Memorial scholarship fund established in the Montana State University Law School

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Recommended Citation
FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, JUNE 22

A $2,500 memorial scholarship fund has been established in the Montana State University Law School by the family of the late Kenneth R. L. Simmons, Dean Robert E. Sullivan announced.

The scholarship memorializing the Billings lawyer who championed Indian rights throughout his career will primarily aid students of Indian extraction, but it may be used to help others in years when no Indian students are enrolled, the dean said.

At the time of his death in 1953, Simmons was serving as legal counsel for 14 Indian tribes in tribal claims against the federal government and was special legal representative of the Crows of Montana, the Nez Perces of Idaho, the Arapahoes of Wyoming and the Yakimas of Washington. From 1933 to 1946 he was counsel for the Billings District Office of the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. In recognition of his work for Indians, he was adopted into the Crow tribe as Morning Star and into the Yakima tribe as Sitting Eagle.

Simmons, who entered practice in Billings in 1925, was a member of the American and the Montana Bar Associations and, at the time of his death, was president of the Yellowstone County Bar Association. He was a graduate of Butte High School, Yale University and the MSU Law School.

An outstanding amateur athlete, Simmons was tennis champion at Yale and during the 1920's he was Montana singles champion and Billings city titleholder.

Simmons was born in Butte in 1897 and was married to Hazel F. Day of Billings in 1926.

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