



NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Fiscal Year 2026, Third Quarter

Report of the Attorney General

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is led by Kris O. Beecher, the Acting Attorney General, and JoAnn B. Jayne, the Acting Deputy Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General oversees and works in collaboration with the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) and the 7 Units of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 1961-1965, the Navajo Nation Department of Justice provides legal services to the three governmental branches of the Navajo Nation Government, including its chapters and entities, in matters in which the Navajo Nation government has an interest. The Attorney General also initiates and defends all litigation against the Navajo Nation and supervises all outside attorney contractors who assist the Nation with various cases. The Third Quarter of FY2026 was very productive for OAG, OTP, and the Units within DOJ. DOJ's key accomplishments included the following:

Office of the Prosecutor (OTP)

During this period the Office of the Prosecutor carried a full docket across all judicial districts while advancing several matters of significant consequence to the Navajo Nation, including its work on Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives, a Nation-wide candidate eligibility review directed by the Law and Order Committee, the resolution of a longstanding dispute over access to investigative materials, and the establishment of a foundation for a White Collar Crime Unit funded by the Navajo Nation Council. The paragraphs that follow summarize the most important reporting matters of the quarter.

I. Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives: The Ella Mae Begay Matter

The Office devoted substantial attention this quarter to the federal case arising from the June 2021 disappearance of Ella Mae Begay, a Navajo elder from the Sweetwater area who has never been found. On April 13, 2026, the Chief Prosecutor, accompanied by the Office's major crimes attorney and senior investigator, appeared before the Law and Order Committee in executive session to deliver a comprehensive briefing on the status of the federal investigation and the prosecution of the primary suspect, including the suppression of key evidence after the federal courts found that the suspect's right to remain silent had been violated. At the direction of the Committee Chair, the Office prepared a formal letter to the United States Department of Justice requesting disclosure of all investigative materials related to the case.

Office personnel traveled to Shiprock on April 16, 2026 to participate in a multi-agency case review with Navajo Criminal Investigations, the Navajo Police Department, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Later in April the United States entered a second plea agreement under which the defendant pled guilty to robbery based on sworn admissions that he took the victim's truck by force and violence within the Navajo

Nation. The Office prepared an accurate public explanation of the agreement, including the limited district specific nature of its non-prosecution clause, so that Navajo leadership and families would understand precisely what the agreement does and does not do. The Office also evaluated the availability of charges under Navajo Nation law in advance of the applicable federal limitations period and continued coordinating with investigators and the United States Attorney's Office through the end of the quarter, including after the Bureau of Prisons calculated the defendant's sentence as time served and designated him for release to a halfway house. This matter reflects the Office's determination that the Navajo Nation stand as a primary enforcer in cases involving Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives rather than a bystander to federal decision making.

II. Candidate Eligibility Review Under 17 N.N.C. § 365

Pursuant to a directive of the Law and Order Committee, the Office undertook the first formal effort to enforce the permanent disqualification provisions of 17 N.N.C. § 365 in the candidate vetting process for the 2026 elections. Following a meeting with Election Administration officials on April 28, 2026, the Office obtained the sworn filing forms of 123 individuals seeking public office across eight electoral sectors. The Office organized a coordinated review through its Investigations Branch, preserved the original records, applied document control numbering to all working copies, and completed criminal history checks across Navajo Nation, state, and national repositories under an extremely compressed deadline. A clearance report was delivered to the Election Administration and the Law and Order Committee on May 1, 2026.

The review surfaced a structural deficiency of importance to the Nation. Since the 2017 amendment to Section 365, candidate vetting has relied largely on self-reporting and civil ethics screening, neither of which involves competent examination of actual criminal history records. Because the Office of the Prosecutor is the program charged with criminal matters, it is uniquely positioned to perform this screening function, and the Office recommends that criminal history verification become a permanent, properly resourced element of candidate certification. Throughout the review the Office confined itself strictly to the collection and legal evaluation of verifiable records, made no political determinations, and acted only under lawful direction and established process.

III. Access to Investigative Materials and Evidence Integrity

A central operational challenge this quarter was securing Navajo Nation investigative materials needed to evaluate cases for prosecution. While federal partners, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office, responded to the Office's formal requests, the Navajo Division of Public Safety initially declined to produce Navajo Nation investigative material. The Office prepared a petition for an order to show cause, and in May the Office served subpoenas on responsible officials in furtherance of its statutory duties. The dispute was resolved in mid-May when the newly appointed Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Public Safety, Dr. Delores Greyeyes, provided written assurance of cooperation, and materials were delivered to the Office before the end of May. The Office acknowledges Dr. Greyeyes' decisive intervention and views her appointment as a significant strengthening of the public safety partnership.

The underlying case reviews revealed serious deficiencies in evidence handling within a criminal investigation office, including evidence stored outside of any evidence system, a firearm connected to a death investigation that went unaccounted for, and the failure of a subpoenaed investigator and critical evidence to appear at trial in a serious domestic violence prosecution. These failures have real consequences for victims and for the administration of justice. The Office has opened

accountability reviews, is examining records reaching back to a 2017 burglary of an evidence facility, and in June initiated a renewed forensic examination in one death investigation. The Office will pursue these matters to their lawful conclusion and will continue to press for professional evidence management standards across all investigative programs.

IV. Public Integrity and White-Collar Crime

The Navajo Nation Council appropriated \$2,000,000 to the Office this quarter for the buildout of a White-Collar Crime Unit. The Office spent the balance of the quarter converting that appropriation into an operational plan, preparing a dedicated special project budget with supporting position descriptions, including an evidence technician and a senior public information officer, completing Motor Vehicle Review Board documentation for unit vehicles, and coordinating with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Justice on business unit and budget form requirements. The Office also presented its Navajo Nation Public Integrity Initiative, a written framework for addressing fraud and public corruption, supported by an audit of the Office's open case inventory and a comprehensive review of prosecution data covering more than 24,000 prosecutions. Because fraud involving federal recovery funds triggers concurrent federal jurisdiction, the initiative's staffing standards, case documentation protocols, and evidence handling procedures are being calibrated to support a future Special Assistant United States Attorney designation, which would allow the most serious financial crime cases to be pursued in both Navajo Nation and federal court.

Investigative activity in this area was active throughout the quarter. The Office worked with the Navajo Nation Resource Enforcement program on an investigation involving potentially falsified livestock inspection records, providing direction that focused the inquiry on specific inspectors and secured a substantial volume of seized records. The Office also advanced matters involving unbranded livestock, resale permits, and allegations against current and former public employees, and in April circulated a fraud awareness training announcement to all Navajo Nation employees. Consistent with the special prosecutor statute, the Office has taken no investigative role in matters assigned to a special prosecutor and has respected the independence of those proceedings.

V. Victim Services

Funding for the Office's victim services program lapsed on March 31, 2026, placing direct services to crime victims at risk. On April 3, 2026, the Office was notified that the Budget and Finance Committee, through Delegate Crotty, was proposing an amendment to Legislation 0032-26 to allow personnel lapse funds to sustain the program, and the Office immediately prepared a funding proposal of \$194,884 covering personnel, travel, supplies, and communication expenses for the period of April 1 through October 31, 2026, together with a briefing for the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General and the budget documents needed to move the request without delay. In May the Navajo Nation Council separately provided \$300,000 for the victim witness advocate program. The Office regards victim services as central to its mission. Victims and their families should never wonder where their case stands or whether anyone in the system still knows their name, and the Office will continue to fight for stable, recurring funding for this program.

VI. Prosecutions and Court Operations

District prosecution operations continued at full tempo. Prosecutors handled arraignments, bail matters, bench trials, plea negotiations, and expedited proceedings for individuals held on 36 hour

holds across the districts, including completion of plea agreements and criminal complaints in coordination with defense counsel. The complex Fort Defiance dog mauling homicide prosecution continued. In June the Office initiated termination of a public official's employment and filed criminal charges arising from a domestic violence incident, treating the matter exactly as any other prosecution regardless of the individual's position.

The Office also confronted two systemic court issues. First, mental competency proceedings continue to be delayed by the absence of a funding mechanism for qualified examiners. The Chief Prosecutor personally appeared at a competency hearing in Tuba City on April 21, 2026, securing a 30-day extension to identify an examiner who can be compensated, and the Office is pursuing solutions including insurance coverage options and grant funding for competency examinations. Second, the Office has documented a practice in one judicial district of dismissing cases when service is not accomplished within 180 days, notwithstanding timely motions to reissue. The Office is responding through appropriate filings and raising the issue because arbitrary docket clearing works against victims and public safety.

VII. Intergovernmental Coordination and Oversight Relations

The Office maintained active engagement with federal partners throughout the quarter, including case coordination with two United States Attorney's Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, monitoring of federal charging decisions affecting Navajo victims, and formal correspondence on matters including a federal declination report and criminal trends on the Navajo Nation. The Office also responded to an inquiry regarding candidate screening by explaining, in writing, that it maintains no political lists, engages only in legally grounded screening when properly requested, and does not participate in political determinations of any kind.

In June a disagreement arose with the Law and Order Committee concerning meeting process and the characterization of the Office's work, and on June 8, 2026 the Office issued a written declaration to Navajo Nation leadership explaining its legal position and its non-attendance at a Committee's public meeting concerning amendments to Title 17. The Office wishes to be clear with the Council and the public: the Office does not dispute legislative oversight. It has continued to appear for budget proceedings, has submitted its Plan of Operation for review, and has answered every lawful request for information. Its position concerns only the requirement that oversight be exercised through lawful process, and the Office remains committed to a respectful and productive working relationship with all oversight committees.

Natural Resources Unit (NRU)

The Natural Resources Unit (NRU) handles in general all legal matters pertaining to the development and use of the Nation's land and natural resources and protection of the environment. NRU provides legal assistance to Division of Natural Resources, the Navajo Nation Environment Protection Agency and the Navajo Division of Transportation. This quarter work featured a significant amount of document reviews (rights-of-way, leases, contracts, memorandum of agreements, intergovernmental agreements, grant applications and agreements with various federal agencies), meetings, legal research, and addressing procurement issues.

Quarterly highlights include completing review and finalization of Tribal Ranch Leases for approval by the Resources and Development Committee, continued development on the Energy Office Plan of

Operation, negotiation of various leases, securing approval of several complex ROW requests, each requiring extensive negotiation and coordination to resolve outstanding issues.

NRU has attended Title 3 amendment meetings which included participation from RDC, NNDA, District Grazing Committees, District Land Boards, Farm Boards, DRE, BIA, and DWR. The group reviewed a wide range of subsections, including irrigation projects, agricultural leases, farm and grazing provisions, land assignments, range land leases, grazing regulations, grazing permits, and governance requirements for grazing and land boards. Additional sections covered duties and procedures for DGC and NPL Grazing Precincts, as well as livestock and equine round-up requirements and voluntary sales. The overall goal is to support a smoother transition of responsibilities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Navajo Nation, with the Council aiming to 638 the program to resolve long-standing Title 3 issues. The team is working to complete the amendments in time for the Fall legislative session.

Notable developments this quarter are that the BIA Navajo Regional Office is beginning forest management preparations for Indian allotments in the Oak Ridge Timber Sale area under the Navajo Nation Ten-Year Forest Management Plan. Because these allotments are individually owned, the BIA must obtain majority owner consent before starting work. Planned activities may include forest product harvest, thinning, reforestation, hazardous-fuel reduction, and prescribed burning. To proceed, the BIA is requesting a Navajo Nation Tribal Resolution authorizing the Regional Director to conduct forest product sales, ensuring stumpage rates meet appraised values, granting contractors reasonable rights-of-way with compensation for damages, approving necessary pre- and post-sale forest management activities, and allowing the sale of appraised forest products without advertisement under 25 CFR 163.16.

This quarter featured continued efforts toward the finalization of the Plan of Operation for the Energy Office. The work group refined the draft, completed internal reviews with DNR and DOJ, and transmitted it to OPVP, but DNR later asked for the Plan to be returned for further review. The work group met with DNR to address concerns and updated RDC on the Plan's status.

A key unresolved issue is how the Energy Office Director should be hired, with legislative and executive branches favoring different approaches. Although we have been meeting with the Department of Personnel Management (DPM) to obtain guidance and clarification on the process, the support provided so far has been limited. DPM has been cautious in moving forward. The work group includes representatives from DNR, the Minerals Department, DOJ, and the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Water Rights Unit (WRU)

The Water Rights Unit ("WRU") handles in general all legal matters pertaining to the Nation's water rights, primarily pursuing the Nation's water rights claims through settlement and enforcing the Nation's water rights in tribal, state, and federal tribunals. WRU has both legal and technical experts under contract to assist with litigation and non-litigation matters and the multi-jurisdictional nature of water rights. WRU also works closely with the Department of Water Resources and with the Natural Resources Unit on energy matters.

This quarter featured a continuance of efforts directed toward water rights settlements pending in the 119th Congress: the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (S.953 & H.R.2025); the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act (S.637 & H.R.1482) (including technical

corrections for the Trust Fund interest); and the Navajo Nation Rio San José Water Rights Settlement Act (S.565 & H.R.1324). Based on the March 11, 2026 Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Hearing where the administration testified that the cost of the settlement was a concern. Accomplishments for the quarter include work on cost efficiency reduction options considered by Navajo and Hopi as the administration indicated that the cost is a concern for the administration. The technical teams at Navajo, Hopi and with Brown & Caldwell have proposed options and reviewed the value planning studies to look for cost efficiency reduction options. The 3 Tribes have met with Sarah LaFlore and David Palumbo from the Interior several times on the cost issue after getting guidance from Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Negotiation Team and Hopi's leadership on proposed cost reductions. The cost reductions are identified to maintain the projects for water delivery for the regional projects but save costs through right sizing the projects, having the tribes construct the iiná bá paa tuwaqat'si pipeline instead of the Bureau of Reclamation. We have a 60-to-90-day window to work through issues for consideration for markup in August.

Litigation Unit (LU)

LU is currently fully staffed, with one new attorney joining the team this quarter. There has been a large influx of OHA cases this quarter due to OHA hiring back a hearing officer and attempting to catch up from a year of closure. There are approximately 50 new OHA cases pending. This has been a significant burden on LU due to the number of cases and hearings we will have to staff at once, instead of spread out over a year. LU has over 40 cases pending at the Supreme Court. There has been no movement on the NNPPM amendments. Drafted timekeeping guidelines for EMS. Drafted procedures for WIC Program in compliance with the Healthy Start Act.

Tax & Finance Unit

The Tax and Finance Unit is headed by Assistant Attorney General Mel M. Rodis. TFU has one (1) full-time Senior Legal Secretary and one full-time Principal Attorney. TFU is operating with a vacancy for one Attorney Candidate position. Historically, TFU has been assigned to advise the Fiscal Recovery Fund Office (FRFO); the Office of the Controller (OOC); the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC); the Investment Committee (IC); the Navajo Tax Commission (NTC); the Office of Navajo Tax Commission (ONTC); the Navajo Department of Retirement Services (NDRS); and the Administration Committees for the Retirement Plan (RPAC), the 401(k) Savings Plan (RSPAC), and the Deferred Compensation Plan (DCPAC). For the third quarter of FY2026, TFU was assigned to advise the FRFO, OMB, ONTC, NDRS, BFC, IC, and certain sections of OOC, and to work on specific matters including the annual budget, FRF matters, establishment of new trust funds, trusts and estates matters and donations to the Nation, external funding matters, audit matters, and other fiscal matters. Below are some of TFU's noted projects for the third quarter of FY2026:

I. Budget Matters:

In the third quarter of FY2026, TFU advised clients on the Comprehensive Budget process including requirements of the Appropriations Act, the Budget Instructions Manual (BIM), Title 2, and Diné Fundamental Law. TFU advised clients regarding implementation of the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget and planning for the FY2027 budget. TFU advised clients on interpretation and implementation of the FY2026 BIM. TFU proposed substantive

amendments to the FY2026 BIM related to the two personnel pools for position vacancies and personnel bonuses and step increases that were funded in the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget. TFU drafted language for the BFC's consideration in developing the FY2027 BIM. TFU participated in various BFC work sessions and meetings on the BIM and budget planning.

II. Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF):

In the third quarter of FY2026, TFU advised clients on FRF matters including transfer of funds from FRF accounts to the Revenue Replacement Reserve (RRR) in the General Fund, interpretation of CMY-28-24 and CD-54-24, modification of legislatively approved FRF expenditure plans, and movement or repurposing of FRF after the obligation deadline. TFU participated in various meetings regarding FRF matters. TFU continued to advise and assist other units of DOJ with FRF-related needs presented by their respective clients. TFU responded to clients' questions on Delegate Region Projects currently funded with FRF or previously funded with FRF and now funded by the UUFB as RRR projects. TFU advised the Broadband Office on limitations on use of FRF to fund new broadband contracts due to Treasury's guidance restricting new obligations after the December 31, 2024 obligation deadline. TFU edited the FRFO's proposed revisions to its plan of operation. TFU participated in the entrance conference for US Treasury's desk review on the Nation's use of FRF. TFU gathered necessary supporting documents and prepared a written response to the first two information and document requests in the Treasury's desk review of the Nation's use of FRF. The desk review is ongoing but Treasury plans to conclude the review prior to the December 31, 2026 deadline for expenditure of FRF. TFU participated in a meeting with US Treasury regarding its follow-up on the Nation's appeal of the Management Decision Letter on audit findings in the FY2020 and FY2022 Single Audit Report. TFU took the lead on responding to Treasury's inquiries and worked with outside counsel to prepare a written response. TFU worked with programs to gather supporting documents related to the programs' procurement and contracting using FRF, particularly to demonstrate that the programs completed a maximum feasible price analysis.

III. Office of the Controller (OOC):

TFU advised OOC with respect to issues involving FRF, the UUFB, the RRR, establishment of the Capital Development Financing Fund (521 Fund or CDFF) and financing options, OOC policies and procedures, and budget related matters. TFU met with OOC on investment and financing matters related to the CDFF. TFU advised the Investment Section of the OOC, as well as the Investment Committee, and responded to requests involving drafting IC resolutions. TFU worked with attorneys from ECDU to jointly advise OOC regarding banking contract issues pertaining to SSBCI funds. TFU drafted proposed OOC procedures regarding the fringe benefit true analysis, and regarding timely and accurate filing of financial reports to federal agencies on contracts and grants. TFU worked on an update to the FY2025 attorney audit response letter regarding contingent loss, and this is still in progress pending response letters from several outside counsel. TFU requested and reviewed outside counsel audit response letters in preparation for updating the Acting Attorney General's attorney audit response letter for FY2025. TFU communicated with OOC and independent auditors, KPMG, regarding the attorney audit letters. TFU met with and advised OOC and DGS with respect to OOC's preparation and submission of the report to Treasury on the Nation's use of Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds awarded to DGS. TFU collaborated with the

Investment Section of OOC on drafting amendments to the Veterans Trust Fund statute. TFU met with OOC, Delegate Dr. Nez, other Delegates, and stakeholders in the veterans' community regarding the proposed VTF amendments. TFU met and coordinated with OOC, OLC, and Delegate Slater regarding TFU's draft legislation to amend the Capital Development Financing Act.

IV. Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

TFU advised OMB regarding FRF matters, IDC matters, Single Audit matters, and issues pertaining to the FY2026 and FY2027 Comprehensive Budget. TFU responded to questions from OMB, FRFO, OOC, Delegates, and others regarding FRF, the RRR, and funds for Delegate Region Projects. TFU advised OMB regarding possible BIM amendments needed for OMB to take administrative actions to approve budget reallocations from DHR's business unit for personnel step increases to the business units of divisions and departments with personnel receiving step increases. TFU edited the Contract and Grant Section's draft memo to all Navajo Nation divisions and departments regarding the recently approved IDC rates. TFU reviewed the IDC Rate Proposal prior to submission to the U.S. Department of the Interior for approval of the FY2027 IDC rate. TFU advised OMB in response to questions on budget revision requests. TFU issued a memo to OMB advising on Council Resolution CO-55-25. TFU provided OMB and the BFC with substantive edits to the FY2026 BIM for development of the FY2027 BIM. TFU assisted OMB in drafting a letter to the BIA regarding the deadline to submit a response to the BIA on the BIA's Management Decision Letter for findings in the FY2024 Single Audit Report, and TFU organized and drafted the Nation's response to the BIA.

V. Office of the Navajo Tax Commission (ONTC):

TFU advised ONTC on the Navajo Nation Tax Code and corresponding regulations. TFU advised ONTC on Private Rulings from ONTC to taxpayers on the applicability of Navajo Nation taxes. TFU advised ONTC's Compliance Officers and Auditors regarding ongoing taxpayer issues. TFU researched tax jurisdiction and dual taxation issues. TFU had multiple meetings with ONTC, DWR, OOC, and NTUA regarding public water and wastewater Sales Tax revenue for the NTUA Replacement and Emergency Reserve Funds and drafted proposed amendments to the fund management plan. TFU advised ONTC on an appeal by taxpayer Elk Petroleum before the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

VI. Navajo Department of Retirement Services (NDRS):

TFU advised the NDRS on 401(k) Plan, Retirement Plan, and Deferred Compensation Plan matters. TFU advised the NDRS in response to several Requests for Service involving individual 401(k) Plan and Retirement Plan participants, identifying lawful beneficiaries when no beneficiaries were designated by deceased plan participants, and determining whether a divorce decree was a Qualified Domestic Relations Order triggering mandatory payments to ex-spouses of plan participants.

VII. 25th Navajo Nation Council and Committees and Legislative Offices:

TFU attended regular BFC meetings, as well as some special BFC meetings and work sessions, and attended Council and Naabik'íyáti' Committee meetings as needed. TFU responded to questions posed by Council Delegates and OLC regarding NNFRF and related resolutions. TFU collaborated with OLC on legislation and responded to questions on proposed legislative amendments. TFU provided a written update to the BFC regarding the Treasury desk review of the NN's use of FRF. TFU advised clients on Delegate Mitchell's legislation to extend deadlines for Síhasin Fund chapter projects, and TFU drafted a proposed amendment. TFU participated in BFC work sessions on the next Permanent Fund Income expenditure plan. TFU attended meetings with Delegates, OOC, and veterans' community stakeholders regarding the Veterans Trust Fund and drafted proposed amendments to the VTF statute. TFU completed a 164(A) review of the draft legislation. TFU attended meetings with Delegates, the Broadband Office, and OOC regarding CDFE funding for broadband projects, and TFU drafted legislation to amend the Capital Development Financing Act.

VIII. Miscellaneous Matters:

TFU assisted and advised the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) on matters relating to the annual audit, FRF, the annual Comprehensive Budget and other budgetary issues, legislation, and other miscellaneous matters. TFU advised and assisted other units of the DOJ with various requests for services for their respective clients, particularly with respect to questions on FRF, establishment of funds and fund management plans, taxation, the Single Audit and disallowed costs due to audit findings, matters involving the ONTC, OOC, and/or OMB, and the Comprehensive Budget. TFU responded to inquiries and requests involving OPVP, DHR, NNBO, DODE, NDOT, and other government entities. TFU advised on DOJ's fixed cost litigation account and other budget matters. TFU assisted OAG in preparing a grant application for a public safety and behavioral health grant from the U.S. DOJ to fund a proposed diversion program. TFU participated in meetings on the 164-review process and contract reviews. TFU assisted OAG to coordinate with OOC on payment on a settlement agreement. TFU assisted other units of DOJ with the drafting and editing of memos issued to their respective clients.

Economic & Community Development Unit

In this quarter, ECDU worked closely with DED on the Business Industrial Development Fund Corrective Action Plan (BIDF), as well as the Navajo Small Business Credit Initiative Program (NSBCI), and Antelope Point Mariana. ECDU worked closely with NNDCD on New Mexico Capital Outlay projects, including the remaining New Mexico Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) up to the close of New Mexico's fiscal year on June 30th. ECDU completed the draft of the Procurement Regulations for the Budget & Finance Committee. ECDU spent a considerable amount of work on Arizona related voting issues and coordinating efforts between the Nation and the Arizona counties to make sure the Navajo people's right and ability to vote in state and federal elections are protected.

I. Division of Community Development (DCD)

- a) *New Mexico IGA's*: Completed legal review of all pending New Mexico IGA's for this quarter. Drafted Fact Sheet on 2026 changes to New Mexico capital outlay procedures including enactments from NM HB 247. Met with Director of New Mexico DFA and IAD

representative on requested changes to standard IGA's for upcoming year. Completed related small project reviews that are being implemented under various IGAs.

- b) *Continental Divide Master Contract*. Completed proposed master contract for utility use to improve timeline of allocated New Mexico money and attempt to avoid unnecessary reversions due to processing times. Met with Continental Divide and conducted in person negotiations, but no final master contract terms were reached due to Continental Divide's decision to not pursue a master contract with the Nation.
- c) *NM Caucus*: Attended recurring caucus meetings, updated members and Council Delegates on latest New Mexico updates from Department of Finance Authority (DFA) and Indian Affairs Department (IAD) as relevant to the application, allocation, and spending on IGA's.
- d) *AIA Contracts*: Reviewed most recent AIA construction contracts, standard documents, and attachment revisions. Discussed areas of need with CPMD and began edits to create standard versions for use by DCD.
- e) *San Juan County Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)*: Negotiated provisions for updated JPA to continue waste services with the county. Completed draft contract which is now pending signature by New Mexico DFA.
- f) *Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF)*. ECDU continues to work with Tax and Finance Unit to advise DCD, the Fiscal Recovery Office, and Office on the Controller on the administration of various FRF projects and the expenditure of FRF funds.

II. Division of Economic Development (DED)

- a) *Navajo Small Business Credit Initiative Program (NNSBCI)*. NSBCI is designed to increase access to capital for small businesses and startups. Administered by the U.S. Treasury, it provides funding to support local lending, venture capital investments, and technical assistance. During this quarter ECDU continued to provide assistance and support to DED's NSBCI program. This includes drafting and finalizing operational documents and agreements with third party participants. ECDU assisted DED in implementing the NSBCI's Technical Assistance program by finalizing the draft of the agreement for Technical Assistance. ECDU hosts bi-weekly meetings with DED and OOC to ensure better coordination and discussion between the two Divisions and address any NSBCI implementation issues.
- b) *Business Industrial Development Fund (BIDF)*. ECDU continued to provided assistance to DED to respond to the Auditor General's audit findings for the BIDF. These findings have prevented DED from being able to access the BIDF for almost 10 years and has resulted in DED being in sanctions which have impacted their overall budget. ECDU met with DED several times this quarter. Based on these meetings ECDU was able to complete drafting and revising the Micro-Enterprise Loan Program guidelines, the Records Management policy, the Small Business Loan Program guidelines, and Large Commercial Business Loan Program guidelines. During the next quarter the various policies and guidelines will be submitted to the Resource Development Committee (RDC) for approval.

ECDU continues to work on revising the Investment guidelines and anticipates a presentation to the Investment Committee on these revised guidelines.

c) *Antelope Point Marina.* ECDU continues to work on matters related to transferring marina operations from a private company to the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise (NNHE). ECDU had three work sessions with DED to review the old lease. Based on these work sessions ECDU compared the old and new leases, and incorporate notes and changes. Afterwards, ECDU had another meeting with DED to discuss sections of the lease that needed review and to prepare them in meetings with NNHE. ECDU also attended meetings regarding the concession contract between NNHE, National Park Service, DOI Solicitors and DED. Last month DED kicked started the negotiations of the fair market value by sending an offer letter to Antelope Point Holding (APH) and requested that APH negotiate with NNHE on personal property.

d) *Administrative and Management Plan Amendments.* Coordinated and participated in meetings with DED and Risk Management Program to address questions relating to insurance and indemnification documents in the Business Site Leasing Plan Amendments. Continued comprehensive trainings to DED staff members to implement the new Business Site Leasing Plan Amendments. Began comprehensive trainings for Office of the Controller Accounts Receivable and DED Real Estate Department focused on management, collections, and enforcement of leases under the new Business Site Leasing Plan Amendments. Provided draft amendment to Intragovernmental Agreement for Security Deposits to OOC Accounts Receivable and Real Estate Department to initiate amendment process.

III. Gaming

ECDU continues to attend meetings with the Tribal Leaders as well as weekly meetings with the attorney working group and advise the Gaming Subcommittee on matters as needed.

a) *Prediction Markets.* Drafted and submitted Navajo Nation comment to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's ("CFTC") Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPRM") published on March 26, 2026 regarding the use of designated contract markets to facilitate gaming through trading on such markets. Monitored prediction market cases that are currently pending in various jurisdictions to determine effects of proposed litigation and court rulings on the Nation.

IV. Voting Rights

ECDU worked to resolve issues affecting voters in the state and federal elections. ECDU completed training and testing to obtain Arizona Election Officer Certification and the Arizona Election Security Tabletop Exercise. Coordinated with Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, Apache County, Navajo County, Coconino County, and the Arizona Secretary of State Office to address 2026 state and federal election concerns and support for Navajo voters. Continued advocacy for Apache County transition from precinct-based polling locations to vote centers. The Apache County Board of Supervisors approved the use of vote centers on April 7, 2026. Attended meetings with Native American Voting Rights Coalition (NAVRC) and InterTribal Council of Arizona Native Vote Strategy Sessions. Prepared and presented Arizona legal updates for NNHRC election symposium sponsored by Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at St. Michael's Chapter. Provided support to Office of Legislative Counsel for Resolution CMA-21-26 (changing NN primary date to July 21).

Provided analysis to Speaker Curley and Delegate Slater regarding Arizona state referendum that could impact Navajo voters, and other Arizona election coordination matters.

V. Navajo Nation IP Code

Developed draft of standardized trademark licensing agreement for DOJ to use when entities want to enter into a licensing agreement for the Nation's trademarks. Continued trademark and Indian Arts and Crafts Act enforcement work outside counsel, including sending cease and desist letters to entities illegally using the Nation's trademarks. Received notification from the United State Patent and Trademark Office that the Nation's trademark for "Navajo Pearls" was approved.

VI. Office of the Navajo Tax Commission ONTC)

- a) *NTUA Reserve Funds*: ECDU worked with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), ONTC, Controller's Office, and Navajo Transitions Utility Authority (NTUA) to draft amendments to the Fund Management Plan for the Reserve and Emergency Funds. Additionally, NTUA and ONTC have been working on the numbers to determine what NTUA should have been paid for the year they were not. The amended plan is pending review with AAG Mel Rodis, once that is complete, we will meet one more time to review, and then Jason John from DWR will find a sponsor.
- b) *Sales Tax Credit Memo*: Completed a memo on the 24 N.N.C. §610 and what it means. This section provides a credit for the Kayenta Township and Tuba City Chapter, because they enacted a sales tax before the local tax act. Any chapter that enacts tax laws under the local tax act do not qualify for a credit, due to conflicting language. Recommended that ONTC update their regulations on the sales credit, and to keep in mind that without the credit the consumers at Chapters under local tax act are subject to three sales tax on items and services.

VII. Office of the Controller

- a) *2026 Navajo Nation Procurement Regulations*. Continued working with the legislative branch and finished development of the Navajo Nation Procurement Regulations to go into effect with the implementation of the ERP system. Have provided complete draft of regulations which is currently pending review and approval by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Human Services & Government Unit

To support the Navajo Nation's self-determination, HSGU continues to provide assistance to the Office of Management and Budget and 638-funded programs in regard to pending 105(l) leases for NDPS facilities and contract support costs related to the contracts with NAIHS. HSGU also assisted OMB with instructions to 638-funded programs to prepare for upcoming proposals for calendar year 2027. In addition, HSGU re-negotiated several state agreements to ensure the terms are consistent with Navajo Nation law and would allow the affected division/department to receive the funding in order to carry out an interest for the Navajo Nation.

Despite some setbacks, HSGU continues to actively work with DCSS by working on long-term policy amendments and to find creative way to encourage compliance with child support obligations. HSGU conducts case staffing in every Agency of the Navajo Nation and also participates in monthly hearings to ensure Navajo children are provided for in a meaningful way. HSGU continues its efforts of pursuing enforcement of Navajo Nation child support obligations in foreign jurisdictions to ensure that all Navajo children benefit from the efforts of DCSS. Furthermore, HSGU also works with the ICWA Program to ensure the advocacy of Navajo children and families subject to state's child custody proceeding through case staffing, amicus briefs and proposals of an ICWA court in a jurisdiction that has not been favorable to the Navajo Nation or ICWA. In addressing issues that affect our Navajo elders, HSGU assisted NDOH with establishing a Navajo Aging Advisory Commission to advise DALTCS on services provided to Navajo elders, via the legislative process which was recently approved by the Health, Education & Human Services Committee.

To assist with the overall best interests and protection of the Navajo Nation, HSGU continues to work with the Risk Management Program and other Navajo Nation departments on the defense of both tribal and Federal Tort Claims Act administrative claims and cases filed in federal and tribal courts, ensuring workers compensation claims are reviewed consistently with Navajo Nation law and policies, and assisting with and providing training on the self-funded insurance programs as they relate to employee health and workers compensation benefits. HSGU has continued to assist the Navajo Nation Broadband Office to implement the Navajo Nation Broadband Plan to develop broadband infrastructure throughout the Navajo Nation connecting Navajo families to internet for cell service, telehealth, distance learning, and economic and cultural benefits. HSGU has assisted the NNBO by negotiating and reviewing grant agreements and contracts for infrastructure development using federal, state, and Navajo Nation funding opportunities.

Chapter Unit

This quarter, CU completed seventy (70) legal service requests. At the time of submitting this report, there were one-hundred and forty-four (144) High Q files pending legal review. During the quarter, one CU attorney resigned but we were also able to fill one of the vacant attorney positions. CU is still a 3-attorney unit and accordingly, CU had to limit the number of trainings and meetings to focus on the backlog of High Q files. However, CU made itself available to Chapters for virtual meetings.

I. Amendments to the Local Governance Act ("LGA"). CU assisted the Resources & Development Committee in conducting Public Hearings held on April 8 at Tonalea Chapter for the Western Agency and April 10 at the Walter Collins Center for the Northern Agency. CU gathered all of the public comments and created an updated draft and emailed it to the RDC on May 1. It is CU's understanding that there will be an RDC meeting or work session to discuss the updated draft.

II. Other notable in-person meetings and presentations:

- a) LGA Amendments to Fort Defiance Area ASC Chapters on April 6.
- b) LGA Amendments to Chinle ASC area Chapters on April 7.
- c) LGA Amendments to Dilkon ASC area Chapters on April 9.
- d) Chapter Zoning Ordinances Kayenta area Chapters on April 13.
Chapter Meeting Rules of Order at Teesto Chapter on June 30.