



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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President Nez and Vice President Lizer congratulates U.S. District Court nominee Judge Sunshine Suzanne Sykes

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer congratulate Judge Sunshine Suzanne Sykes, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation from Tuba City, Ariz., for being nominated by U.S. President Joe Biden to serve as the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Sykes would be the first Native American Article III judge in California, the first Article III judge from the Navajo Nation, and the fifth Native American Article III judge actively serving in the country.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we congratulate Judge Sykes on her historic nomination. Judge Sykes’ extensive experience demonstrates her commitment to serving the public and the justice system. We wish her well in this new capacity with the U.S. District Court and we thank her for being an inspiration to our young Navajo people. We also thank the Biden-Harris Administration and we look forward to having more appointments that reflect the diversity of this country,” said President Nez.

Since 2013, Judge Sykes has served as a California Superior Court Judge on the Superior Court of Riverside County. She received her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 2001 and her B.A from Stanford University in 1997.



“I am delighted about Judge Sykes’ nomination to the federal district court. Native American representation on the bench is critically important because it makes us feel like we are also full participants within the federal judicial system. Her accomplishments also demonstrate to Native law students that it is possible to achieve your ambitions in the justice system. Yéego Judge Sykes,” said Navajo Nation Attorney General Doreen N. McPaul.

From 2001 to 2003, Judge Sykes was a staff attorney for California Indian Legal Services. From 2003 to 2005, Judge Sykes worked as a contract attorney for the Juvenile Defense Panel at the

Southwest Justice Center. From 2005 to 2013, she served as a Deputy County Counsel in the Office of County Counsel for Riverside County.

“We congratulate Judge Sykes on her recent appointment. She has remarkable experience that will benefit the U.S. District Court system. We pray for Judge Sykes and her family as she begins her new endeavors with U.S. District Court,” said Vice President Lizer.

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