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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **JUDGE PLATERO APPOINTED TO TRIBAL-STATE JUDICIAL CONSORTIUM**

District Court Judge William J.J. Platero has been appointed to the Tribal State Judicial Consortium by Honorable Charles W. Daniels, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico.

Judge Platero was appointed as a tribal member to fulfill the unexpired term of an existing vacancy. The term expires December 31, 2011.

The Tribal State Judicial Consortium began as an initiative of the New Mexico Supreme Court in 1997 and was formally recognized as an advisory board of the Court in 2006. Seven members represent state courts and seven members represent the courts of tribes located in New Mexico.

The mission of the Tribal State Judicial Consortium is, "To encourage and facilitate communication and collaboration between State and Tribal Court judges on common issues, focusing on domestic violence, domestic relations, child custody, child support, child abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice, and addressing questions of jurisdiction and sovereignty as they relate to each particular issue."

Judge Platero has been involved with the consortium for about 1 ½ years and was elected to fulfill the vacancy by the judges on the consortium.

"The consortium is a good place to meet not only other judges, but many important people who can collaborate with our courts on many issues," he said.

Judge Platero, originally from Smith Lake, N.M., is currently a district court judge for To'Hajiilee-Alamo Judicial District. He has also served at the Tuba City and Crownpoint Judicial Districts. He began serving as a district court judge on June 30, 2008, and was confirmed as a permanent judge of the Navajo Nation in October 2010.

Judge Platero previously served as prosecutor for the Navajo Nation within the To'Hajiilee-Alamo, Ramah and Crownpoint Judicial Districts and as staff counsel within the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, working on water rights and employment law. He also served 15 years in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of captain. He returned from a tour of duty in Iraq in 2005.

Judge Platero graduated from University of New Mexico and from Central New Mexico Community College. In July 2010, he was presented the Central New Mexico Community College's 2010 distinguished alumni award for his achievements since graduation.

District Court Judge Irene Toledo is also a member of the Tribal State Judicial Consortium. She was first appointed in January 2004. Her current term on the consortium expires December 31, 2012.

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