



NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Newly appointed Navajo human rights officials affirm oath to Commission

Commissioners met on October 5, 2012

SAINT MICHAELS, Navajo Nation—The staff members of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission added one short but significant ceremonial protocol, an oath of commission at the commissioner's first regular monthly meeting on October 5, 2012.

New to the Commission are: Valerie Kelly, who will represent the social sector for the Commission, Justin F. Tsosie, the at-large member for the Commission, and Frank Bradley III, to represent the law enforcement sector. Steven A. Darden will continue to represent the business sector for the Commission and Dr. Jennifer Nez Denetdale, the education sector.



L-R Valerie Kelly, Frank Bradley III, Judge Carol Perry and Steve Darden take the office of office at the NNHRC office, in Saint Michaels, Navajo Nation on October 5, 2012.

Judge Carol Perry of the Window Rock District Court for the Navajo Nation swore Darden, Kelly and Bradley who attended the meeting. The oath combined sections of the Commission's mission statement, code of conduct and statement of principle. They stated:

"I will protect and promote the human rights of Navajo people based on the Din4 principles of Sa'ah Naaghai Bik'4h Hozh0o, Hask4ej7, H0zh00j7 and K'4. I will conduct myself as a fiduciary in charge of my responsibilities and authorities to promote and protect the human rights of the Navajo people with care, skill, prudence, and diligence. I will honor the Din4 rounding principles of y7mild7yinee and 1l7ee k'ehgo. Nizh0n7 naahasd[i yiishaa[doo[eel."

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Following the oath, Steve A. Darden was selected as the chairperson for the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. The vice-chairperson remains to be filled and setting of the regular meeting schedule remains to be addressed. For next month, the commissioners will meet on Friday, November 2, 2012 at 10 a.m. until a new schedule is determined if necessary.

Next, to help orientate the commissioners about Navajo human rights, the staff of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission will provide an orientation session about the functions of the staff, their work with the commission, duties and responsibilities at the local, national and international levels.

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Also, for Commissioners Denetdale and Tsosie, Navajo Nation Supreme Court Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley will provide an oath of commission at a time to be determined.

The three new commissioners and two returning commissioner were appointed by Speaker Johnny Naize in July and confirmed by the Naabik'i yati' Committee of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council on September 28, 2012. Their terms end on September 28, 2016.

NNHRC advocates for the recognition of Navajo human rights and addresses discriminatory actions against the citizens of the Navajo Nation. For more information about a Commissioner's role, visit the NNHRC website at www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov to download the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission's plan of operation.

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