



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2012

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jerome Clark | 928.637.5603
Carmenlita Chief | 928.255.3428
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Law and Order Committee names members to task force, approves appointment of Navajo Supreme Court probationary associate justice

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Law and Order Committee of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council on Monday passed two legislations; one approving a recommendation for the appointment of a Navajo Nation Supreme Court probationary associate justice, and the second naming five individuals to serve on a task force to review penalty provisions of Title 17 in the Navajo Nation Code.

Legislation No. 0236-12, sponsored by Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Cornfields, Ganado, Jeddito, Kin Dah Łichíí', Steamboat), proposed the establishment of a task force to review sentence provisions of Title 17, which is the Criminal Code.

Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) motioned for an amendment to the legislation to insert the names of the five recommended individuals that would comprise the task force.

The committee recommended the following individuals to serve on the task force: Kathleen Bowman, director of the Office of Navajo Public Defender; Bernadine Martin, Navajo Nation Chief Prosecutor; Delores Greyeyes, director of the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections; Glen Renner, staff attorney at Aneth Judicial District Court, and Capt. Ivan Tsosie, acting Navajo Chief of Police.

The task force will work under the direction of the Law and Order Committee, said Delegate Shepherd, and will also be responsible for identifying offenses for which penalties should be enhanced.

The legislation, with Delegate Begaye's amendment, passed with a vote of three (3) supporting and zero (0) opposed.

The committee also passed Legislation No. 0265-12, recommending the presidential appointment of Regina Holyan as probationary associate justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. Delegate Begaye sponsored the legislation.

Previously, the committee on May 7 recommended to President Ben Shelly two qualified individuals for the probation appointment as associate justice (Legislation No. 0052-12).

Of the two, the president selected Holyan, said Delegate Begaye.

Upon passage of the legislation, Holyan shared with the committee how she pursued high education with the strong intent to return home to "Diné Bikéyah" to work and help her people.

"I am grateful that I have the training, the education, the legal expertise, and the desire to come and serve the Navajo Nation," said Holyan, who is currently the senior staff attorney at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Holyan stated confidently that she would give the same dedication to serving on the Navajo Supreme Court, as she had given as an attorney with DOJ.

Legislation No. 265-12 will move forward to the Naa' bik'iyati' Committee for consideration, and then onto the Navajo Nation Council, where final confirmation of Holyan's appointment will be rendered.

The committee passed the legislation with a vote of three (3) supporting and zero (0) opposed.

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