

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FIRST YEAR, 2023

AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF HEATHER CLAH AS THE NAVAJO NATION DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Law and Order Committee has oversight over the administration of justice on the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 600(C)(1)
- C. A proposed resolution requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'íyátí Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation President recommends a person as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General. 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).
- B. The Navajo Nation President recommends Heather Clah as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General. Heather Clah's appointment letter and résumé are attached as Exhibit A.
- 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).
- D. The recommended Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General serves at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).

SECTION THREE. APPOINTMENT OF THE NAVAJO NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL

- A. The Navajo Nation Council appoints Heather Clah as the Navajo Nation Deputy Attorney General.
- B. Heather Clah's appointment shall be effective upon the Navajo Nation Council's approval. 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).

C. Heather Clah's term shall be concurrent with the Navajo Nation President's term. 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25<sup>th</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 18 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.



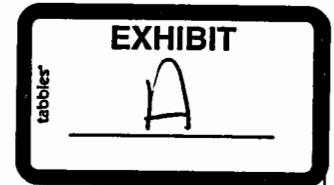
Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

4/27/23

DATE

Motion: Honorable Nathan Notah  
Second: Honorable Andy Nez

Speaker Crystalyne Curley not voting



**DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*  
**RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

**The Navajo Nation | Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees**

January 16, 2023

Heather Clah

Gallup, NM 87301

**RE: Appointment as Deputy Attorney General**

Dear Ms. Clah,

We are pleased to offer you an appointment to serve as the Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice for the Navajo Nation. This appointment takes affect at 8:00 a.m. on January 16, 2023. We are so pleased you verbally accepted this position and have started your new role.

Thank you for agreeing to serve the Nygren-Montoya Administration, the youngest Navajo Nation President elected, and the first woman to be Vice President. Together we will work hard for the Navajo people at the hogan level.

Ahéhee'

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

Richelle Montoya, *Vice President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

## HEATHER L. Clah, ESQ.

hlanderson2000@hotmail.com

### BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

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Navajo Nation Bar Association  
New Mexico Bar Association

November 2005  
April 2007

### EDUCATION

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Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Tempe, AZ  
Juris Doctorate (J.D.) with Certificate in Indian Law, May 2005

Pre-Law Summer Institute (PLSI), Albuquerque, NM  
Certificate of Completion, Summer 2002

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Justice Studies; Minor in Psychology, June 2002

### PROFILE OF SKILLS

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**Legal Research and Writing** - Ability to research and write clear persuasive legal documents

**Communication** - Communicates clearly and respectfully, verbally and written. Experienced in facilitating and participating in various communication settings such as individual private counseling, group discussions, speaking at public forums

**Leadership & Supervision** - Held leadership and Supervision positions in which demonstrated excellent supervision and mentorship over assignments and projects, successfully maintains professional and respectful environment

**Negotiating Settlements** - Extensive experience with Federal, State, and internal Tribal department, and private clients to reach settlement in both legal and non-legal matters

### PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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#### **Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Corporate Attorney**

Legal management, consultation, provides support for management  
Legal representation for utility projects, negotiation, acquisition, construction  
Project Manager of the new NTUA Headquarter Administration building, district offices  
Interact with Navajo Nation DOJ, Departments, and NN Council and committees

Fort Defiance, AZ  
11/2014 - Present

#### **Navajo Nation Office of the President and VP, Senior Attorney**

Represented the Office of the President on legal, project, committee matters,  
Such as renewing Navajo Gaming compact for NM, Investment Committee  
Provided legal and policy advice to the OPVP,  
Followed high profile legislations, provide input to Council, reviewed legislation  
Interacted with all Navajo Nation Divisions, NN Council, and NNDOJ

Window Rock, AZ  
1/2011 - 5/2015

Navajo Judicial Branch, Shiprock District, <i>Court Staff Attorney</i> Legal Research, writing, and advise court on matters of administration, Civil, Criminal, and family matters Spearheaded and participated in community building projects Draft tribal intergovernmental agreements, resolutions, policies, laws and ordinances Review contracts, gaming appendices, and memorandums of agreements and understandings	Shiprock, NM 4/2008 - 7/2010
Navajo Nation Department of Justice-Human Services & Government Unit, <i>Attorney</i> Attorney for Social Service, P.L. 93-638 Programs, and Health Litigated employee grievances Reviewed and negotiated joint power agreements between Navajo Nation and New Mexico Reviewed and negotiated all of the Navajo Nation's P.L. 638 contracts with Federal Government Reviewed professional service contracts and agreements between Navajo Nation and private contractors Drafted intergovernmental agreements, policies, laws, and resolutions	Window Rock, AZ 5/2005 - 4/2008
Arizona State University College of Law Indian Legal Clinic, <i>Student Attorney</i> Interviewed prospective clients for intake Researched tribal codes and statutes on child support, garnishment, and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases	Tempe, AZ 1/2005 - 5/2005
Farmington DNA Legal Services Inc., <i>Law Clerk</i> Drafted legal memoranda, summonses, and other legal documents Researched Navajo Common Law cases related to Family Law	Farmington, NM Winter break 2002 Winter break 2003

#### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Vice-President, Navajo Bar Association Chair of Admission Committee Assist President with administration objectives Participate in Quarterly Bar Association meetings Assist in drafting resolutions, policies, establishing budget, any other task that maybe required for the Bar Association's success	Navajo Nation October 2010- present
Project Manager, Shiprock Judicial Parking Lot Negotiated and successfully recovered funds from the State of New Mexico Facilitated, Organized, and Managed communication and project deadlines between pertinent Navajo Nation and State of New Mexico departments and offices, as well as private entities Successfully completed project under unusually ridged State requirements	Shiprock, NM Completed October 2010
Chapter President, Upper Fruitland Chapter Resided over Community Meetings Negotiated Chapter contracts between internal government agencies and private contractors Helped facilitate the completion of new Chapter House Building Drafted Chapter resolutions, policies, and other documents Budget Planning, communicating with community members and addressing their concerns	Upper Fruitland, NM February-December 2004
Pre-Law Summer Program, <i>Student Teacher</i> Tutored Criminal Procedure and Legal Writing Mentor Pre-Law Students	Albuquerque, NM Summer 2003

# NAVAJO NATION

90

4/19/2023

Navajo Nation Council Spring Session

11:26:42 AM

Amd# to Amd#      Legislation 0032-23: Confirming  
MOT Notah, N      the Appointment of Heather Clah  
SEC Nez, A      as the Navajo Nation Deputy  
                         Attorney General

PASSED

**Yeas : 18**

**Nays : 0**

**Excused : 3**

**Not Voting : 2**

## **Yea : 18**

Arviso, S	James, V	Notah, N	Slater, C
Aseret, L	Jesus, B	Parrish, S	Tso, O
Begay, H	Johnson, C	Simonson, G	Yanito, C
Charles-Newton, E	Nez, A	Simpson, D	Yazzie, C
Claw, S	Nez, R		

## **Nay : 0**

## **Excused : 3**

Crotty, A	Damon, S	Daniels, H
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## **Not Voting : 2**

Tolth, G	Begay, N
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**Presiding Speaker: Curley, C**