



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Speaker Crystalyne Curley

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ. - Thursday's court ruling makes clear that the dismissal of the Special Prosecutor's ethics case was based on jurisdictional procedure, not on the merits of the allegations themselves.

According to statements made by the Special Prosecutor during the public court hearing this past Monday, the Office of Hearings and Appeals did not have any hearing officers at the time the ethics complaints were originally filed.

We understand that hearing officers are now in place, and we anticipate that the ethics complaints will be filed through the Office of Hearings and Appeals consistent with the Court's order.

The Court also dismissed the President's attorney's claims challenging the authority of the Legislative Branch and the law that authorizes the appointment of a Special Prosecutor. The President's attorneys argued that the law was invalid and that the Legislative Branch did not have oversight or investigatory authority involving the Executive Branch. The Court determined those claims were not properly before the Court and dismissed them for lack of jurisdiction.

The Navajo people deserve answers and we have to remember that no one is above the law. During the public court hearing, the Special Prosecutor also stated that criminal complaints may be pursued in district court. The Court's order itself acknowledges that non-ethics complaints, including potential criminal matters, may be filed in the appropriate court.

Please remember that Special Prosecutor is independent from any of the branches and was appointed by the special division of the Judicial Branch. On August 8, 2025, through court order, a Special Prosecutor was appointed by the Special Division under the Judicial Branch. On Sept. 3, the Navajo Nation Council unanimously passed legislation to reallocate funds to support the Special Prosecutor.

The Navajo Nation Council remains committed to ensuring that all concerns involving the misuse of public funds and alleged misconduct are addressed through the proper legal process. Our responsibility is to uphold the laws of the Navajo Nation and protect the trust placed in us by the Navajo people.

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