dad was lethargic, bloated and incoherent. Medical Forensics prepared upon review of the medical records obtained concur he was 100% incapacitated and unable to utilize normal thought processes let alone execute documents. It is apparent Attorney Robert Jones was aware of his weakened state as was Elizabeth Meek and thus the opportunity to take advantage presented itself. It should be noted upon discovering we had obtained the medical records, Attorney Jones contacted my attorney in California and voiced his concern and objections to our having the medical records.

My father, passed away on October 19, 2003. His trust executed in 1996 named me as the Trustee. Three months after Dad passed away, Attorney Robert Jones drafted a Trust Certification for a previous trust dated 1992 which allowed our stepmother, Elizabeth Reklai Meek, to cash out our father's stocks with Union Bank Cal. The check was in the amount of \$646,481.96. Coincidentally this is the same amount almost to the penny of the buy in for the four principal investors in the PeJiHoTa Casino. Suspicion arose upon review of the Trust Certification which did not mention the Elvin R Meek Family Trust dated June 14, 1996. The 1st Amendment which a forensics report completed in 2008 concluded had forged signatures, essentially re-wrote our father's original 1996 trust making Elizabeth Meek the sole trustee.

Attorney Robert Jones presented to the courts in San Luis Obispo, in September of 2004 a document entitled the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Elvin R Meek Family Trust which was supposedly executed on September 16, 1997 and again according to Robert Jones affidavit executed November 10, 2005, another 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment was executed three days later in his offices in Atascadero, California. Our family was made aware of this document and for 3 years we asked for a copy of the document from the Bank of Hawaii, Robert Jones, and Elizabeth's attorneys in Hawaii. None of whom would provide a copy to us. Upon finally receiving a copy of the questionable 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment signed in California it appeared the signatures had been forged. During an evidentiary hearing conducted in Hawaii on July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2010, Elizabeth Meek admitted the signatures were not hers or my father's. During this hearing Robert Jones admitted he did not know how the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment with the forged signatures came to be in his offices nor did he recall signing the aforementioned affidavit. When questioned about the Pe Ji Ho Ta casino, Mr. Jones stated the corporation had since dissolved. It was confirmed several weeks later that the Pe Ji Ho Ta casino is not dissolved. According to the Motion for Authority To Compromise Controversy with Robert M Jones, Daniel Phillips, Chris Molina, PeJiHoTa LLC, PeJiHoTa of San Luis Obispo LLC filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Ohio Eastern Division of Akron entitled In re: Kelly V Gearhart and Tamara Lowe debtors executed on July 21, 2010 the casino venture Pe Ji Ho Ta is active.

In July, 2010, Ohio Bankruptcy Court Judge Marilyn Shea Stonum ordered Jones, Molina and Phillips to pay the bankruptcy trustees \$20,000 to cover their costs of investigating Pejihota, to provide the trustees one fourth ownership in Pejihota with the right to buy back the trustee's interest in the project by reimbursing Gearhart's investment into Pejihota, \$646,190.

In March of 2005 the Bank of Hawaii accepted co-trusteeship of the Estate. A few months later in July of 2005 Judge Tangeman in San Luis Obispo granted Attorney Robert Jones' petition to move the probate case to Hawaii stating the Bank of Hawaii could only serve as co-trustee if the matter were in the state of Hawaii. We have always questioned why Attorney Robert Jones opened the probate in California since our father died in Hawaii and had been a Hawaiian resident since 1996. It should be noted only one month after the case was moved to Hawaii, Elizabeth Meek's citizenship was finalized in August of 2005. By virtue of her citizenship being finalized, she would no longer need a co-trustee and yet Robert Jones and the Bank of Hawaii continued to move forward, selling properties and attempting to dissolve our father's estate without notifying myself or my brother. The Bank of Hawaii held the position of co-trustee for three years before asking the court to be removed. None of the Trusts mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment were ever funded by the Bank of Hawaii. An audit was performed by the IRS in 2007 due to the non filing of income tax returns by Robert Jones and the Bank of Hawaii. After several years and several requests the beneficiaries did not receive an accounting of the estate until 2008. The accounting prepared in 2008 does reflect the money from the sale of the stock was placed in two CD's however we have for years asked for documentation which would support this and Elizabeth along with her attorneys in Hawaii refuse to provide this to us. Therefore we question the validity of the handling of the money from the stock check.

Several suspicions have arisen over the years relative to the conduct of Attorney Robert Jones. He did not contact me or my brother, Melvin Meek, until after two properties were in the process of being sold. One of which was in Arkansas and as a result of the Jones not being thorough with a title search on the Arkansas property, a judgment against the estate was granted in the amount of \$311,204.00.

It would appear Attorney Robert Jones acted in haste to assist Elizabeth in selling several of our father's properties including one in Rialto, California (before a probate was legally opened in California) also a property in Hesperia, California, as well as the sale of the Arkansas property which had been in our family for close to 100 years, without contacting myself or my brother.

Myself and my brother received a letter from Robert Jones in August of 2004 asking us to not contact Elizabeth Meek ("who does not feel comfortable speaking with you or Melvin for reasons known only to her") and to have all calls and inquiries relative to the estate go through his offices. For the next several years repeated phone calls and correspondence to Attorney Robert Jones in Atascadero, California were ignored. In April of 2008 I filed a police report with the Atascadero police Department for fraud with respect to the questionable signatures on the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to our father's trust. Detective Pflum investigated the case and submitted his findings to the San Luis Obispo District Attorney's office. Among those findings were the Affidavit wherein Attorney Jones admitted the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment was signed twice, once in Hawaii and three days later in California. We also submitted our forensics report prepared by Reed Hayes in Hawaii and concluding the signatures were forged. On March 6, 2011 I received a letter from Assistant District Attorney Jerret Gran stating they would not be moving on the allegations against Robert Jones due to lack of evidence.

One could reasonably conclude Attorney Robert Jones, a partner with three others in the PeJiHoTa casino venture which has had several different LLC filings over the years both in

California and in Nevada was motivated by greed and saw an opportunity to compromise our father's intentions outlined in his original 1996 trust as well as his weakened condition, in an effort to gain control over our father's estate and profit accordingly. Because of Attorney Robert Jones mishandling of our father's trust close to \$200,000 has been paid out of the trust in legal fees to himself and attorneys for Bank of Hawaii. Also the aforementioned judgment in the amount of \$311,204.00 against the estate for the sale of the Arkansas property has not been satisfied.

I thank you again for the hard work of your staff but most of all your political will to address this controversial issue of *reservation shopping* to protect all citizens, tribal and non-tribal of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nanci Meek". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Nanci Meek  
Private Investigator  
(760) 413-5660 cell