

Life in a Canyon

by Carletta Tilousi

A life-long advocate for the protection of the Grand Canyon, Carletta Tilousi has worked for more than twenty-five years promoting social and environmental justice for the Havasupai Indian Tribe and indigenous people of the Grand Canyon. Born and raised in Supai Village located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Ms. Tilousi and the Tribe have fought against the development of uranium mines on federal lands located within the watershed of Supai Village and next to the Tribe's sacred site *Wii Giidwissa*. Currently, Ms. Tilousi serves on the Havasupai Tribal Council and is the President of Red Rock Foundation, Inc., a Native American non-profit organization.



After earning a bachelor of science degree in Justice Studies from Arizona State University (ASU) 2001, Ms. Tilousi returned to Supai Village, and was elected immediately to serve on the Havasupai Tribal Council and has successfully served seven terms. While serving on the Tribal Council, Ms. Tilousi has confronted the major issues of the day by improving the legal and financial infrastructure of the Tribe to provide a better method to address societal and environmental threats. Supai Village is world-renowned for its dramatic and picturesque blue-green waterfalls, which are threatened by the uranium mines, and other man-made causes.

Ms. Tilousi serves as an ambassador for the Havasupai Tribe by presenting their environmental and justice issues to the world. Ms. Tilousi served as a delegate to the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland, and has also presented the Havasupai uranium case at the World Uranium Hearings in Salzburg, Austria. Ms. Tilousi assisted the defeat of a proposed nuclear waste dump in Switzerland, which had direct ties to proposed mining activities in the Grand Canyon region. Tribal members, including Ms. Tilousi, and Tribal Council were also engaged in a protracted legal dispute with Arizona State University (ASU) over alleged improper human subject research conducted by the University officials against the Havasupai people. Resulted in a ground breaking settlement.

“The work I do is for the future children of the Grand Canyon, and for all my ancestors who endured the hardships of life in a remote canyon, I am honored to tell our story”.