LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0243-19

DATE: August 2, 2019

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF CASEY WATCHMAN TO THE NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION

PURPOSE: This resolution will confirm the appointment of Casey Watchman to the Navajo Nation Labor Commission.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 2885
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: 8/11/19
Eligible for Action: 8/12/19

Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naa'bik'íyáti' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

OTTO TSO
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 024319

AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF CASEY WATCHMAN TO THE NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION

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. 15 N.N.C. § 303(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).

19-430-1

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). Of the five, two members must be state licensed attorneys, in Arizona, New Mexico or Utah. 15 N.N.C. § 303(B)(3).

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 members 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 Jonathan Nez has appointed Mr. Casey Watchman. Mr. Watchman is a licensed member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association, and pursuant to 15 N.N.C. § 303(B), is familiar with Navajo Nation labor practices, human resources and employment. See Exhibit "A," appointment letter and application.

SECTION THREE. APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION

The Naabik'íyáti Committee hereby confirms the appointment of Mr. Casey Watchman to the Navajo Nation Labor Commission. Mr. Watchman, pursuant to 15 N.N.C. § 303(D), shall serve a 4-year term.

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

July 24, 2019



Casey Watchman
PO Box
Crownpoint, NM 87313

RE: Appointment to the Navajo Nation Labor Commission

Dear Mr. Watchman,

Thank you for your letter of interest in being appointed to the Navajo Nation Labor Commission. It is my pleasure to appoint you to the Commission and to forward your name to the Navajo Nation Council's standing committees for confirmation.

In accordance with the applicable portions of 15 N.N.C. § 303(B), commissioners must be familiar with the Nation's labor practices, human resources and employment, and be a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association in good standing. Your prior experience shows your familiarity with the applicable Navajo laws which will benefit the Commission's work and you are a member in good standing with the Navajo Nation Bar Association. You meet the qualifications.

Your service with the Navajo Nation Labor Commission will begin on the Naabik'íyáti' Committee's concurrence with this appointment.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

Desk of:

Casey W[illegible]man
P.O. Box
Crownpoint, New Mexico 87313

Ph: (505) [illegible] or (505) [illegible] email: c [illegible] @yahoo.com

June 13, 2019

Honorable President Jonathan Nez
Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Re: The Navajo Nation Labor Commission
Presidential Appointee

Ya' a t'e Honorable President Jonathan Nez:

I am seeking to be re-appointed to the renovated Navajo Nation Labor Commission, a body on which I sat on since I was first appointed in October, 1997. I was first appointed by President Albert Hale, and have been reappointed by all successor Navajo Nation presidents, with the exception of President Russell Begaye. My appointment officially expired this past September 31, 2018 after the Navajo Nation Council amended the plan of operation of the Commission, by requiring that all members be members in good standing with the Navajo Nation Bar Association. I am attaching my most current resume.

I have been in the legal field that spans some 38 years, first taking and passing the NNBA bar in November, 1980, and remain a member in good standing to date. Much of my career has been in engagement of a private law practice. Over these ensuing decades of practice, I have represented literally hundreds of Navajo citizens in all fields of practice: Civil, Criminal, Administrative, and a few personal injury cases.

I am very much interested in continuing my service with the Navajo Nation Labor Commission. In that regard, I respectfully seek your blessing, and ask that my letter of interest to return to the Navajo Nation Labor Commission be accepted.

My service to the Commission has been eventful to say the least. We have seen Navajo law on employment evolve like never before, and it faces great challenges on jurisdiction from internal entities. The Navajo Nation preference law is what it is, because it was passed by the Navajo Nation Council during a time of immense employment strife back in the early 1980's. I

am very much aware that the Navajo Preference Act is being revised and amended piece by piece by the Navajo Council.

Thank you now for your careful consideration on your appointments to the Navajo Nation Labor Commission. I look forward to continuing on in this endeavor.

I am available at (or (505) , or through email at ahoo.com.

Ahe' he.

Casey Watchman

cc: Chrono/file

Casey Watchman
P.O. Box
Crownpoint. New Mexico 87313

OBJECTIVE:

Seeking positions and projects wherein I can use a collection of skills acquired through my years of legal service and Navajo interpreting skills.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation Bar Association; President from Oct, 2017 to September, 2018, Vice-President from October 2016 to October, 2017

Chairman, Navajo Labor Commission. Member since October, 1997.

Member, Board of Directors of the Navajo Nation Shopping Center, Inc.

Member, Navajo Nation Bar Association. November, 1980 to present

Federally Certified Navajo Court Interpreter, certified November 26, 1990

WORK HISTORY:

Federally Certified Navajo Court Interpreter
November 26, 1990 to present

Free lance and contract Navajo Court interpreter going on 28 years. Specialty areas of interpreting include criminal simultaneous and consecutive interpreting; Court and administrative depositions; legal document translation; contract document translation; Can read Navajo script;

Labor Commissioner/ Chairman.
October 1997 to September 30, 2018

Member of the 5 member Navajo Nation Labor Commission (NNLC). This body presides as the Nation's arbiters on labor/employment cases in a quasi-judicial capacity. Elected Chairman of the Commission on December 8, 2000.

Casey Watchman, Advocate.
9/89 to present

Maintained a private and general law practice in all phases of law: civil, domestic, criminal, administrative.

Court Advocate for Navajo Housing Authority.
2/88- 9/89

Worked as a Court Advocate for NHA, beginning first as a housing counselor, and ending career as an administrative assistant to the Executive Director.

Casey Watchman, Advocate.
9/89 to present

Maintained a general law practice in all phases of law: civil, domestic, criminal, administrative.

Navajo Tribal Court Advocate, Navajo Legal Aide and Defender Service, Window Rock, Arizona.
9/82 - 4/85

Represented Navajo individuals in a broad range of law: divorces, adoptions, guardianships, probates, child support actions, criminal actions. Researched specific areas of Navajo, State, and US Federal law, drafted legal memoranda. Represented clients in all phases of civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings.

Community Education Intern, Window Rock Unified School District, Ft. Defiance, Arizona.
12/81 - 9/82

Coordinated a US Federally funded program aimed at studying the effects of encouraged involvement by parents in their children's education. A core group of parents was identified, the program taking root when the program's funding expired.

Newswriter/ Court Advocate, DNA People's Legal Services, Window Rock, Arizona and Crownpoint, New Mexico.
2/80 - 12/81

Coordinator of DNA Newsletter, wrote articles on legal and personnel issues. Later sought and attained a position as a Tribal Court Advocate with the Crownpoint office. Practiced general Navajo law in all areas of civil, administrative and criminal disciplines. Advocated for the rights of the financially disadvantaged.

News Reporter, KIVA Television Station, Farmington, New Mexico, and the Navajo Times weekly newspaper, Window Rock, Arizona
4/78 - 2/80

Gathered and wrote news articles for both print and broadcast media.

EDUCATION:

No degree attained, earned 21 college hours
Studied psychology, communications and Navajo history at the Navajo Community College, Ft. Defiance Branch, Ft. Defiance, Arizona.

Crownpoint High School, Crownpoint, New Mexico
Graduated from high School, May, 1972

Court of Appeals of the Navajo Nation

Casey Watchman

having exhibited to the Court of Appeals of the Navajo Nation satisfactory evidence of good moral character and the qualifications to practice law, is therefore hereby authorized to practice as a Counselor in the Court of Appeals and all other Courts of the Navajo Nation for and during good behavior in said practice.

In Testimony Whereof,

I have hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the Court of Appeals at Window Rock, the Navajo Nation, this 24th day of November 19 80.

Attest:

CLERK

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER

As Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts,

I attest that CASEY WATCHMAN

has qualified for interpreting proceedings in NAVAJO/ENGLISH.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on the 26TH *day of* NOVEMBER, *A. D. 19*90.

L. Ralph Mecham

TROY EID
PRESIDENT

LAVERNE GARNENEZ
VICE-PRESIDENT

Julia Garnenez
Secretary

Neomi Gilmore
TREASURER

NAVAJO NATION BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 690
WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515
(928) 871-2211; FAX: (928) 871-2229
E-MAIL: YOLANDA@NAVAJOLAW.INFO
Email: rmorris@navajolaw.info

WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.NAVAJOLAW.INFO

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Casey Watchman

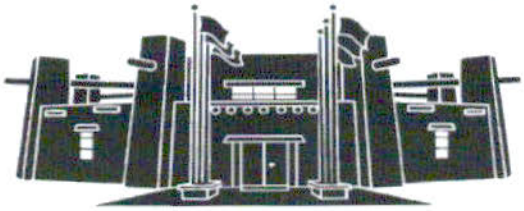
I, Raymond C. Etcitty, Chairman of the Navajo Nation Bar Association, Inc. Admission Committee do hereby certify that the above-named person was admitted to practice before the Navajo Nation Courts. The above-named person is an active member in good standing with the Navajo Nation Bar Association.

Dated at this 30th day of July 2019.

Raymond C. Etcitty
Chairperson of the Navajo Nation Bar Association. Inc.
Admission Committee

(Seal)

Office of Legislative Counsel
Telephone: (928) 871-7166
Fax # (928) 871-7576



Honorable Seth Damon
Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

MEMORANDUM

To : Hon. Otto Tso, Council Delegate
Navajo Nation Council

From : Ron Haven, Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date : August 2, 2019

Re : AN ACTION RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF CASEY WATCHMAN TO THE NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. The resolution drafted is legally sufficient, although, as with all legislation, challenges are possible in the courts. You are advised and encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction. If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. As you may be aware, the Speaker is authorized to refer this proposed resolution to other committees than those stated in the title.

If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahéhee'.

19-430-1