



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 24, 2015

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253

Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

### **Navajo Nation Council confirms appointments for key positions**



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety executive director Jesse Delmar (left), Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch (middle), and Navajo Nation Washington Office executive director Jackson Brossy (right) following their confirmations at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber on July 23, 2015.

**WINDOW ROCK**— On Thursday, the Navajo Nation Council approved three separate legislations confirming the appointments of Ethel Branch as the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation and Jackson Brossy as the executive director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, and consenting to the appointment of Jesse Delmar as the executive director of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety.

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) sponsored legislation to confirm Brossy, following the appointment issued by President Russell Begaye in May. The appointment of Brossy to serve in the NNWO was supported unanimously with a vote of 20-0.

Brossy earned his Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy from Stanford University and his Master's Degree in Public Policy at Harvard University.

His professional experience includes serving as a Senior Associate for Upper Mohawk, Inc., board member for Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Senior Strategist for Blue Stone Strategy Group, and as a Legislative Fellow and Legislative Associate for the National Congress of American Indians.

Council members emphasized the need for increased communication and coordination, particularly in formulating position statements and strategies prior to meeting with Congressional members and other groups in Washington D.C. Additionally, Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) said one major challenge the new administration must resolve is retaining staff at the NNWO.

“High turnover is a problem and we often lose that institutional knowledge when staff leaves,” said Delegate Phelps.

Council members voted 19-0 in support of legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill), confirming the appointment of Ethel Branch to serve as the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation.

Branch is originally from Tuba City and a graduate of Harvard Law School. She also earned her Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In addition to earning a Juris Doctorate, Branch is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association as well as a member of the bar association in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Arizona.

Prior to her appointment on May 12, she served as an Associate for Kanji & Katzen, PLLC in Seattle Washington since 2012. Her previous experience also includes serving as the co-chair of the Seattle Human Rights Commission and an attorney for the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington D.C. In accordance with Navajo Nation law, the newly confirmed Attorney General will serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council.

Through legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi), the Council consented to the appointment of Jesse Delmar as the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety with a vote of 16-0.

Delmar graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and of the Federal Law Enforcement Training.

Prior to his appointment, Delmar was the Chief of Police for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Police Department and previously served in several positions with the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety.

The Navajo Nation Council completed its agenda for the Summer Session and adjourned after midnight on Friday.

# # #

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter, search for keywords: Navajo Nation Council