

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BEFORE THE SPECIAL MASTER**

ELOUISE PEPION COBELL, et al.,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

SALLY JEWELL, Secretary of the Interior, et al.,)

Defendants.)

Civil Action No.
1:96CV01285 (TFH)

**SPECIAL MASTER ORDER NO. 4 PERMITTING THE USE OF
DETERMINATIONS BY TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE
DISTRIBUTION OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO ESTATES
AND HEIRS OF DECEASED CLASS MEMBERS**

Plaintiffs have moved, without opposition from Defendants, for permission to use written determinations by a Tribal Council or Tribal Chairperson as to the heirs of a deceased class member who was a member of that Tribe at the time of death for the distribution of settlement proceeds.

Upon consideration of that motion, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. Garden City Group ("GCG"), the claims administrator, may rely upon and distribute settlement proceeds owed to deceased members of the Historical Accounting and Trust Administration Classes in accordance with a written determination of a Tribal Council or Tribal Chairperson of the Tribe of which the decedent was a member at the time of death and which identifies the heir or heirs of that class member where:

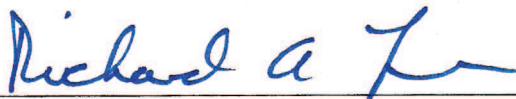
a. GCG, at the time of distribution, has not been notified in writing by the heir or heirs of a deceased class member of the identity of a personal representative, executor

or administrator of the class member's estate, and has not been provided either a copy of the class member's will which has been accepted for probate or a state or tribal probate order disposing of the assets of the class member; and

b. The written determination by the Tribe states that the identification of heirs was based on an investigation by the Tribe and is a complete listing of those heirs to the best knowledge of the person or persons executing that document.

2. Any distribution pursuant to this order shall be based on the probate laws of such tribe at the time of the class member's death and, if none, the laws of the state in which he or she resided at the time of death.

This the th10 day of December, 2013



Honorable Richard A. Levie (Ret.)
Special Master