

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

Communications & Public Information Office



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Lisa M. Rogan
Presiding Judge

Anabel Z. Romero
Court Executive Officer

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 18, 2025

REENACTMENT OF HISTORIC ALICE PIPER CASE

SAN BERNARDINO, CA— The San Bernardino Superior Court and Assemblymember James Ramos partnered to present a live reenactment of *Alice Piper v. Big Pine School District*. This landmark case paved the way for educational equality in California and was one of the cases that led up to the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

Prompted by the request of Assemblymember Ramos in his continuous advocacy of indigenous people, the reenactment, held at the San Bernardino Justice Center on April 4, 2025, marked the first presentation in a three-part series hosted by the court to educate students on pivotal civil rights cases.

Assemblymember Ramos collaborated on the event to provide cultural insight and historical context, emphasizing the case's significance. He was joined by Sage Romero, the Community Outreach Coordinator at Big Pine Paiute Tribe, who provided a historical background on Alice Piper's life.

Fifth-grade students from a local San Bernardino Elementary School and several tribal youth attended the event to deepen their understanding of the legal fight for educational access. The case, decided initially in 1924, challenged the exclusion of Indigenous children from public schools in Big Pine, ultimately securing their right to equal education.

"It was an honor to be part of this civic engagement, which brought the story of Alice Piper to our community," said Judge Erin Alexander, who spearheaded the reenactment efforts.

"This case is a powerful reminder of the resilience of young people like Alice Piper, who stood up for her right to an education," added Presiding Judge Lisa M. Rogan.



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Reflecting on the event, Court Executive Officer Anabel Z. Romero said, "We hope our guests left with a deeper understanding of the pioneers who fought for the right to education and felt inspired by the future they have the power to create."

Assemblymember Ramos highlighted, "Alice Piper was, and continues to be, an example of resilience not just for the Native American community, but for society as a whole. At a young age, she displayed remarkable determination in her fight for equitable education, leading to a landmark victory with lasting implications. Her activism ensured that Native students gained access to the same educational opportunities as their peers, breaking down racial barriers in public schooling. Her legacy endures, and by sharing her story, we honor her as a trailblazer in the fight for civil rights."

The court's educational series will continue with two additional presentations, each focusing on key cases that helped shape civil rights and access to justice.

For media inquiries, contact Communications and Public Information Office, via courts-pio@sb-court.org.

