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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

**MARTIN AVERY NOMINATED TO NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION**

WINDOW ROCK –Martin Avery has been nominated for appointment to the Navajo Government Development Commission as the Judicial Branch representative by Chief Justice Herb Yazzie.

Legislation has been introduced by Elmer P. Begay for the Navajo Nation Council to confirm the two-year appointment of Mr. Avery.

The Chief Justice believes Mr. Avery possesses considerable experience and in-depth knowledge about the Navajo Nation government and its laws to be a valuable member of the Commission.

Mr. Avery is eager to work with the Commission as it begins to carry out its responsibility to facilitate government reform by the People.

Mr. Avery is currently the staff attorney at the Ramah District Court of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. He has also worked as a public defender for the Pueblo of Laguna, general counsel for Navajo Housing Authority, the executive director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, a staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Office of the Chief Prosecutor, assistant district attorney for McKinley County, and a staff attorney and tribal court advocate at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

He has been a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association since 1995 and the New Mexico State Bar Association since 1993. He has served as a board member of the DNA-People's Legal Services and is a current board member of the Indian Law Resource Center in Helena, Mont.

Mr. Avery has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Fort Lewis College and a juris doctorate from the University Of New Mexico School Of Law.

Per 2 N.N.C. § 972, the Commission on Navajo Government Development consists of 12 members confirmed by and serving at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council, including

members to represent each of the branches of government, each of the five agencies of the Navajo Nation, Diné College, the Education Committee (now the Health, Education and Human Services Committee) and Commission on Navajo Women. One member is also nominated by the director of the Office of Navajo Government Development. The Judicial Branch representative must be a licensed attorney and a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association.

Per 2 N.N.C. § 973, part of the powers of the Commission are to develop recommendations and proposals for alternative forms of chapter government, provide short and long range comprehensive planning, evaluation and development to enhance the Navajo government at both the central and local levels, and to review, evaluate and recommend laws, rules and regulations to develop a comprehensive system of government for the Navajo people.

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