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## Navajo Nation First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren sworn in as first woman, Native American county attorney in Arizona

*'I want to let everyone in Apache County know I'm here for them.'*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren has acquired a new title.

On her first day as county attorney, she had three meetings.

On Monday, she was sworn in as Apache County Attorney by the Apache County Board of Super-visors, making her the first woman Apache County Attorney and the first Native American county attorney in the State of Arizona.

The new County Attorney, who is *Hashtl'ishnii* born for *Áshiihí*, was the first of three candidates to address the board before it went into executive session to discuss its selection.

"First, I talked about what my first priority would be, the fair and equitable administration of justice and ensuring that county residents feel safe in their homes and community," she said. "Next, I would make sure the county attorney's office hires the right people, such as chief deputy and chief of staff. Last, I want to reestablish morale in the county attorney's office in general."



*On Monday, Navajo Nation First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren was sworn in as the first woman Apache County Attorney and the Arizona's first Native American county attorney.*

Among the issues before her is the vacancy in attorney positions following the county's recent turmoil when former County Attorney Michael Whiting was indicted.

After that happened, many staff attorneys left for private practice but served Apache County as contract attorneys who she would like to recruit.

"I want to let everyone in Apache County know I'm here for them and I'm looking forward to it," she said.

In February 2021, County Attorney Blackwater-Nygren was sworn in as Arizona Legislative District 7 State Representative.



She is a 2017 graduate of Stanford University with a BS in Technology, Science and Society with a focus on sustainability and the environment, and a minor in Native American studies.

In 2020, she graduated from Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law with a Juris Doctorate with an emphasis in Federal Indian Law. As a law student, she completed internships with Navajo Nation Legislative Branch and the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

Upon her appointment as County Attorney, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said he is incredibly proud of his wife as she makes history once again.

"Today, Jasmine was sworn in as the first Native American and first woman to serve as the Apache County Attorney, a monumental achievement for our family, our community and for Native American women everywhere," he said.

"Jasmine is an extraordinary mother to our two daughters, but she also continues to break barriers and inspire countless individuals with her courage, determination, and leadership," he said. "More than half of Apache County is the Navajo Nation, and I know she will be a powerful voice for our people, ensuring that the Diné are rightfully represented in all matters of justice and governance."

She had been appointed by the Apache County Board of Supervisors to fill a vacancy left when former Rep. Arlando Teller resigned to become Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

At age 25, she was then the youngest state representative and brought millions of dollars to the district for the people who needed it most.

County Attorney Blackwater-Nygren graduated from Monument Valley High School as valedictorian in 2013.

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