



NAVAJO NATION BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.
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LARRY RUZOW
PRESIDENT

CASEY WATCHMAN
VICE-PRESIDENT

DAVID JORDAN
SECRETARY

MICHAEL BARTHELEMY
TREASURER

Dear Members of the Navajo Nation Bar Association:

There are a number of matters I would like to bring to your attention:

- A. I hope you will be able to attend our 2017 Annual Conference at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort on June 8th and 9th. We have been working to provide an interesting and informative program with the theme—“Navajo—A Nation in Transition” and we are fortunate to have many fine speakers agree to present at the Conference.
 - a. Our tentative agenda and registration forms are on the NNBA Website.
 - b. We plan to apply for New Mexico CLE Credit for presentations at the Conference which meet New Mexico MCLE Requirements.
 - c. Special thanks to the Conference Committee—Colin Bradley, David R. Jordan and Linda Samels and, of course, the NNBA staff as well as Doug Kacena of Twin Arrows.
 - d. At the Conference, we will recognize the former NNBA Members who have passed on since the last Conference such as the Late Vernon Roanhorse and the Late Richard Wade with a moment of silence. If you know of other former NNBA members who have passed on in the last year, please provide this information to the NNBA Office.
- B. The financial condition of your Association is good. Relevant financial statements are available on the NNBA website. We appreciate NNBA Treasurer Michael J. Barthelemy’s continued fine service to the NNBA.
- C. Acting Navajo Nation Chief Justice Allen Sloan has requested the NNBA to evaluate sitting Navajo Nation judges. A questionnaire developed by Judicial Evaluation Committee Chair Dolph Barnhouse and his Committee has been e-mailed to you and is also available on our website.
 - a. This is your opportunity to let the Judicial Branch know what is right and what is wrong in the operation of the Navajo Courts and the performance of Navajo Judges. Please provide information on judges you have practiced before and do so by May 15th.
- D. The Limited License proposal from the Navajo Attorney General, Chief Prosecutor and Public Defender was the subject of extensive discussion by the NNBA Board of Bar Commissioners at their quarterly meeting on April 21st. At this point members of the Board and the proposal sponsors are considering possible amendments to this proposal.
 - a. If you have further thoughts on the Limited License proposal, please provide them to a Board member from your District.
 - b. The Board will have a special meeting to act on this proposal—possibly on the evening of June 8th during the Annual Conference.

- E. The Board selected Naomi Barnes of Santa Fe to represent the NNBA on the New Mexico Legal Aid Board of Directors. We appreciate Naomi's willingness to serve both the NNBA and NMLA by accepting this appointment.
- F. We have three representatives on the DNA Board of Directors. At present, Ella Wilson and Judy Dworkin are representing the NNBA and are willing to continue their service. There is a vacancy that needs to be filled by the NNBA Board, so if you are interested in serving on the DNA Board as an NNBA representative, please send (mail or e-mail) the NNBA a letter of interest.
- G. If you are interested in serving on an NNBA Committee, there will be information on such service available at the Annual Conference.
- H. We would welcome interested lawyers, law firms, businesses and organizations helping to sponsor the Annual Conference. Various levels of sponsorship are available and appropriate recognition of sponsors is given at the Conference. If you or your firm or client would like to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated.
 - a. Please contact the NNBA Office for more information. (928-871-2215)
- I. We are continuing to work on improving the NNBA website and appreciate the good work of IT Consultant, Farin Begay and his company Southwest Technology Solutions, LLC.

Sincerely,
Larry
Lawrence A. Ruzow
President NNBA, Inc.