

Court Case Years

December 11, 1923 – Attorney J.W. Henderson files a petition for a writ of mandate with the California Supreme Court on behalf of Alice Piper.

Alice and her parents, Pike and Annie Piper, filed a petition directly with the California Supreme Court for a writ of mandate to allow Alice to attend Big Pine School.

Their lawyer, J.W. Henderson, argued that excluding Alice violated constitutional rights since the federal Indian school was not equal to state schools.

The school district admitted they would only comply if compelled by the “highest Court of the State.”

February 4, 1924 – Big Pine School District files a demurrer (objection), claiming exclusion was legal under Section 1662 of the California Political Code.

Spring 1924 – Arguments presented; Piper’s attorney argues that the law is unconstitutional and violates the 14th Amendment.

June 2, 1924 – California Supreme Court rules unanimously in favor of Alice Piper. The decision coincides with the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act (making all Native people U.S. citizens)