

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE  
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES;  
CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF EDWARD DOBSON TO THE NAVAJO NATION  
LABOR COMMISSION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 600(A).
- B. The Law and Order Committee is the oversight committee for the Navajo Nation Labor Commission. 2 N.N.C. § 601(C)(1).
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. Among other duties and responsibilities, the committee confirms those appointments to the Labor Commission made by the President of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701(A)(1). See also 15 N.N.C. §302 (A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation Labor Commission is established to "hear and adjudicate cases as the quasi-judicial hearing body under the Navajo Preference in Employment Act." 15 N.N.C. § 302(A).
- B. The membership of the Labor Commission consists of five members. 15 N.N.C. § 303(A). All five members must be licensed by the Navajo Nation Bar Association. 15 N.N.C. § 303(B)(2).
- C. Two of the members of the Labor Commission are appointed by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee. 15 N.N.C. § 303(A). Three are appointed by the President of the Navajo Nation, with concurrence of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 15 N.N.C. § 303(A).
- D. Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye has appointed Mr. Edward Dobson to the Navajo Labor Commission for a term of four years beginning on the date of confirmation. See Presidential Appointment Letter attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.


E. Mr. Dobson is a licensed member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association. See Letter of Interest and Résumé attached hereto as **Exhibits B** and **C**, respectively.

**SECTION THREE. APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION**

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby confirms the appointment of Mr. Edward Dobson to the Navajo Nation Labor Committee for a 4-year term beginning on the date of confirmation.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 13 in Favor and 00 Opposed, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'LoRenzo C. Bates', with a stylized flourish at the end.

LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Leonard Tsosie  
Second: Honorable Benjamin Bennett

Chairperson Bates not voting



# THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE  
JONATHAN NEZ



December 11, 2017

Edward Dobson

## RE: Official Appointment to the Navajo Labor Commission

Mr. Dobson,

It is my distinct pleasure to appoint you to the Navajo Labor Commission. You have extensive experience in labor law. We believe you have the background and experience to competently represent on this Board. **You are hereby appointed to represent the Commission for a term of four (4) years beginning on date of confirmation.** This appointment is subject to confirmation by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

Thank you for your desire to serve as a Commissioner with the Labor Commission. If you have any questions relating to your appointment, please contact Karis N. Begaye, Legal Counsel, Office of the President and Vice President at (928) 871-7812.

Sincerely,

THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Begaye".

Russell Begaye, *President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Nez".

Jonathan M. Nez, *Vice President*



**EDWARD M. DOBSON**

**Attorney at Law**

**December 12, 2017**

Brittany A. Smith, Administrative Assistant  
THE NAVAJO NATION  
Office of the President & Vice President  
PO BOX 7440  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Ms. Smith,

Ya'at'eeh, and thank you for processing my application for consideration to fill an opening among the Commissioners of the Navajo Nation Labor Commission.

I learned of the call for applications at the continuing legal education program in Albuquerque on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Now that my position in the Utah office of DNA – People's Legal Services has been eliminated, it would be an honor to put my 17 years' experience with Navajo law to work now directly with a commission of the Navajo Nation.

If you need more examples of work product other than my presentation at the Albuquerque CLE as previously submitted and made available for my interview, I look forward to assisting.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Dobson", written over a horizontal line.

*Admitted to practice in the courts of the Navajo Nation, Colorado, and the U.S. Tax Court.*





## **RESUME OF EDWARD M. DOBSON**

### **Admitted to practice:**

**State Bar of Montana, Oct. 1987 – presently inactive (Judicial Member, 8/89-11/98)**

**U.S. District of Montana, Oct. 1987**

**State Bar of Colorado, May 1988 – Active**

**Navajo Nation Bar Association, May 2001 – Active**

**U. S. Tax Court, Feb. 2004 – Active**

**Court of Indian Offenses, Ute Mountain Agency, Oct. 2011 - Active**

**State Bar of Arizona, Feb. 2003 – Feb. 2005**

Admitted under old AZ Supreme Court Rule which allowed legal services lawyers admitted in another state to provide free legal services in Arizona for two years.

No time limit under later rule.

### **Pro hac vice:**

**U.S. Northern District of Indiana, 1988-91**

**U.S. Western District of Pennsylvania, 1988-92**

**Blackfeet Tribal Court, 1989**

### **Education:**

**Juris Doctor, Univ. of Montana, 1987**

**Non-degree post-graduate work:**

Education - Ohio Univ., 1969-71 (Guidance & Counseling)

- Univ. of No. Colorado, 1969 (Outdoor Educ.)

- Florida Atlantic Univ., 1967-68 (Early Childhood Ed.)

- Univ. of South Florida, 1967 (Early Childhood Ed.)

Radio/TV Admin. - Ohio Univ., 1965-66

**Bachelor of Science, Radio/TV Admin., Oklahoma State Univ., 1965**

### **Honors:**

**Montana Law Review - editorial board, 1986-87; business manager, 1986-87; staff, 1985-86.**

**Scribes Award - outstanding member, Montana Law Review, 1986-87.**

**Clancy Gordon Environmental Scholar, U. of Montana, 1986-87.**

**McChesney-McCarvel Memorial Scholar, Montana Trial Lawyers Association, 1985-86.**

**J. P. Acher Memorial Scholar, U. of Montana School of Law, 1985-86.**

**Prior employment:**

**Managing Attorney, Monument Valley (UT) office, DNA – People's Legal Services, Inc., Jan. 2017 to Aug. 18, 2017.** Congressionally funded ten-office legal services provider for eligible low-income applicants, usually Navajo. **Lead DNA counsel, U.S. Tax Court.** Office and positions all terminated in organizational reduction in force.

**Director, Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, DNA – People's Legal Services, Inc., and DNA lead counsel, U.S. Tax Court, Jan. 2014 to Dec. 2016.** IRS and LSC grant-funded representation of low-income taxpayers in tax controversy cases for ten-office legal services provider org. Location: Monument Valley (UT) office, DNA – People's Legal Services, Inc.

**Managing Attorney, Mexican Hat (UT) office, DNA – People's Legal Services, Inc., Nov. 2000 to Sept. 2014.** Congressionally funded nine-office legal services provider for eligible low-income applicants, usually Navajo. Office closed in Sept. 2014 and relocated in Monument Valley, UT. Employed through 2014 as above.

**November 1998 and November 2000 -** Two years of providing volunteer and low-cost legal assistance in the public interest -- mostly through environmental organizations.

**Water Master, Montana Water Court, August 1989 – November 1998.** Vested with powers of district court judge in comprehensive statewide adjudication of water rights. Judicial member, State Bar of Montana.

**Solo practice, 1987-1992.** General litigation; civil tax defense; phased out this practice after appointment to Montana Water Court judiciary.

**Faculty, Blackfeet Tribal Community College, Browning, MT, 1988-89.** Taught courses in business law and mass communications.

**Regional Coordinator, Montana AFL-CIO -** successful Spring 1988 campaign to keep property tax ban initiatives off state ballot.

**Intern, Office of the Montana Attorney General, Summer 1986.** Wrote criminal appellate briefs; argued orally in Montana Supreme Court.

**U. of Montana Law Faculty Research Assistant, Spring 1986.** Employment discrimination.

**Field Investigator, American Civil Liberties Union, Summer 1985.** Investigated constitutional questions raised in foreclosure of Farmers Home Administration loans in southern Idaho.

**Executive Director, Center for the Public Interest, Inc., 1981-84, part-time.** Fund raising and implementation of litigation, administrative appeals, and educational programs. Emphasis: mining, water projects, wilderness, wildlife.



**National Field Representative, Taxpayers Coalition Against Clinch River Breeder Reactor, 1983.** Organized and conducted local press conferences and meetings of constituents with congressional members and staff around the nation. Result: breeder reactor defunded.

**Northern Plains Representative, Friends of the Earth, 1972-1982.** Community organizer, educator. Emphasis on coal mining, hardrock mining (1872 law), wilderness, and nuclear power. **Appalachian Representative, 1970-72.**

**State Coordinator, Radioactive Waste, Ltd., 1980-82.** Author of Initiative 84 forbidding disposal of large-quantity radioactive waste, including uranium mill tailings, in Montana. Coordinated successful 1980 signature drive and ballot campaign. Coordinated successful 1982 campaign to defeat Legislature's referendum crafted to repeal Initiative 84.

**Campaign Coordinator, successful re-election of Montana State Senator Ann K. (Pat) Regan (D), 1982.** Organized volunteers, strategy, logistics, and media.

**Presenter, Western Wilderness Course, (Challenge/Discovery), Colorado Outward Bound School, 1978-82.** Programs on conservation history and issues for students in college credit courses.

**Instructor, National Outdoor Leadership School, 1976.** Two biology course expeditions in Yellowstone National Park and Absaroka Mtn. Range, Wyoming. **Sierra Club Foundation field investigator, surface coal mine reclamation, Great Britain and West Germany, 1971.**

**Residence Hall Assistant Director, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 1969-71.**

**Head Start Teacher, Greater Jacksonville Economic Opportunity, Florida, 1969.** Teacher and aide supervisor, school for children under 6 years of age.

**Head Start Teacher, Seminole Tribe of Florida, 1967-68.** Teacher, aide supervisor, and parent outreach coordinator, school for children under 6 years of age, Big Cypress Seminole Reservation. Conceived and implemented first program for bilingual education of Seminole children.

**Instructor, Speech Department, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 1965-66.**

**Personal:**

**Board of Trustees, Glen Canyon Institute, 1997 - present.** Second vice-president, 1997-2005. Secretary, 1999-2001. Organization studying potential for restoration of free-flowing Colorado River between Cataract Canyon and Grand Canyon. (Trivia: I may still be the only member of any judiciary, past or present, who has rowed Cataract Canyon.)



**Founding board member and first president, Friends of Cedar Mesa, 2010-2014.** Support greater protection of archaeology/ecology on Cedar Mesa (Grand Gulch Plateau) through education, advocating for national designations (Bears Ears NM), smart local policy-making, and organizing research and volunteer service activities.

**Founding member, Board of Directors, 44th Bombardment Group Veterans Association, 1994-1998. Secretary, 1994-1998.** Organization dedicated to commemoration of the activities and losses of the 44th Bomb Group (H) during WW II and to providing a forum for continuing interaction of the members. (The 44th was my father's outfit.)

**Member, board of trustees, vice-chair, Town of Bluff service area board, 2013-2015**

**Member, national board of directors, The Sierra Club, July 2000 – May 2004; Executive Committee, 2002 – 2004; Secretary, 2003 – 2004;**

**Other Sierra Club volunteer activities (interrupted by law school and appointment to Montana judiciary):**

**Member since 1967.**

**Wild Planet Strategy Team, 2004 – 2008.**

**Training Governance Committee, 2004 – 2006.**

**Election Review Task Force, 2004 – 2006.**

**Montana Chapter executive committee, 1999-2000; Secretary, 2000; Chapter delegate to Northwest Regional Conservation Committee (RCC), 2000; Chapter Vice-Chair, 1983-84.**

**Inspector of Elections (national), 1999.**

**Chair, Mining Subcommittee, Public Lands Committee (national), 1983-84.**

**Montana Chapter delegate to Northern Plains RCC, 1983-84.**

**Energy Committee (national), 1982-83.**

**Executive Committee, Yellowstone Basin Group, 1981-84.**

**Membership chair, Yellowstone Basin Group, 1981-83.**

**Newsletter editor, Yellowstone Basin Group, 1981-84.**

**Northern Rockies Chptr delegate to Northern Plains RCC, 1981-82.**

**Chair, Yellowstone Basin Group, 1981-82.**

**Southeast Group organizer, Ohio Chapter, 1971.**

**South Florida organizer, Florida Group, Atlantic Chapter, 1967-68.**

**(Trivia: Led the first Sierra Club outing in Florida, a wet hike through the Big Cypress Swamp, 1967.)**

**Other environmental organization activities and recognition:**

**Council member, Montana Wilderness Association, 1977-79, 1982-83.**

**MWA's Sutton Award, 1976, and Sedlack Award, 1980.**



Founder and co-chair, Montanans for Safe Power, 1975-76.

Qualified nuclear regulatory initiative for Montana ballot requiring legislative vote before citing nuclear power plant. Lost the election but paved the way for successful initiative in 1978 which prohibited nuclear power generation in Montana unless approved by popular vote.

Founder, Athens Ecology Group (Ohio Univ.), 1970, and chairman, Earth Conference I, April 4-5, 1971, proceedings published by Hon. Ken Heckler (D-WV) in Congressional Record, June 22, 1971.

Hon. Ken Heckler (D-WV)

Congressional Record June 22, 1971

[\[PDF\] extensions of remarks - US Government Publishing Office](#)

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/GPO-CRECB-1971.../GPO-CRECB-1971-pt16-4-3.pdf>

Jun 22, 1971 - the Athens Ecology Group. The conference was held at Ohio University, Athens,. Ohio, April 4-5, 1971, and I am pleased to submit the text of ...

**NAVAJO NATION**

RCS# 835

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

3/8/2018

04:48:05 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation No. 0057-18

PASSED

MOT Tsosie

Confirming the Appointment of

SEC Bennett

Edward Dobson to the NN Labor  
Commission

**Yea : 13**

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 11**

**Yea : 13**

Begay, K

Chee

Pete

Tso

BeGaye, N

Filfred

Slim

Tsosie

Bennett

Perry

Smith

Witherspoon

Brown

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 11**

Bates

Crotty

Hale

Shepherd

Begay, NM

Damon

Jack

Yazzie

Begay, S

Daniels

Phelps