

BACKGROUND OF MURRAY PAUL MCKINNEY, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SHAWNEE,
OKLAHOMA, REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS AS GOVERNOR OF THE CHICKASAW
INDIANS IN OKLAHOMA

I am one-eighth Chickasaw Indian and one-eighth Choctaw Indian and a decendent of one of the oldest and most prominent pioneer Indian families in Oklahoma.

I am a decendent of Isaac Albertson, the Chickasaw chief who presided at the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, when Indian Territory was granted to the Five Civilized Tribes for "as long as grass grows and water flows." President Andrew Jackson presented him with a medallion, which has his picture on one side and the handclasp of the Indian and white man with the crossed peace pipe and tomahawk on the other. This medallion is still in the family. Also still in the family is the peace pipe which was smoked at the signing of the Treaty.

My family removed with the Chickasaws from their plantations in Mississippi and they brought along their slaves. The old log homeplace built by the family slaves in Bryan County still stands. It was built in the 1830's.

My grandfather, R. L. Murray, was a member of the Dawes Commission, which enrolled the Five Civilized Tribes prior to statehood. He was a member of the Chickasaw Legislature and a member of the building committee of the Chickasaw Capitol. His name is on the cornerstone of the Chickasaw Capitol at Tishomingo.

I have been interested in Indian affairs for several years. In 1946, while a student at Southeastern State College in Durant, I organized a social club for Indian students on the campus. It was named "Tribes' Council" and is still one of the most active organizations on the campus. I was its first president.

I have been active in civic affairs in Shawnee. I have been a member of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for six years. Currently, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, and Y.M.C.A. I am past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pottawatomie County chapter of the American Red Cross and I have been Regional State Fund Chairman and I am now Deputy National Fund Chairman for the American Red Cross. I was voted "Outstanding Boss of Shawnee" in 1957 by the JACEES. I am a member of the American Legion, Masonic Lodge, Board of Elders of the First Presbyterian Church, Shawnee, Oklahoma, American Bar Association, Oklahoma Bar Association, Pottawatomie County Bar Association, and Phi Delta Phi, International Legal Fraternity.

At the present time I am engaged in the practice of law in the firm of Parsons and McKinney, Attorneys at Law, Shawnee, Oklahoma.