



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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Public Affairs
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U.S. ATTORNEY HOSTS 17TH ANNUAL FOUR-CORNERS INDIAN COUNTRY CONFERENCE

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. - The United States Attorney's representatives of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah welcomed over 300 attendees to the 17th Annual Four Corners Indian Country Conference, which began today at Flagstaff's High Country Conference Center.

This year's conference, hosted by the District of Arizona and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, is entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Victim's Path to Justice." Over 300 representatives from victim and social services, schools, law enforcement, tribal leaders and court personnel, probation officers, prosecutors, judges and others in the criminal justice arena are attending this year's conference which is focused on criminal justice agencies and Indian Country victims of crime.

U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, John J. Tuchi, welcomed attendees to the conference. "We are proud to host this annual gathering of our fellow U.S. Attorney's Office representatives, tribal leadership and criminal justice agencies in the four-corners region," Tuchi stated. "Each year, we seek ever closer partnerships to better serve crime victims in Indian Country. We also strive to find better ways of preventing violence in communities with programs and partnerships that address alcohol and drug abuse, drug endangered children, and gang prevention."

The keynote speaker of this year's conference is Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Larry Echo Hawk. In his remarks Tuesday, Echo Hawk stated, "Strengthening law enforcement and improving safety in Indian Country is one of the top priorities of the Obama Administration. We need to empower Indian Nations to get involved with law enforcement in their communities. Safety is essential for healthy Indian communities." Echo Hawk also emphasized working together with tribal, state and federal law enforcement officials to improve public safety in Indian Country.

The conference, coordinated by the Victim Witness units of the four U.S. Attorneys Offices, continues through Thursday, September 17, 2009. Topics covered include Working with Minor and Adult Victims of Crime, Crisis Response and Trauma, Navajo Peace Keepers, Adam Walsh Law and Physical Abuse, Prosecution Initiatives in Gang Violence, Tribal and Federal Crime Victim Rights Gang Related Violence, Working with Drug Endangered Children and many other topics.

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