

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2017

Parker, Arizona

This week the United States Supreme Court denied a petition for certiorari filed by the Goldwater Institute on behalf of two Indian children seeking to undermine the protections of the Indian Child Welfare Act. The case is *S.S. v. Colorado River Indian Tribes*.

"We are thrilled with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to let stand the Arizona Court of Appeals decision in favor of the Tribes," said Chairman Dennis Patch. "This is a good day for Indian Country."

Among other things, the petition for a writ of certiorari sought to challenge the Indian Child Welfare Act as unconstitutional, alleging that ICWA violates equal protection by treating Indian children differently. Congress enacted ICWA in 1978 to address a child welfare crisis characterized by the "alarming rate" of removal of Indian children from their families and the resulting devastating consequences to Indian children, their families and tribes.

"There is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than our children," Chairman Patch added. "We must continue to defend ICWA from legal attack."

The Colorado River Indian Tribes vehemently opposes the continued onslaught against the ICWA. Children deserve to be safe, and they deserve to have parents that are healthy and safe.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes was represented by CRIT Attorney General Rebecca Loudbear, Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth Lorina-Mills and Adam Charnes, Rob Roy Smith and Claire Newman of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, LLP. Mother was represented by Paul Hughes and Michael Kimberly of Mayer Brown LLP and Jessica Quickle. The Children were represented by the Goldwater Institute and Bradlee Rideout, Wendy Marcus and Steven Dorr Eckhardt of Rideout Law, PLLC.