



Abby Abinanti

Abby Abinanti, a Yurok, is a graduate of Humboldt State College and the University of New Mexico School of Law. Admitted in 1974, Judge Abinanti was the first California Native admitted to the California State Bar. She is also one of the very few attorneys practicing tribal child welfare law since prior to the 1978 enactment of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Judge Abinanti served as a California Superior Court Commissioner for the City and County of San Francisco, assigned to the Unified Family Court for 18 years. She retired in 2011. Judge Abinanti has also served as Chief Judge for the Yurok Tribal Court since her appointment in March 2007. Her additional tribal court experience includes serving as Chief Magistrate, Court of Indian Offenses for the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation from 1983-1986 and as a Judge by special appointment for many other tribal courts, including Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Court (1985), Hopi Tribal Court (1986), and Colorado River Indian Tribe (1994). Judge Abinanti has served as the President of the Board of Directors of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute www.tlpi.org since TLPI's establishment in 1996. She also currently serves as a member of the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Tribes (NRC4Tribes) National Advisory Council.

Judge Abinanti speaks and trains widely on a variety of issues focusing primarily on tribal courts, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and topics related to child, family and community well-being. She is also the author of various training resources, including two Instructor Guides for TLPI's Tribal Legal Studies textbook series.