



## Navajo leaders recognize appointment of Cordalis, Newland and others to Interior Department leadership team

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**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council praised the appointment of Daniel Cordalis, a member of the Navajo Nation, to deputy solicitor of water resources with the US Department of the Interior on Monday.

“We congratulate Mr. Cordalis on his appointment as deputy solicitor in the most recent announcement of diverse appointments to the US Department of Interior’s leadership team. The Navajo Nation Council recognizes his education and experience in practicing natural resources and Indian law and we look forward to seeing his work reflected in the positive changes to come at the department,” said Speaker Seth Damon.

Cordalis graduated from Rice University with a M.A. focused on hydrology. He also received a J.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Cordalis was raised in southwest Colorado.

As deputy solicitor, Cordalis will provide legal counsel to USDOI leadership on the administration of the US Bureau of Reclamation. That includes matters relating to water resource development issues.

Additionally, the USDOI announced the appointment of Bay Mills Indian Community citizen Bryan Newland to principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

“The Navajo Nation is encouraged to see citizens of Indian Country appointed to these important positions within the USDOI. We are confident former Chairman Bryan Newland will be a critical asset to Indian Affairs going forward. We look ahead to collaborating with our federal partners to address critical needs facing Tribal communities,” said Health, Education, and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) Chair Daniel E. Tso.

Newland served previously as Bay Mills Tribal Court chief judge and counselor and policy advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Indian Affairs.

The USDOI also announced Monday the appointment of Shakiyya Bland, Ed. D, as the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow with the Office of the Secretary and Nada Culver to deputy director of policy and programs at the Bureau of Land Management.

Monday’s announcement follows two prior announcements by the USDOI under the Biden-Harris Administration of appointments at the department. The USDOI said the Interior Department’s political team contains more than 50 percent who identify as BIPOC (black, Indigenous and people of color) and 80 percent as women.

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