



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Speaker Morgan congratulates Sheriff Dedman, County Attorney Whiting in Chinle, Ariz.

*Morgan looks forward to continued promotion of equal protection to all residents of Apache County*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — There is a new sheriff in town, Joseph Dedman Jr., a 27-year veteran in law enforcement, and a new county attorney of Apache County, Michael Whiting, took their oath of office on Jan. 8 during a luncheon held in their honor at the Chinle Community Center in Chinle, Ariz.

Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan attended the event with several other tribal and state dignitaries, including Arizona State Sen. Albert Hale, D-Window Rock; Patrick Sandoval, chief of staff for the Office of the President/Vice-President; Council Delegates Elmer Milford, Johnny Naize, Young Jeff Tom and Rex Lee Jim.



Apache County Sheriff Joseph Dedman takes his oath of office, while Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan looks on Jan. 8, 2009 in Chinle, Ariz. (Photo by Joshua Lavar Butler)

Speaker Morgan congratulated Sheriff Dedman and County Attorney Whiting on behalf of the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo people, and he looks forward to the continued promotion of equal protection to all residents of Apache County.

Morgan mentioned that former Apache County Sheriff Brian Hounshell was a good friend of the Navajo people.

"Sheriff Hounshell came to our parades and helped us with various projects," Morgan said. "Navajos tipped the elections and voted him into office, he supported Navajos and non-Natives — he supported all of Apache County, that's the way it should be and I look forward to our continued efforts in working together with Sheriff Dedman."

Speaker Morgan is thankful to Apache County voters for voting and electing Dedman and Whiting.

"Apache County can not afford to roll back its progress of bridging public safety services between the northern and southern parts of Apache County, an effort that former Sheriff Hounshell helped to establish," Speaker Morgan said. "We need to continue our partnerships and work together to provide quality public safety for all people of Apache County."



Embattled Sheriff Hounshell was removed in 2006 for alleged misuse of power, and was admired by many Navajos for his commitment to providing equal protection throughout Apache County — a county with a predominantly Navajo population with a 76.9 percent Native population.

Morgan is hopeful Dedman will provide the same equal protection for Navajos in Apache County.

Dedman secured his win by campaigning on a strong platform to provide quality public safety service to all residents of Apache County. His plans included cross deputizing his officers with the Navajo Nation, providing community-oriented policing programs, participating in homeland security, stabilizing the sheriff's office, providing a citizen's academy and exercising diplomacy.



Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting takes his oath of office Jan. 8, 2009 in Chinle, Ariz. (Photo by Joshua Lavar Butler)

Dedman said he plans to establish and maintain the unique partnerships with tribal, local organizations, municipalities, county, state and federal agencies.

"I know the needs of the Navajo Nation, I've been to all Chapters and I have heard your concerns," Dedman said. "I thank the Navajo Council for providing their support and let us work together — we are all one people."

"I will take the leadership role and I will do my best to execute the intent of this office," Dedman added. "I am committed to treating people with respect, with equal protection of the law; I will set the standards and execute my goals for the Office of the Sheriff. Let us all work together for all of Apache County, from Teec Nos Pos to Eager, from St. Johns to Window Rock — it's a big county and we can work together, my door will always be open."

Sheriff Dedman is no stranger to politics and public service; he was elected as school board president in 2000 for a school in Nazlini, Ariz., he was also chapter vice-president in 2004 for Nazlini Chapter.

Dedman provided executive protection for Navajo Nation Chairman Peter MacDonald Sr, Peterson Zah and interim Chairman Leonard Haskie, Navajo Nation Presidents Albert Hale, Milton Bluehouse Sr., Joe Shirley Jr., Vice President Frank Dayish Jr. and supervised protection of various state and federal dignitaries visiting the Navajo Nation.

New Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting is no stranger to the Navajo Nation either. Whiting is a life-long resident of Apache County with deep family roots spanning five generations.

Whiting worked in Window Rock and St. Michaels while employed with the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

"I have a deep respect for the diversity of Apache County," Whiting said. "I will serve Apache County with equality and respect for all residents."

Whiting received strong support from the Navajo Nation as well.

Speaker Morgan looks forward to working with Sheriff Dedman and County Attorney Whiting.

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