



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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Public Affairs
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ARIZONA'S U.S. ATTORNEY PARTICIPATING IN TRIBAL NATION'S LISTENING SESSION

PHOENIX - United States Attorney Dennis K. Burke, together with Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph Lodge and Marnie Hodahkwen from the District of Arizona, are in St. Paul, Minnesota, this week to participate in the Department of Justice Tribal Nation's Listening Session. The Listening Session, which will occur over the next two days, seeks input from tribal leaders on how best to address the chronic problems of public safety in Indian Country. Attorney General Eric Holder is expected to give remarks tomorrow afternoon. Other top Justice officials, including U.S. Attorneys from around the country, are also in attendance throughout the two-day session.

During his remarks to leaders this morning, Deputy Attorney General David W. Ogden stated of the Department of Justice commitment to Indian Country that, "This is about more than reducing crime. It's about improving the very quality of life in tribal communities, affording safe childhoods and adulthoods to our citizens, and painting the futures of our children and grandchildren in a warmer and brighter hue."

U.S. Attorney Dennis K. Burke stated, "Through the leadership of Attorney General Holder, this is a new day in the Department's responsibility as the primary prosecutor of serious violent crime in Arizona's Indian Country. We will do more than listen -- we will move very quickly to implement the vital input of tribal leaders from this national forum. I am committed to ensuring that all tribal members in Arizona will be able to measure these changes."

The Listening Session is part of an ongoing Justice Department initiative to increase engagement, coordination and action on tribal justice in Indian Country. It allows top Department officials to confer with tribal leaders on how to address public safety issues in Indian Country and other important issues affecting tribal communities. Dialogue between Department component leaders and tribal experts includes a range of important issues including, law enforcement policy and personnel; communications and consultation; grants and technical assistance; detention facilities; federal prosecution in Indian country; tribal court development; domestic violence; drug courts and substance abuse; federal litigation involving tribes; and civil rights.

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