

**TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS**  
**WEEK OF FEB. 23, 2010**

Contact: Melissa Schwartz, Office of Public Affairs: (202) 514-2007

**Attorney General Holder Announces Creation Of Tribal Nations Leadership Council (AG)**

Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Feb. 19, 2010, the creation of the Justice Department's Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC), a group of tribal leaders from around the country that will advise him on issues critical to tribal communities. The TNLC marks the first time a council composed of tribal leaders selected by tribal governments will advise Justice Department leadership on an ongoing basis. The creation of the TNLC fulfills a pledge made by Attorney General Holder at the department's Tribal Nations Listening Session in October 2009.

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/February/10-ag-165.html>

**North Dakota Woman Sentenced for Retaliating Against a Witness (U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota)**

Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota Lynn Jordheim announced that on Feb. 22, 2010, Bonnie Lou Cavanaugh of Fort Totten, N.D., was sentenced before U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of obstructing justice by retaliating against a witness, victim or informant. Cavanaugh pleaded guilty on Dec. 7, 2009, to causing physical injury to another woman with intent to retaliate against that person for providing information to law enforcement in connection with a federal criminal case that was pending in U.S. District Court. Cavanaugh was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nd/pressreleases/2010/02-22-2010Cavanaugh%20Sentenced.pdf>

**Marcia Goodbear Appears in Federal Court (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

On Feb. 22, 2010, Marcia Goodbear, a 33-year-old resident of Lame Deer, Mont., made an initial appearance on a complaint alleging misprision of a felony. She is currently detained on special conditions. If charged with this offense, Goodbear faces possible penalties of four years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years supervised release.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Linda Diaz Convicted of Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in Great Bodily Harm or Death (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On Feb. 19, 2010, a jury found Linda Diaz, the Lt. Governor of the Pojoaque Pueblo, guilty of leaving the scene of an accident resulting in great bodily harm or death. The accident occurred on April 4, 2009, on the Pojoaque Pueblo and resulted in the death of Philip Espinoza, a resident of Chimayo, N.M. Diaz faces up to three years in prison.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/diaz/diaz\\_linda.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/diaz/diaz_linda.pdf)

**Shane Michael Sandcrane Sentenced in U.S. District Court (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

The U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Montana announced that during a federal court session in Billings on Feb. 19, 2010, before Chief U.S. District Judge Richard F. Cebull, Shane Michael Sandcrane, a 21-year-old resident of Ashland, Mont., was sentenced to a term of 540 months in prison followed by five years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$5,811.10 in restitution. Sandcrane was sentenced in connection with his guilty plea to aiding and abetting second degree murder.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/last20.html>

**Adrian Gary Goodbear Pleads Guilty in U.S. Federal Court (U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana)**

The U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Montana announced that during a federal court session in Billings on Feb. 18, 2010, before Chief U.S. District Judge Richard F. Cebull, Adrian Gary Goodbear, a 34-year-old resident of Lame Deer, Mont., pleaded guilty to second degree murder.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100218162417.html>

**Leon Ray Sanchez Charged With Second Degree Murder (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Leon Ray Sanchez, 23, an enrolled member of the San Felipe Pueblo, has been charged with second degree murder. The offense allegedly occurred within the boundaries of the San Felipe Pueblo Reservation, in New Mexico. The defendant was arraigned on Feb. 18, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to the charge.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_feb22/022210\\_arraignment\\_sanchez.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_feb22/022210_arraignment_sanchez.pdf)

**Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Takes Down Meth Dealers in Indian Country (U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona)**

In a combined sweep on Feb. 17, 2010, involving federal, state, local and tribal police, two people were taken into federal custody, and one remained at large. All three are charged with dealing methamphetamine in the Colorado River Indian Tribes. In the combined sweep, police seized approximately 375 grams of methamphetamine, more

than \$99,000 cash and four vehicles, including an agricultural hydraulic lift valued at approximately \$150,000.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press\\_releases/2010/2010-024\(CRIT\\_Meth\).pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/az/press_releases/2010/2010-024(CRIT_Meth).pdf)

**Joshua Wade Sentenced to Life in Prison for the Murders of Mindy Schloss and Della Brown (U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska)**

U.S. Attorney Karen L. Loeffler for the District of Alaska announced on Feb. 17, 2010, that Joshua Alan Wade, 29, pleaded guilty and was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage for the carjacking and murder of Anchorage resident Mindy Schloss in 2007. Wade was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline to life in prison. As part of the plea agreements in both courts, Wade admitted to the 2000 murder of Anchorage resident Della Brown as well as the murder of Mindy Schloss.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/ak/press/2010.html#February>

**Man Sentenced for Larceny and Aiding and Abetting (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that a man charged with larceny and aiding and abetting was sentenced on Feb. 17, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Richard H. Battey. Robert Leeds, age 36, of Rapid City, S.D., formerly of Pine Ridge, S.D., was sentenced to 12 months in prison, three years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$100 to the Victim Assistance Fund and \$1,077 in restitution. Leeds and two other individuals took personal property, consisting of money for artwork received, from the Heritage Center, Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/RC-02-20-10-Leeds.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/RC-02-20-10-Leeds.html)

**Rhiannon Yazzie Charged With Involuntary Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Rhiannon Yazzie, 22, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, has been charged with involuntary manslaughter. The offense allegedly occurred within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation. The defendant was arraigned on Feb. 17, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to the charge.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_feb22/022210\\_arraignment\\_yazzie.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_feb22/022210_arraignment_yazzie.pdf)

**Waylon Begay Charged With Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

Waylon Begay, 26, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, has been charged with assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The offense allegedly occurred within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation. The defendant was arraigned on Feb. 16, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to the charge.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_feb22/022210\\_arraignment\\_begay.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_feb22/022210_arraignment_begay.pdf)

**Anthony Atencio Pleads Guilty to Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)**

On Feb. 16, 2010, Anthony Atencio, 22, an enrolled member of the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Bruce D. Black to assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The offense occurred within the boundaries of the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo Reservation.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal\\_justice\\_feb-22/022210\\_plea\\_atencio.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice_feb-22/022210_plea_atencio.pdf)

**Man Sentenced For Dealing Drugs (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Mission, S.D., man charged with distribution of a controlled substance was sentenced on Feb. 16, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Todd Shaw, age 34, was sentenced to 57 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund. Between Aug. 1, 2003, and March 31, 2007, Shaw was found to have knowingly and intentionally distributed and possessed, with the intent to distribute, a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media\\_news/Pierre-02-20-10-Shaw.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/media_news/Pierre-02-20-10-Shaw.html)

###