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July 27, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to provide you an update on current matters affecting the Navajo Nation Bar Association, Inc. ("NNBA")

2017 Annual Conference

As most of you know, we had a successful Annual Conference on June 8-9, 2017 at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino and Resort ("TANCR") within the Leupp Chapter. A summary of revenues will be posted on the NNBA Website.

We are grateful to the Conference Committee (Colin Bradley, Linda Samels and David Jordan), the many fine presenters, emcees, our NNBA staff and volunteers and the Board of Bar Commissioners for their help and support. We also thank Douglas Kacena from TANCR or all of his assistance. We express our thanks as well to the individuals and entities that were financial sponsors of the Conference.

2018 Annual Conference

It is never too early to think about next year's Annual Conference. We welcome the thoughts of our membership on location and theme and the types of presentations you would like to see at the Conference.

We also welcome volunteers who would be willing to help with the Conference. Please let the NNBA office know if you are willing to help and in what manner.

New NNBA Members

We were pleased to welcome the new NNBA Members who were sworn in by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court at the Annual Conference. We wish you well in your practice of Navajo Law and invite you to participate in the activities of your NNBA.

Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation

We note the retirement of the Hon. Allen Sloan who has served the Navajo Nation as a District Judge and Acting Chief Justice for a total of more than 28 years. We all appreciate his service to the Navajo Nation and to Navajo Justice. He will be missed.

We also note that the Law and Order Committee has recommended candidates for a new Chief Justice and that President Russell Begaye has selected Joann Jayne a member of the NNBA since 1992 for this position.

President Begaye has also selected Tuba City Judicial District Staff Attorney Tina Tsinigine, a distinguished NNBA Member who has reached out to provide training for pro per (pro se) parties in the Navajo Courts (and was a presenter at our 2017 Annual Conference) for a District Judge position.

We wish these distinguished NNBA members and soon-to-be jurists well.

NNBA Dues and Services to the Membership

We are well aware that our membership (and the Courts and Navajo Publix) make more demands on the NNBA staff for assistance than the staff can provide given we only have two staff members and they are paid to work a total of 72 hours (40/32) a week.

We appreciate the contributions of many NNBA members who serve on the NNBA Board, as NNBA Officers, as NNBA Committee Members and as presenters at various NNBA trainings and CLE Programs.

But we still cannot meet the demand for services.

As a result, I will ask the NNBA Board to consider a dues increase beginning in 2018 with most of the additional revenue earmarked to provide more staff and/or more staff time.

Call for Volunteers

If you are interested in serving Navajo Justice through work with the NNBA—perhaps a special project that interests you, perhaps as a Committee member or perhaps just offering to help where you are needed most, please let us know.

Very truly yours,



Lawrence A. Ruzow
President NNBA, Inc.