



Abby Abinanti, Yurok Chief Judge, is an enrolled Yurok Tribal member. In 1974, she was the first tribal woman to be admitted to the State Bar of California and was the first tribal person to serve as a judicial officer in the State. She served on the San Francisco Superior Court for over 17 years, assigned to the Unified Family Court (Family/Dependency/Delinquency). She has been a Yurok Tribal Court Judge since 1997 and was appointed Chief Tribal Court Judge in 2007, a position she held in conjunction with her Superior Court assignment until 2015. In 2021, the National Judicial College referred to her as not only one of the “feistier judges you’ll meet”, but also “...one of the country’s most prominent, vocal, successful, and influential tribal judges.” The documentary “Tribal Justice,” follows the efforts of her and a judge with another tribe as they work to dispense justice based on traditional native values.