

From: USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 5:10 PM
To: USDOJ-Office of Public Affairs
Subject: TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS

**TRIBAL JUSTICE NEWS
WEEK OF MARCH 9, 2010**

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

**New Justice Department Outreach Effort to Victims of Radiation Exposure
Announced (Civil Division)**

The Justice Department announced on March 8, 2010, a new internship program that will employ students part-time to conduct intensive outreach efforts with Native Americans and their families whose work in the uranium industry during the Cold War benefitted the United States but exposed them to radiation and may entitle them to compensation under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). The internship will be based in the Four Corners region (Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona) and include a two-week training program in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/March/10-civ-233.html>

**Lower Brule Man Pleads Guilty to Assault (U.S. Attorney for the District of South
Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that Stephan-Paul Ziegler, aka Stephen-Paul Ziegler, age 22, of Lower Brule, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange on March 8, 2010, and pleaded guilty to an assault with a dangerous weapon. The maximum penalty upon conviction is 10 years in custody, a \$250,000 fine, or both; three years of supervised release; and a \$100 special assessment.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

**Lower Brule Man Sentenced for Assaulting, Resisting, or Impeding a Federal
Officer (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Lower Brule, S.D., man charged with assaulting, resisting or impeding a federal officer was sentenced on March 8, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. William Jarmel Edwards, age 21, was sentenced to nine months in prison, two years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund. The charge relates to Edwards' assault on a Lower Brule police officer in April 2009.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

**Fort Thompson Man Pleads Guilty to Assaulting Federal Officer (U.S. Attorney for
the District of South Dakota)**

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that Mark Drapeau, age 25, of Fort Thompson, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Roberto

A. Lange on March 8, 2010, and pleaded guilty to assaulting, resisting, or impeding a federal officer in Buffalo County on Aug. 23, 2009. The maximum penalty upon conviction is one year in prison, a \$100,000 fine, or both; one year of supervised release; and a \$25 special assessment.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

Rosebud Man Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of a Minor (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that a Rosebud, S.D., man charged with sexual abuse of a minor was sentenced on March 8, 2010, by U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange. Patrick Luke Black Spotted Horse, age 20, was sentenced to 40 months in prison, five years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment to the Victim Assistance Fund.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

Cherry Creek Man Pleads Guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota)

U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota Brendan V. Johnson announced that A'bleza Skyler Oakie, aka Skyler Oakie, age 20, of Cherry Creek, S.D., appeared before U.S. District Judge Roberto A. Lange on March 8, 2010, and pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. The maximum penalty upon conviction is 15 years in custody, a \$250,000 fine, or both; three years of supervised release; and a \$100 special assessment. The charge relates to the Oct. 21, 2009, death, by blunt force trauma to the head, of a 42-year-old Cherry Creek man.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/Media.html>

Matthew Paul Loves Him 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 Great Falls, Mont., on March 8, 2010, before U.S. District Judge Sam E. Haddon, Matthew Paul Loves Him, a 30-year-old resident of Poplar, Mont., was sentenced to a term of 70 months in prison followed by five years of supervised release. Loves Him was sentenced in connection with his guilty plea to sexual abuse within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mt/pressreleases/20100308160828.html>

Former Tribal Police Detective Sentenced for Theft From Warm Springs Police Department (U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon)

Gregory A. Stinson, 40, of Madras, Ore., was sentenced on March 8, 2010, by Senior U.S. District Judge Ancer L. Haggerty to three months in prison for theft from an Indian Tribal organization. Stinson was also ordered to serve a three-year term of supervised release, and to pay \$4,989 to the Confederated Tribe of

Warm Springs, from which he stole the money. Stinson was a Detective with the Warm Springs Police Department, where he worked for 13 years. In April 2007, Stinson stole \$4,989 that had been seized as evidence in a criminal case.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/or/PressReleases/2010/20100308_Stinson.html

Nevada Man Charged With Assault With a Dangerous Weapon (U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada)

Dusty Colin Sam, of the McDermitt Indian Reservation in Nevada, was indicted on March 3, 2010, on one count of assault with a dangerous weapon. The indictment alleges that on or about Jan. 18, 2010, Sam used the blade of a hand saw to assault a victim. If convicted, Sam faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nv/press/index.html#mar10>

U.S. Attorney Issues Statement Regarding Investigation Into Walleye Haul From Little Bay De Noc (U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan)

U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis announced on March 5, 2010, that, because the U.S. District Court lacks jurisdiction, the U.S. Attorney's Office will not prosecute several members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians who are suspected of illegally catching and commercially selling walleye from Little Bay de Noc. The suspected illegal fishing on Little Bay de Noc took place in waters ceded to Native American tribes in the Treaty of 1836.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/miw/press/WalleyeInvestigation03052010.html>

Farron Pat Foster Charged With Assault With a Dangerous Weapon and Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

Farron Pat Foster, 29, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, appeared in federal court on March 5, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in Upper Fruitland, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_arraignment_foster.pdf

Red Lake Man Indicted for Being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm (U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota)

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment against a 29-year-old felon for possessing a 40-caliber, semi-automatic pistol. The indictment, which was filed with the U.S. District Court on March 4, 2010, charges Jeffrey Lee Dolson, of Red Lake, Minn., with possessing the Glock pistol on February 21, 2010. Because Dolson is a felon, he is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm at any time.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn/major/major0509.pdf>

Tyrus Begaye and Darnell Begay Charged With Second Degree Murder (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

Tyrus Begaye, 34, and Darnell Begay, 36, both enrolled members of the Navajo Nation, appeared in federal court on March 4, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging them with second degree murder and aiding and abetting. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in Burnham, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_arraignment_begaye.pdf

Lincoln Charlie Charged With Failure to Register as a Sex Offender (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

Lincoln Charlie, 44, appeared in federal court on March 4, 2010, and pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with failure to register as required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_arraignment_charlie.pdf

Cassius Tommy Waatsa is Sentenced for Bank Robbery (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 4, 2010, Cassius Tommy Waatsa, an enrolled member of the Zuni Tribe, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Judith C. Herrera to 46 months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Waatsa pleaded guilty to bank robbery. The offense occurred in Zuni, N.M., within the boundaries of the Zuni Pueblo Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_sentencing_waatsa.pdf

Lawrence Roybal is Sentenced for Assault With a Dangerous Weapon (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 4, 2010, Lawrence Roybal, 47, an enrolled member of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Judith C. Herrera to 24 months in federal prison. Roybal pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. The offense occurred in Dulce, N.M., within the boundaries of the Jicarilla Apache Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_sentencing_roybal.pdf

Irwin Joe Yellowtail Pleads Guilty to Robbery (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 4, 2010, Irwin Joe Yellowtail, 25, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan C. Torgerson to the charge of robbery and aiding and abetting. The offense occurred in Shiprock, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_plea_yellowtail.pdf

Michael Errol Hayes Pleads Guilty to Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 4, 2010, Michael Errol Hayes, 33, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge M. Christina Armijo to charges of assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The offenses occurred in Shiprock, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_plea_hayes.pdf

Randall Herrera Sentenced for Involuntary Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 3, 2010, U.S. District Court Judge James O. Browning sentenced Randall Herrera, of Albuquerque, N.M., to 30 months in prison for the involuntary manslaughter of his wife, Earlene Herrera. On April 19, 2008, after spending the evening drinking, Herrera was driving on Highway 550 on the Santa Ana Pueblo when he lost control of his vehicle causing it to crash. Earlene was ejected from the car and died at the scene. Both Herrera and Earlene are members of the Navajo Nation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_sentencing_herrera.pdf

Jasper Troy Cook Pleads Guilty to Sexual Abuse of a Minor (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 2, 2010, Jasper Troy Cook, 35, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Don J. Svet to the charge of sexual abuse of a minor. The offense occurred in Crownpoint, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_plea_cook.pdf

Nathaniel O. Becenti is Sentenced for Manslaughter and Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 2, 2010, Nathaniel Ordell Becenti, 22, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Judith C. Herrera to 37 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Becenti pleaded guilty to manslaughter and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. The offenses occurred at Twin Lakes, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-

8/030810_sentencing_becenti.pdf

Michael Paul Vigil is Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of a Minor (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 2, 2010, Michael Paul Vigil, 36, an enrolled member of the Jemez Tribe, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge James O. Browning to 30 months in prison, to be followed by 10 years of supervised release. Vigil pleaded guilty on Nov. 16, 2009, to sexual abuse of a minor. The offense occurred in Navajo, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_sentencing_vigil.pdf

Virgil Pinto is Sentenced for Involuntary Manslaughter (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico)

On March 1, 2010, Virgil Pinto, 32, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge James O. Browning to 33 months in prison, to be followed by two years of supervised release. Pinto pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter. The offense occurred in Crownpoint, N.M., within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation.

http://www.justice.gov/usao/nm/pr/2010/tribal_justice-mar-8/030810_sentencing_pinto.pdf

###

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACTS IN THE MESSAGE OR CALL THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT 202-514-2007.