



NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ETHEL BRANCH
Attorney General

HEATHER L. CLAH
Deputy Attorney General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kahia Lamothe
Phone: 928-871-6345
Date: April 19, 2024

NAVAJO NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL INITIATES PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

WINDOW ROCK, NAVAJO NATION – This week allegations were made of sexual harassment, bullying, and other mistreatment within offices of the highest level of government at the Navajo Nation. The Special Prosecutor statute at 2 N.N.C. § 2021 authorizes the Attorney General to conduct a preliminary investigation when she receives information that constitutes grounds to investigate whether high level elected and appointed officials and staff have committed a violation of law or committed any act upon which the Navajo Nation may bring a civil cause of action.

Attorney General Branch stated “Given the allegations made this week I believe it is necessary to initiate an independent preliminary investigation to ascertain whether violations of law have occurred. To that end, I have directed outside counsel Eric Dahlstrom of the law firm of Rothstein Donatelli to immediately commence a thorough and comprehensive preliminary investigation regarding complaints of impropriety in high level governmental offices pursuant to my authority under the Special Prosecutor Statute.”

Mr. Dahlstrom has served as a long-time Special Prosecutor to the Nation. His work has included the successful prosecution of 15 Navajo Nation Council delegates and two tribal employees who faced 140 criminal complaints relating to the misuse of Navajo Nation discretionary funds.

###