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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**U.S. Supreme Court Hears Argument in
*Dolgenercorp, Inc. v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians***

CHOCTAW, Miss. – (Dec. 8, 2015) – Today, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the case of *Dolgenercorp, Inc. v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians* on the issue of whether Choctaw Tribal Courts may hear and decide a civil lawsuit brought by Choctaw Tribal members against the Dollar General store located on Choctaw Reservation lands.

In the lawsuit, Dollar General seeks to avoid civil liability by claiming that the Choctaw Tribal Courts do not have civil jurisdiction to hear and decide claims against Dollar General since it is a non-Indian entity.

Chief Anderson, several members of the Choctaw Tribal Council and other Tribal officials were in attendance at today's hearing in Washington D.C.

"Today is a significant day for our Tribe and for all tribes across the country. This morning I was proud to be at the argument before the nation's highest court addressing a critical element of tribal sovereignty involving tribal courts and jurisdiction over tribal territory," said Tribal Chief Phyliss Anderson.

"If tribal sovereignty means anything, it must include the ability for tribal courts to hear and decide cases arising from activity and conduct on our tribal lands. Businesses like Dollar General that choose to conduct their business on tribal lands should not seek to avoid legal responsibility in a tribal forum when actions of their employees result in harm to tribal citizens," continued Anderson. "I want to thank the United States and, in particular, the State of Mississippi as well as the other states which joined with our Tribe and other tribal organizations for their support of tribal sovereignty in this case."

A ruling by the Supreme Court is expected in the spring of 2016.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the leadership of Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, has an enrolled membership of more than 10,000 people and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in Choctaw, Miss., the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development and tribal sovereignty. The tribe provides a range of governmental services including schools, a health center, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, and a center for the elderly, among many others. Phyliss J. Anderson serves as the first female Chief in Mississippi Choctaw history.



