



# Board of Director Biography

---

## **Susan Masten, Vice-Chairwoman**

### **(Yurok)**

For 27 years, Susan Masten has advocated for the rights of Native People in her community and across the nation. Her life of public service began when she was elected one of the original Presidents of the Native American Student Association at Oregon State University. After graduation, she returned home to the Reservation and found herself on the front lines of the salmon wars, a battle to protect her people's natural resources, cultural identity, tradition and fishing rights. Susan Masten was instrumental in securing the Yurok's rights to the Klamath River Basin, which were reaffirmed in her uncles' U. S. Supreme Court case *Mattz v. Arnet*.

Susan Masten is the founder and Co-President of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) 2004, and she is also a founding member of the Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods High School, which will open its doors to students in the fall of 2005 in Klamath, California. At home, Susan Masten is active in traditional Yurok practices including fishing on the Klamath River and caring for her family's basket collection and dance regalia. She lives with her husband, Leonard, and has a son, Greg and a daughter, Crystal and is the proud grandmother of eight.