Harry B. Wallace (Giwiseh Ininni)

Harry B. Wallace is the currently elected Chief of the Unkechaug Nation and has served as Chief of the Unkechaug Indian Nation for 25 years.

Wallace has represented in the Nation in various courts throughout the United States in Indian Child Welfare (ICWA) cases and was instrumental in the successful appeal of In Re Dupree, a 2019 Appellate Division 2d Dept decision which affirmed the assertion of exclusive jurisdiction over Indian Child Welfare cases by the Nation in New York State. He is currently in litigation against the State of New York over the rights to hunt and fish on ancient common lands without interference by the State of New York.

He is also a founding member of the Long Island Intertribal Historic Preservation Task Force now known as Honor Our Indigenous Ancestors, Inc. whose mission is to protect and preserve sacred sites and burial remains on Long Island.

He is a member of the New York State, Federal, State, Tribal Courts and Indian Nations Justice Forum which focuses on issues presented in the Courts of New York such as the enforcement of the Indian Child Welfare Act, recognition of Nation decisions and promoting Graves protection for unmarked burial sites in New York State.

Wallace is a member of the New York State bar. He graduated cum laude, from New York Law School in 1982. Wallace was invited as a candidate for law review and his law school thesis: Eastern Indian Land Claims was published by the NYLS Law Review. He also holds an AB degree from Dartmouth College. Prior to becoming Chief, Wallace was in private practice in New York City.

Wallace is a co-founder of the Algonquian Language Revitalization Project at Stony Brook University on Long Island. The mission of ALRP is to promote, among other matters, the restoration of the Unkechaug Algonquian Language.

In 2019, Wallace executed a contract to begin Unkechaug Language instruction in the Center Moriches School District, at all grade levels.
In 2007, Chief Wallace signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chancellor of Stony Brook University to institute the Native People’s Scholarship Fund, fulfilling a 200-year-old promise to provide full scholarships to qualified Unkechaug Youth at one of the most prestigious Universities in the World.