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CONTACT:

Lori Alvino McGill

(202) 847-4035

press@hpullegal.com

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Drops Lawsuit against Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe Economic Development Arms

“Major Victory for Native American Sovereignty”

Washington, D.C. 1/19/2018: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced yesterday that it was withdrawing its lawsuit against the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake (HPUL) Tribe Economic Development Arms.

In response, Lori Alvino McGill of Wilkinson Walsh + Eskovitz, attorney for HPUL’s economic development arms, stated, “For the reasons outlined in our motion to dismiss, this case should never have been brought in the first place. We’re glad that the Bureau has withdrawn the lawsuit that was diverting the Tribe’s resources and attention away from economic activity that benefits its members and its neighbors.”

This lawsuit raised many important issues. Foremost among them was the right of sovereign Native American Tribes to be treated like sovereign states, as the law requires. Chairperson Treppa of the HPUL Tribe stated, “This was a significant victory for our Tribe. We knew the CFPB’s case was baseless and ignored core principles of tribal sovereignty. I am proud of our tribal leadership’s resolve to protect the rights of our tribal citizens and our economic development opportunities. We were and are unified in our desire to continue working with the federal government in a government to government capacity. Our hope, as a Tribe, is that this victory serves as an example to inspire other tribes across the country to stand up when their tribal sovereignty is wrongfully attacked.”

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