

## **A More Perfect Union** **“Galjn Low’niwshataci”**

“Galjn Low’niwshataci” means bringing people together in Chuckchansi. My Indian name is Deemaysa’ which means Hummingbird. I am part of the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians and was very excited about this years’ law day topic. I feel it gave me the chance to express myself, my culture, and my history. I made this drum and then painted our past, present, and future on it. My art piece shows what I think would help the US and Tribal Nations have, “a more perfect union.”

On the top of my hand drum I painted a dream catcher. The dream catcher represents the dreams of wanting a more perfect union. I also painted sage, and an eagle feather. This all represents my culture and understanding it is one of the many things that the U.S governments could learn about to help with the problems between the two.

The second picture I painted is a boarding school, which is where Native American children were sent during the Assimilation period from 1871-1928. It represents the pain Native American children were put through and what they lost. They lost their culture and language - their pride. As discussed by Esther Labrado, a Tribal Nations attorney who came to speak to our class, many of them were taken from their families, forced to cut their hair, and some were even killed.

My third painting is my tribe's symbol. It represents where we are right now. We have sovereignty, and do have our own form of government. However, we are still lacking a criminal court system. A start in working towards a more perfect union would be funding and resources from the federal government, so that we can start our own criminal court system. This would make us less reliant on the US government, allowing us to handle criminal offenses ourselves. Also, throughout history many treaties have not been honored. So honoring those treaties, would be another step towards unity. Also, education for others about our tribe and all tribes is so important in working towards unity. Many don't know about the Tribal Nations- it is not mentioned in the history books.

My fourth painting on my hand drum is a bear paw. The bear paw exemplifies family and unity which I think is a perfect representation for our future. As Judge Pulido said

when he talked to our class - communication, civil engagement, civility, and compromise are all important factors in moving forward to this perfect union.