



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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April 3, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kee Allen Begay sends appreciation to Judicial Branch for coordinating 50th Annual Justice Day festivities

Justice Day festivities are held throughout the month of April, the general public is encouraged to visit their district courts to participate in the celebrations while gaining knowledge of the Navajo Nation judicial system.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Kee Allen Begay Jr., chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council, sends his appreciation on behalf of the committee to Chief Justice Herb Yazzie, the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation, the district court staff, administrators and judges for planning and coordinating the 50th Annual Justice Day festivities on the Navajo Nation.

The Judiciary Committee, the oversight standing committee for the Judicial Branch, continues its work to make sure the Navajo public receives quality and effective court services throughout the Navajo Nation.

"The Navajo Nation has come a long way in upholding our Navajo culture and tradition distinctively and keeping a strong stance in protecting our sovereignty and jurisdictional affairs within the Navajo Nation," Begay said. "Each and every year, the committee works tirelessly to request for increased funding for each of the district courts. We also make sure all policy and procedures for the courts are up to date as well."

Begay explained the Judiciary Committee keeps abreast of laws that effect the sovereign status of the Navajo Nation and makes sure that its culture and tradition is acknowledged, all while experiencing an increase in population and changes in our social environment.

"Our Navajo district court jurisdiction has a long way in obtaining full unquestionable jurisdiction and it must be acknowledged by our U.S. Congress to obtain that authority," Begay said. "In obtaining this status, it will need the support and advocacy of each and every Navajo in order to achieve this status."

NAVAJO NATION JUSTICE DAY 2009

DATE	LOCATION	INFORMATION
April 1, 2009	Alamo Court Alamo, New Mexico	(575) 854-2668
April 1, 2009	Shiprock Judicial District Shiprock, New Mexico	(505) 368-1270
April 1, 2009	Crownpoint Judicial District Crownpoint, New Mexico	(505) 786-2072
April 2, 2009	Ramah Judicial District Ramah, New Mexico	(505) 775-3218
April 3, 2009	To'hajiilee Court To'hajiilee, New Mexico	(505) 908-2817
April 3, 2009	Window Rock Judicial District Window Rock, Arizona	(928) 871-6626
April 3, 2009	Kayenta Judicial District Kayenta, Arizona	(928) 697-5541
April 10, 2009	Chinle Judicial District Chinle, Arizona	(928) 674-2070
April 17, 2009	Dilkon Judicial District Dilkon, Arizona	(928) 657-8140
April 30, 2009	Tuba City Judicial District Tuba City, Arizona	(928) 283-3140
May 8, 2009	Aneth Judicial District Aneth, Utah	(435) 651-3545

"I thank the Judiciary Committee and the Judicial Branch for their work in making sure the Navajo Nation district courts provide quality service," said Begay.

In 1959, the Navajo Nation gained full control of its judicial system.

Justice Day festivities are held throughout the month of April and the general public is encouraged to visit their district courts and participate in the celebrations while gaining knowledge of the Navajo Nation judicial court system.

Each district court has separate dates planned for its celebration and the public should contact the district courts directly for more information. Contact information is available online at www.navajocourts.org.

The Judiciary Committee includes: Chairman Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Many Farms/Round Rock), Vice Chairman Edward V. Jim, Sr. (Greyhills/Sheepsprings/Newcomb), Nelson Gorman, Jr. (Chinle), Ray Berchman (Oak Springs/St. Michaels), Harold Wauneka (Fort Defiance), Leonard Tsosie (Pueblo Pintado/Torreón/Whitehorse Lake), Lena Manheimer (Ts'ah Bii Kin/Navajo Mountain) and Ernest D. Yazzie, Jr. (Baahaali/Church Rock).

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