

## Tribe to Appeal Initial Poker Decision

**Plummer, IDAHO** – Today, Chief Judge B. Lynn Winmill of the U.S. District Court issued a preliminary decision in the lawsuit between the Coeur d’Alene Tribe and the State of Idaho regarding the Tribe’s Texas Hold ‘Em Poker games at the Coeur d’Alene Casino. Judge Winmill granted the state’s motion for a preliminary injunction to stop poker at the Casino.

“Obviously, we’re very disappointed in Judge Winmill’s decision. Poker is so widely played across the state by so many different people and organizations that it sounds ridiculous to say that everyone playing poker in the State of Idaho is breaking the law, but that is what this decision says. Although the State has claimed to widely prohibit poker across the state, its enforcement was basically non-existent until we began to offer it on our reservation. Apparently the State is now taking a zero-tolerance approach to the expansion of gaming,” said Coeur d’Alene Tribal Chairman Chief Allan.

“We still believe that we have valid legal arguments under federal law for offering poker at our casino and the court’s decision did not fully consider some of those arguments,” said tribal attorney Eric Van Orden. “The Tribe plans to immediately file a motion to stay the Court’s decision and also an emergency appeal to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals”/Heather Keen, Coeur d’Alene Tribe.