



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

joshualavarbutler@navajo.org

joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan thanks Katosha Nakai for services to the Navajo Nation

Nakai becomes policy advisor to Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer

PHOENIX — The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan thanked Katosha Nakai, lobbyist for the Navajo Nation, during a special recognition gathering held in her honor at the Lewis & Roca LLC law firm on March 4.

Nakai, an attorney, was recently selected by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer as her policy advisor for tribal affairs — a position previously held by Marnie Hodahkwen under former Gov. Janet Napolitano's administration.

Nakai (NAAH—KYE), Choctaw from Oklahoma, has been working with the Navajo Nation since 2005 as the lobbyist and liaison between the Navajo Nation and the state of Arizona, including the governor's office. One hallmark project she was instrumental with was the \$2 million appropriation for Dilkon District Court. The \$2 million was split into two appropriations — \$1 million in 2006 and another in 2007.

It was nearly a year ago that the Judiciary Committee held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new multi-purpose building. The building was made possible through a collaborative effort between the state of Arizona, the Judiciary Committee, the legislative, judicial and executive branches of the Navajo Nation — a project that received matching funding from the tribe. Construction is currently in progress for the facility and will be ready by this summer.

The 14,000 square-foot facility, designed to reflect Navajo customs, is being constructed on 2.3 acres on the corner of milepost 55 on Navajo Route 15 in Dilkon, Ariz.

Nakai was very influential in securing funds for the facility with Arizona Sen. Albert Hale (D-Window Rock) and former State Rep. Albert Tom (D-Chambers) spearheading the funding request from the state of Arizona.

Speaker Morgan said, "Mrs. Nakai has been extremely influential in securing vitally needed funding for the Navajo Nation — we are thankful for her services. The Navajo Nation will look forward to continuing its working relationship with Nakai and Governor Brewer's administration."



Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan thanks lobbyist Katosha Nakai for her services to the Navajo Nation on March 4, 2009, in Phoenix, Ariz. (Photo by Joshua Lavar Butler)

Kee Allen Begay Jr. (Many Farms/Round Rock), appointed by Speaker Morgan to serve on the Intergovernmental Relations Committee task force on state affairs, worked with Nakai on various issues affecting the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation.

"I express my sincere appreciation for Mrs. Nakai's tireless work on behalf of the Navajo Nation, especially our Legislative Branch," Begay said. "Nakai advocated for the Nation on all issues with the Arizona State Legislature and with the governor's office. She served Navajo unquestionably above what was requested of her – she helped to make our Dilkon District Court a reality."

Nakai is a graduate of Arizona State University College of Law and currently resides in Phoenix with her husband Errol Nakai (*Navajo*) and their two daughters.



Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, Katosha Nakai and Eric Descheenie, legislative staff assistant, pose for a picture during a recognition gathering March 4, 2009, in Phoenix, Ariz. (Photo by Joshua Lavar Butler)

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