



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2019

Navajo Nation Attorney General announces new Chapter Unit under the Department of Justice

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation Attorney General Doreen N. McPaul announced earlier this week the establishment of a new Chapter Unit within the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, to provide direct legal services to the Navajo Nation’s 110 chapters.

According to Title II, Section 1964 (B) of the Navajo Nation Code, the Attorney General’s office is empowered to render “legal services to the Navajo Nation government, including its Chapters, branches, and entities.”

“The Nez-Lizer Administration, through the leadership of the Attorney General, is creating positive change by creating the Chapter Unit to address the legal needs of the Chapter governments. The chapters represent the largest clients of the Department of Justice, so this unit will assist in moving projects and legal matters forward,” said President Nez.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Assistant Attorney General Rodgerick Begay and Navajo Nation Attorney General Doreen N. McPaul in Window Rock, Ariz. on Aug. 8, 2019.

He added that the new Chapter Unit aligns with the Nez-Lizer Administration’s support for local empowerment and self-governance and will help with re-instilling the Navajo teaching of T’áá hwó’ ajít’éeg, or self-reliance and self-determination in our communities.

Assistant Attorney General Rodgerick Begay will lead the Chapter Unit along with two additional staff, Attorney Candidate Neomi Gilmore and Legal Secretary Christine Benally.

“The Chapter Unit is a project the Department of Justice has been contemplating for the past six years. The idea has now become a reality with the joint effort with Navajo Nation Division of

Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman,” stated Assistant Attorney General Rodgerick Begay.

Attorney General McPaul added, “Department of Justice is pleased to have collaborated with the Division of Community Development to initiate the Chapter Unit, and DOJ is committed to serving the legal needs of our clients as a team, including the Nation’s 110 chapters.”

“It’s wonderful to see change happening. The Navajo people want change and this change within the Department of Justice is another step in that process,” added Vice President Lizer.

The Navajo Nation Department of Justice plans to expand soon with additional legal staff to meet the many diverse legal needs and concerns of all chapter governments. The Chapter Unit officially began operation on Aug. 5 and is located at the Department of Justice in Window Rock, Ariz.

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