



NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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For Immediate Release
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Photos: Raymond Smith, Vice-Chair of Law and Order Committee; Ethel Branch, Attorney General; Gertrude Lee, Chief Prosecutor; Geraldine Benally, Window Rock District Court Judge

Window Rock, Navajo Nation—The Navajo Nation Attorney General is pleased to announce that Gertrude Lee has joined the Nation as its Chief Prosecutor. Ms. Lee was sworn in at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 31, 2016 at the Attorney General's Conference Room in the Old BIA Club Building in Window Rock, Navajo Nation.

Ms. Lee is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from Kirtland and is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. She comes to the Nation with over 6 years of experience as a prosecutor, and most recently served as the Deputy District Attorney in the District Attorney's Office in Gallup, New Mexico. Ms. Lee has a proven record of commitment to public service. "I am excited to join the Office of the Prosecutor and I look forward to leading a staff of individuals who are dedicated to law enforcement and public safety on the Navajo Nation. My immediate priority in the position will be to bring the Office up to full staff," said Ms. Lee.

The Attorney General stated, "We are so pleased to have Ms. Lee take the helm of our prosecutorial team. She is a team player and a hard worker who cares deeply about the safety of our communities and the well-being of our people. I am confident she will make a difference in ensuring that our communities are safe and that our limited prosecutorial resources are leveraged to the maximum extent."

The leadership of the Navajo Nation is delighted to have Ms. Lee on board.

"The Begaye-Nez administration welcomes Gertrude Lee to the Navajo Nation as our new chief prosecutor," said Vice President Jonathan Nez. "This administration is serious about addressing crime on the Navajo Nation. By filling the chief prosecutor and chief of police positions, our administration has covered both ends of the spectrum," Vice President Nez said.

The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation noted, "The Law and Order Committee is very pleased with the introduction of Gertrude Lee as the Navajo Nation's new Chief Prosecutor. Recently, the Nation hired a new Chief of Police and with the addition of the new Chief Prosecutor, our people will be better served and protected. We congratulate Ms. Lee and look forward to working collaboratively together."

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, who serves as the chair of the Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee, said in the wake of many disturbing cases taking place on the Navajo Nation, the subcommittee is determined to provide justice and safety to Navajo Citizens. "On behalf of the SAP Subcommittee, I commend the Attorney General for the hiring of a permanent Chief Prosecutor. Our subcommittee is eager to begin developing solutions to the Nation's long-standing concerns regarding the processing of sexual assault and violent cases, as well as prioritizing a comprehensive criminal justice system" said Delegate Crotty.

Jesse Delmar, Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Public Safety, stated "The Navajo Division of Public Safety welcomes Ms. Lee as the new Chief Prosecutor for the Navajo Nation. Now that we have a new Chief, we are excited for change and the strengthening of our system once again."

The Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Jaime High, who served as Acting Chief Prosecutor for the past 16 months, stated, "I am excited for Ms. Lee to join our office. I'm looking forward to working with her as a team to further stabilize the office and to increase the prosecution of crime to protect the citizens of the Navajo Nation."

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