



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Authorizing the Tribe to Join as a Party in *Purdue Pharma, L.P. et al.* a Class-Action Lawsuit Against Opioid Manufacturers, Distributers, and Pharmacy Retailers, and Approving Attorney Representation Agreement between the Tribe and Fields PLLC, Bowers Law Office, Miller Law Group PLLC, and Seneca Jacobs for the Same)

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(d) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power “To employ legal counsel...”; and

WHEREAS, The Council engages the services of special legal counsel from time to time to represent the Tribe in specialized areas, including but not limited to water rights, energy, pension, and other litigation matters;

WHEREAS, Fields PLLC, Bowers Law Office, Miller Law Group PLLC, and Seneca Jacobs (collectively the “Attorney Group”) represent other tribal nations in *Purdue Pharma L.P. et al.* (the “Suit”) a large lawsuit against manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacy retailers, alleging that drug companies created a national crisis of opioid addiction across the United States, including among tribal members; and

WHEREAS, The Suit is currently in settlement discussions, where multi-billion dollar damages are being negotiated amongst the parties, in which the Tribe should have a voice and participate as a member of the class of Plaintiffs; and

WHEREAS, The Attorney Group proposes, through an agreement, (“Agreement”) to serve as special counsel for the Tribe to represent the Tribe as a party in this suit among a class of other plaintiffs, and in connection with the prosecution of damages claims as a result of the opioid crisis in Indian Country and beyond; and

WHEREAS, The Council has reviewed the Agreement presented by Attorney Group and concludes that joining the Suit as a member of the class of plaintiff and that approving the Agreement to facilitate the same is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that Tribe is hereby authorized to join as a member of the class of plaintiffs in *Purdue Pharma L.P., et al.*, and to pursue claims for damages to the Tribe and its members resulting from the alleged actions of the defendants.

Resolution No. 07-2020-174

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Attorney Representation Agreement between the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Attorney Group is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

The foregoing resolution, on JULY 30, 2020 was duly adopted by a vote of ELEVEN for, ZERO against, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

 10/5/2020  10-5-2020
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman Date Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary Date