

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Third Year, 2017

AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND NAVAJO
NATION COUNCIL; APPOINTING MR. RODGERICK T. BEGAY AS THE NAVAJO
NATION DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Authority

- A. The Navajo Nation Council gave the Law and Order Committee legislative oversight over the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. 2 N.N.C. § 601(C)(2) see also CJA-03-13, 22nd Navajo Nation Council (2013).
- B. A proposed resolution requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council appoints the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General at the recommendation of the Navajo Nation President. 2 N.N.C. §1962(B).

Section Two. Findings

- A. The Navajo Nation President recommends the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General. 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).
- B. The recommended Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General serves at the Navajo Nation Council's pleasure. *Id.*
- C. The Deputy Attorney Generals shall serve in the stead of the Attorney General, with full authority of the Attorney General, in the event of the death, disability, or removal of the Attorney General, until a new Attorney General is approved by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 1962.

Section Three. Recommendation of the Navajo Nation Deputy
Attorney General

The Navajo Nation President recommends Mr. Rodgerick T. Begay as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General. Mr.

Begay's appointment letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit A** and **Exhibit B**.

Section Four. Appointment of the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General

The Navajo Nation Council hereby appoints Mr. Rodgerick T. Begay as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B), Mr. Begay's appointment shall be effective upon the Navajo Nation Council's approval. Mr. Begay's term shall be concurrent with the Navajo Nation President's term. *Id.*

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 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 17 in favor and 0 opposed, this 26th day of January 2017.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

1-31-17

Date

Motion: Honorable Dwight Witherspoon
Second: Honorable Nathaniel Brown



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE
JONATHAN NEZ



November 1, 2016



Rodgerick Begay

RE: Appointment as the Deputy Attorney General

Mr. Begay,

It is our pleasure to appoint you as the Deputy Attorney General. The Begaye Nez administration is building a cabinet of educated and experienced professionals who can carry out the four (4) pillars of their administration: 1) jobs; 2) veterans; 3) infrastructure; and 4) elders.

We will provide the following terms: an annual base salary; medical benefits; deferred compensation; quarterly bonus incentive plan; 401K Savings and Investment. This is a political appointed position and subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. In addition, confirmation is subject to a successful background and Navajo Nation ethics clearance.

We look forward to you joining the Begaye Nez administration. Please contact Perry Shirley, Begaye Nez Human Resources at (928) 871-7884

Respectfully,

THE NAVAJO NATION

Russell Begaye, *President*

THE NAVAJO NATION

Jonathan M. Nez, *Vice President*



Rodgerick T. Begay

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Navajo Nation Department of Justice

Assistant Attorney General, July 2013 to Present

- Supervise and manage attorneys and staff of the Economic/Community Development Unit.
- Research and draft legal memorandums.
- Draft various agreements such construction contracts, leases, MOAs and MOUs.
- Coordinate legal strategies for projects by the Navajo Executive, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branches.
- Provide legal assistance to the 110 Chapter Governments.

Window Rock Judicial District

Staff Attorney, March 2012 to July 2013

- Research and draft legal memorandums for Judges.
- Draft Court Orders ready for Judges' signature.
- Assist the public with legal information.
- Provide assistance to District Judges when appointed as Justices for Navajo Supreme Court cases.

Chinle Judicial District

Staff Attorney, October 2007 to March 2012

- Same as above for Window Rock Judicial District.

EDUCATION

University of Tulsa College of Law, Tulsa, OK

- Juris Doctorate, 2002
- Native American Law Certificate
- President, Native American Law Students Association (2002)
- Vice-President, Native American Law Students Association (2001)
- CALI Award for Excellence – Natural Resources Law class, Tribal Government class
- Dean's List, Spring 2001 and Fall 2002

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 1996
- Dean's List, Spring 1996

CERTIFICATIONS

Admitted to Practice Law in:

- Navajo Nation
- State of Arizona
- Federal District Court – District of Arizona

August 10, 2015

Yá'át'eeh,

Shi ei Rodgerick Begay yinishyé. T'ó dikózhi nishlį́, dóó Bį́į́h bitoodnii bą́shishchiín. Kinyaa'áanii ei dashichei dóó Tsi'naajinii ei dashináli. Tselani déé nashá. I am a former sheepherder who became a Chinle Wildcat, ASU Sundevil, and Tulsa Hurricane alumni.

After being away from the Reservation for fourteen (14) years, I was fortunate enough to return home taking the position as staff attorney in the Economic/Community Development Unit of the Navajo Department of Justice (ECDU-DOJ). In between my first supervisor's retirement and his replacement, I filled in as the leader of the Unit for approximately six (6) months. It gave me the opportunity to give the litigation report, attend and present before the various Council committees on behalf of ECDU-DOJ. One of my biggest accomplishments during my tenure was drafting the 2007 amendments to the Navajo Sovereign Immunity Act and the Navajo Nation Arbitration Act.

I left DOJ in September 2007 to become the staff attorney for the Chinle District Court. In 2012, I became the staff attorney for the Window Rock District Court. Altogether, I dedicated 5 years and 9 months to the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. In that period, I performed many assignments and duties and it would be difficult to list all that I have accomplished. However, to name a few: I sat through and/or listened to all type of hearings (criminal, divorce, child custody, Children's Code, probate, repossessions, complex civil litigation, etc.). I helped both Judges with decisions and the drafting of court orders. In most instances, the Judges would sign the first draft. When the Judges were appointed to the Supreme Court, I would assist the Judges with their Navajo Supreme Court case. Additionally, when a writ was filed against the District, I would defend the Court at the Supreme Court hearing. I was the primary drafter of section 25 of the 2010 amendments to the Judicial Branch Personnel Policies. Section 25 talks about alternative methods to dispute resolution between employees and these alternative methods could also be used initially when an employee filed a grievance. Essentially, section 25 describes three (3) processes: *baayat'i*; mediation; and peacemaking. I conducted at least 2 *baayat'i* sessions and both had positive outcomes.

I returned to DOJ in July 2013 to become the Assistant Attorney General of ECDU-DOJ and I have held this position for the past 2 years. I have continued to provide the best legal service I can to OPVP, the Council, Committees, Divisions, and Programs. To date, I have over ten (10) years of legal experience working with our Navajo Government. I have been serving in the capacity of acting Deputy Attorney General since May 20, 2015 while still serving as AAG for ECDU-DOJ. In this short time span, one of my accomplishments was drafting the third quarterly report for DOJ, which was the first written quarterly report submitted by DOJ since 2011.

My knowledge and familiarity with our laws has given me a unique insight and perspective that I believe will benefit my ultimate client, the Navajo People and this Great Navajo Nation. With this letter, I am requesting to serve as the next Deputy Attorney General.

Ahe'hee



Rodgerick T. Begay

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23rd Navajo Nation Council

Winter Session

DATE: January 26, 2017

Legislation 0408-16 (Main Motion)

Motion: Witherspoon

Second: Brown

ALL DELEGATES:

	Yea	Nay
BATES, LoRenzo		
BEGAY, Kee Allen Jr.	✓	
BEGAY, Norman M.	✓	
BEGAYE, Nelson	✓	
BENNETT, Benjamin L.	✓	
BROWN, Nathaniel	✓	
CHEE, Tom T.	✓	
CROTTY, Amber K.	✓	
DAMON, Seth		
DANIELS, Herman	✓	
FILFRED, Davis	✓	
HALE, Jonathan L.	✓	
JACK, Lee Sr.		
PERRY, Jonathan		
PETE, Leonard H.		
PHELPS, Walter	✓	
SHEPHERD, Alton Joe	✓	
SLIM, Tuchoney Jr.	✓	
SMITH, Raymond Jr.		
TSO, Otto	✓	
TSOSIE, Leonard		
WITHERSPOON, Dwight	✓	
YAZZIE, Edmund	✓	
YAZZIE, Peterson	✓	

GRAND TOTAL

17 0

CERTIFICATION:



Honorable LoRenzo Bates
Speaker