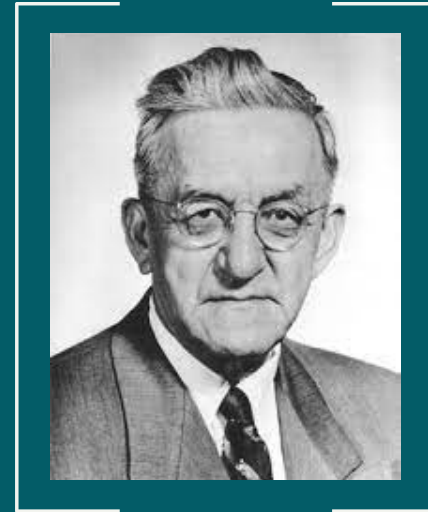


*past William Paul, Sr. Award recipients*

Herman Kitka  
Elders of ANB, Camp 1 & ANS Camp, 4  
All Former Shee Atika Board of Directors  
Richard Baenen  
Mark Jacobs Jr  
Bruce Edwards  
Kenneth M Cameron  
Margaret McVey  
Warren Weathers  
James P Senna  
John Sturgeon  
Robert F. Carroll, Sr.  
Coyne Vanderjack  
John Ferris, CPA  
All Prior William Paul Award Recipients  
Ethel Staton  
F. Brook Voght  
Michael Sorensen  
Congressman Don Young  
Senator Mark Begich  
Marta Ryman  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Tim Castro



*William Paul, Sr.*

"THE FATHER OF NATIVE LAND CLAIMS"

*about the William Paul, Sr. Award*

This award honors an individual or group for outstanding service to Shee Atiká and its shareholders. Shee Atiká would not be here today without the efforts of those individuals. This tribute also goes with the heartfelt appreciation of all Shee Atiká shareholders.



## *his early years*

William Paul, Sr. was born May 7, 1885. After his father passed away, his mother, Tillie Kinnon Paul moved the family to Sitka. Tillie taught at the Presbyterian Sitka Industrial Training School, which was later renamed Sheldon Jackson College. William graduated from Sheldon Jackson School in Sitka and then the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania at age 14.

In his 20s, he earned his bachelor's degree at Whitworth College where he was also a football hero as the team's quarterback winning many games in the Northwest region. While working, he passed the bar exam and was admitted to the Alaska Bar on December 18, 1920.

In the early 1900s, William and his brother Louis joined the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB). In 1920, William led the ANB to attack the idea of segregated schools in Southeast Alaska. In 1921, the ANB sent William to Washington, D.C. to lobby for Native rights. He traveled around in Alaska to help create new ANB "camps" and increased membership from 100 members in 4 camps to 2,200 members in 20 camps.

In 1922, Charlie Jones and Tillie Paul, William's mother, tried to vote in Wrangell. They were charged with "falsely swearing to be a citizen." The case went to trial and eventually ruled in favor of Native voters. Two years after this, Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act making all Indians citizens of the United States.

## *path to leadership*

In 1924, having secured the rights of Alaska Natives to vote, William Paul, Sr. won election to the Alaska Territorial Legislature. As the first Alaska Native to do so, he proved the power of the Native vote. While in office, he fought against a "Literacy Law" that the 1925 Legislature was trying to pass that would prevent Natives, especially elders, from being able to vote. William succeeded in amending the provision so that nobody that had already voted in past elections could be denied the privilege in the future.

William Paul, Sr. was later elected the ANB Grand Camp President in 1928, 1929, and 1955. William Paul, Sr. played a key role in orchestrating the decision by the 1929 Grand Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood that initiated the Alaska Native claims movement.

During the 1930s, William lobbied on behalf of Alaska Natives in Washington, D.C., helping to secure legislation that allowed the Tlingit and Haida people to bring suit against the government for lost lands and rights.

In 1966, William filed a notice with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management that precipitated the "Alaska Land Freeze" compelling state and national leaders to resolve Alaska Native claims. During the later years of his life, he mentored several Alaska Native leaders who were to play key roles in the lobbying effort that led to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.