



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2025

Special prosecutor appointed to investigate alleged misuse of housing project and housing assistance funds related to ZenniHome

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Special Division of the Window Rock District Court has appointed Kyle Nayback, Esq., as special prosecutor to investigate possible unethical and illegal conduct tied to the Executive Branch's contracts with Indigenous Design Studio + Architects (IDSA), the reported subcontract with ZenniHome and Native Community Capital.

"Mr. Nayback brings more than two decades of federal and tribal law experience to this role, including complex trial work and appellate advocacy in white collar crime, fraud and public corruption cases," said G. Michelle Espino, Chief Legislative Counsel. "His background in Indian law and federal prosecution makes him uniquely qualified to handle an investigation of this magnitude."

The appointment of the Special Prosecutor follows an application filed on August 1, 2025, by Chief Legislative Counsel Espino with the Special Division as authorized by 2 N.N.C. § 2021(E). Through a preliminary investigation, Chief Legislative Counsel Espino determined there are reasonable grounds to pursue further investigation and possible prosecution regarding the Executive Branch's contracting activities related to housing projects and a housing assistance program funded through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Special Prosecutor Nayback served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Tribal Liaison, and Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico from 2003 to 2023. Nayback represented the United States in 34 federal trials and 11 Tenth Circuit appeals. He previously worked as deputy director of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Tribal Justice, contributing to federal Indian law cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I commend Chief Legislative Counsel Espino for acting swiftly and decisively on behalf of the Navajo people," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "It is vital that we protect the integrity of our government and ensure accountability in the use of public funds."

Nayback is the owner of a 100% Native-owned firm in New Mexico, Nayback Law, LLC, focused on serving Native American interests.

In addition, on July 12, 2025, Budget and Finance Committee Chair Shaandiin Parrish introduced Legislation No. 0174-25 calling for hearings to determine compliance with Navajo Nation laws, regulations, rules, and policies concerning the Nation's contracts for housing and related matters funded by ARPA.

###