

**NEWS RELEASE
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HOPI CHAIRMAN**

Humetewa appointed to U.S. District Court of Arizona

May 16, 2014

Kykotsmovi, AZ—The Hopi Tribe is proud of and pleased with the U.S. Senate confirmation of Diane J. Humetewa to the U.S. District Court of Arizona. She is the first Native American and Hopi woman to be appointed to this judicial position. Ms. Humetewa is from the village of Hotevilla.

“This is an historic appointment not just for the Hopi people, but all of Indian Country,” said Herman Honanie, Chairman of the Hopi Tribe. “Because tribal members are tried in federal courts it’s very important to have judges who are deeply aware of the issues in Indian Country and who understand Federal Indian Law.”



Sen. Carlyle W. Begay, U.S. District Court Judge Diane Humetewa and Hopi Vice Chairman Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr. at ASU's 2014 Native American Convocation.

The Honorable Humetewa has more than a decade of federal law experience. She served first as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and then as Assistant U.S. Attorney, prosecuting a wide variety of federal crimes, including violent crimes in Indian Country, Native American cultural crimes and archeological resource crimes.

As the first Native American woman to be appointed U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, Ms. Humetewa will be serving a district that has one of the largest caseloads in the nation, according to the ASU College of Law, where she also teaches.

“We certainly wish her the best,” added Honanie. Ms. Humetewa served as an Appellate Court judge for the Hopi Tribe and served as counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. She is a strong advocate for children’s rights and the rights of women. Ms. Humetewa has also served as a valuable resource by assisting the Hopi Tribe in retrieving artifacts belonging to the Hopi people.

Currently Ms. Humetewa serves as a special advisor to the President of Arizona State University, Michael Crow. She earned her B.A. from ASU in 1987 and her J.D. in 1993 from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law.