



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Josett D. Monette, Esq. appointed to serve as Deputy Secretary for the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

SANTA FE – Indian Affairs Secretary Designate James R. Mountain on Monday announced the appointment of General Counsel Josett D. Monette to the role of Deputy Cabinet Secretary and shall serve as the Department’s additional Deputy Secretary. Monette, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, brings years of expertise in Indian law and tribal law and policy focused on the advocacy and promotion of protecting and strengthening Native American interests. Monette will continue to serve as General Counsel until IAD fills that post.

"Josett has several years of experience practicing tribal and pueblo law in New Mexico. The state and our Native communities will now have the benefit of her leadership as Deputy Secretary," said **Secretary designate James R. Mountain**. "I have the full confidence in her ability to serve this administration, this agency, the 23 sovereign nations, and our Native people of New Mexico."

Prior to joining the Indian Affairs Department, Monette was the New Mexico Legal Aid Native American Program (“NMLA NAP”) Director. She also is an Adjunct Professor for the University of New Mexico School of Law National Native American Law Student Association (“NALSA”) Moot Court Team. Throughout her legal career, she has worked as an Associate Attorney with Barnhouse Keegan Solimon & West LLP, an Associate General Counsel for the Pueblo of Isleta, and as a Staff Attorney at NMLA NAP. Josett served as a Board of Director for the New Mexico State Bar Indian Law Section for seven years and she continues to serve as an Attorney Bar Exam Coach. She holds a Juris Doctor with a certificate in Indian Law from UNM School of Law, an **M.Ed.** in Educational Leadership, B.S.Ed. in Secondary Education – Social Sciences, and B.A. in (American) Indian Studies from the University of North Dakota. Prior to her legal career, Josett was a teacher and educator and worked mostly on her reservation within the Turtle Mountain Community Schools.

Commented [MI1]: is this correct ?

Commented [LI2R1]: I believe so.

Commented [MI3R1]: Yes.

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Since 2003 the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) has implemented groundbreaking state-tribal policies intended to improve the quality of life for the state's Native citizens. Our initiatives are designed to strengthen Tribal and state relations and address the challenges we face in our communities: economic development, infrastructure improvement, the protection of our

cultures and languages, health care accessibility, and educational opportunities for our most precious resource— our children. Learn more at www.iad.state.nm.us.

