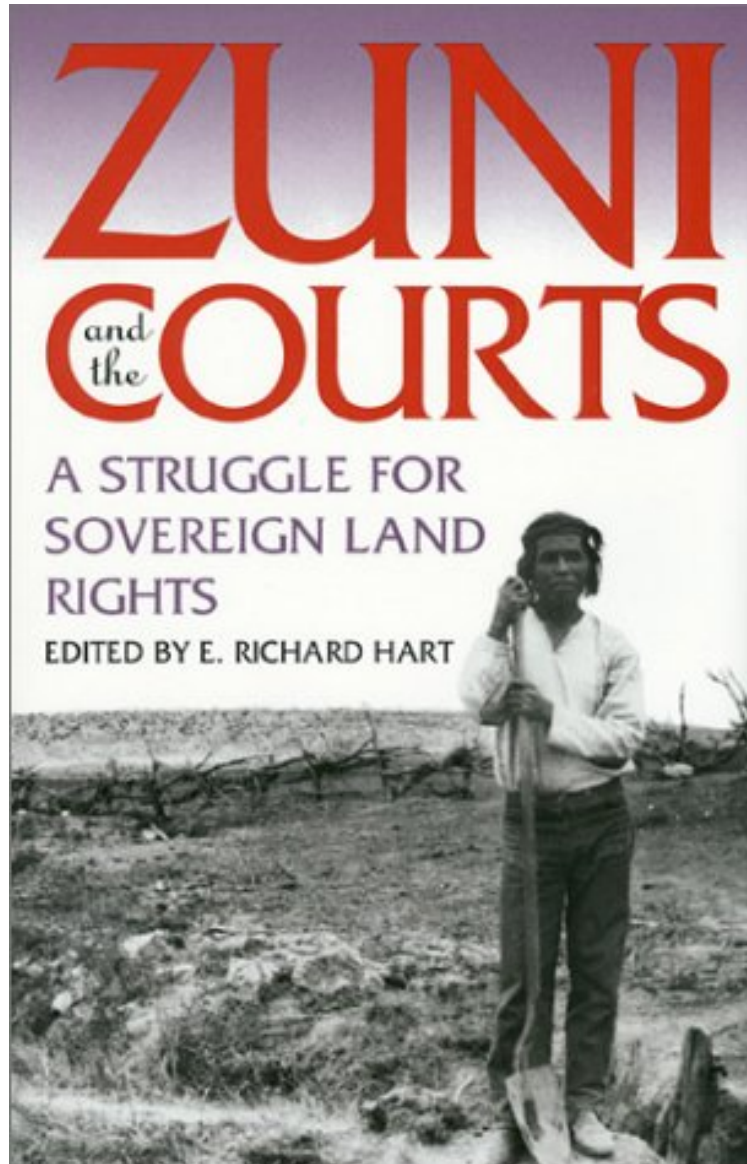


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Zuni and the Courts: A Struggle for Sovereign Land Rights

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From Brand: University Press of Kansas : Zuni and the Courts: A Struggle for Sovereign Land Rights before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Zuni and the Courts: A Struggle for Sovereign Land Rights:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More interesting information about the Zuni By Russell Kyncl I love Zuni jewelry, and that has led me into a deepening interest in all things Zuni, and many friendships in Zuni pueblo. The Zuni are the most studied indigenous group in the world. This history of their struggle to regain recognition of

their ancient tribal lands is very interesting. If you are just beginning to get acquainted with the Zuni, start with other titles, such as *Zuni and the American Imagination*, or *Zuni: A Village of Silversmiths*. If you are further along in your acquaintance with the tribe, this is a great book.

Three decades ago—years after most tribes had filed land claims—the Zuni initiated legal battles related to aboriginal claims, rights, and use that few experts thought they could win. Yet by 1991 they had achieved three major victories. In the first case, the Zuni sued the United States seeking payment for aboriginal territorial lands taken without adequate compensation. In the second, also against the United States, the tribe sought compensation for environmental damages to Zuni trust lands caused by the U.S. Government and by private industry where the federal government should have provided protection. And in the third, the U.S. government sued a private rancher on the Zuni's behalf to establish an easement protecting an ancient religious trail. Providing a new overview of these cases and Zuni history, Richard Hart has gathered together essays written by many of those who testified for the Zuni—historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, and scientist—as well as commentary from the tribe's lawyers. The authors simplify the complex nature of the testimony, making it accessible to a wide audience. They cover such diverse but significant issues as Spanish law and land grants, tribal aboriginal title, the Navajo Wars, U.S. territorial policy, deforestation, erosion, geomorphology, dendrochronology, environmental history, anthropology, archaeology, education, folklore, oral history, and religion. Tying together current events with cultural and legal history, *Zuni and the Courts* provides not only expert observations on how and why the Zuni succeeded but offers insight into how similar cases can be fought and won.

"This book contains a wealth of information on the Zuni and provides a wonderful example of how an interdisciplinary team of academics can put their knowledge to use on real world problems confronting real people. This is a primer of how to do Indian rights litigation the right way, with the careful preparation of testimony and evidence, choosing the right expert witnesses, and putting the information to effective use at trial." Robert A. Williams, Jr., author of *The American Indian in Western Legal Thought* "A significant contribution to the fields of Indian history, jurisprudence, and anthropology. It may well become the prime example of how to proceed in court actions involving Native Americans, aboriginal use, and ownership." Robert W. Delaney, author of *Ute Mountain Utes and Southern Ute People*

From the Back Cover Three decades ago - years after most tribes had filed land claims - the Zuni initiated legal battles related to aboriginal claims, rights, and use that few experts thought they could win. Yet by 1991 they had achieved three major victories. Providing a new overview of these cases and Zuni history, Richard Hart has gathered together essays written by many of those who testified for the Zuni - historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, and scientists - as well as commentary from the tribe's lawyers. The authors simplify the complex nature of the testimony, making it accessible to a wide audience.

About the Author E. Richard Hart is executive director of the Institute of the North American West in Seattle. He testified for the Zuni in the land claim cases and has also served as an expert witness on behalf of several other tribes. He is author of editor of six books including *A Zuni Atlas* (with T.J. Ferguson).