

The Yuki People and the Legacy of Serranus Hastings

Sinkyone Council supports an important Indigenous People's justice initiative led by Yuki people in collaboration with UC Hastings Law and Round Valley Indian Tribes to recognize and address acts of genocide against the Yuki that were perpetrated by the College's founder Serranus Hastings, who later became the first Chief Justice of the California State Supreme Court. In the mid-1800s, Serranus Hastings financed and ordered the forced removal of Yuki people from Eden Valley and Round Valley, which resulted in the massacre of several hundred Yuki. Hastings then took possession of significant portions of Yuki land, from which he greatly enriched himself. This is in an area of the traditional Yuki Tribal territory situated in what is now referred to as northeast Mendocino County. In 1878 Hastings founded the state's first law school, which still bears his name.

Round Valley Indian Reservation is situated within the heart of traditional Yuki Tribal territory. Round Valley Indian Tribes, one of the 10 Tribal Nations comprising the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, is itself a Sovereign Nation of Six Confederated Tribes, including the Yuki—who are the original people of Round Valley and adjacent vicinities. The Sinkyone Council supports this Indigenous justice endeavor because it exposes and confronts harsh truths about atrocities experienced by the Yuki people: that the original guardians of these lands and waters were subjected to widespread attacks, massacres, land thefts, and numerous other human rights violations.

We also support this effort of recognition and reconciliation because it seeks to honor the lives, the resilience, and the cultural lifeways of the Yuki people who survived these acts of violence. It provides a process whereby restorative justice for the Yuki people can be meaningfully pursued. It helps shed light on the realities of California's dark era of genocide committed against the Yuki and numerous other Tribes throughout the state. The Yuki people, as well as Indigenous Peoples and humanity everywhere, are owed these truthful acknowledgements together with respectful processes of reconciliation that lead to substantive and meaningful outcomes.

Sinkyone Council members, including those of Yuki ancestry, have met and collaborated with representatives of UC Hastings Law and are honored to have contributed to development of key concepts that are informing a series of initiatives the Yuki people, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and UC Hastings Law will be collaborating on as they pursue reconciliation and justice. We are moved and encouraged by this initiative and the opportunities it will provide for the Yuki of Round Valley to tell their story and have their voices heard. The Sinkyone Council thanks the Yuki people, Round Valley Indian Tribes and UC Hastings Law for embarking upon this journey of truth and healing. The journey will not be without its challenges, but it is necessary and right that it be taken. This initiative holds tremendous potential for UC Hastings Law to begin making amends, and for people to support Indigenous justice. In doing so, a new definition of justice can emerge that has the power to transform Serranus Hastings' terrible legacy into one that embraces and champions truth, reconciliation and healing.

To learn more, visit the **Hastings Legacy: Recognition and Reconciliation** website at: <https://www.uchastings.edu/our-story/hastings-legacy/>