

For Immediate Release
July 21, 2011

**THOREAU MAN RECEIVES 24-MONTH PRISON SENTENCE FOR
DUI-RELATED INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon in federal court in Albuquerque, **Nathaniel Ben Ashley**, 27, a member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Thoreau, New Mexico, was sentenced to imprisonment for 24-months to be followed by two years of supervised release for his involuntary manslaughter conviction. Ashley, who was released under pretrial supervision following his arrest on April 5, 2010, was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Service to begin serving his prison sentence at the conclusion of today's sentencing hearing.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Ashley entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter on November 1, 2010, and admitted killing Jimmie Chacho, a 75-year-old Navajo man, on December 8, 2008, while operating a motor vehicle and under the influence of alcohol within the confines of the Navajo Indian Reservation. Court records reflect that Ashley killed Mr. Chacho shortly after 9:00 a.m. on December 8, 2010 while driving from Grants to his home in Thoreau.

The case was investigated by the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, Crownpoint Division, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kyle T. Nayback.

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