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## **Indian Affairs Department's Melody Delmar receives US Attorney General's Award in Washington, DC**

WASHINGTON, DC – Yesterday, Indian Affairs Department Special Projects Coordinator and Constituent Services Liaison Melody Delmar is honored to receive the Merrick B. Garland US Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety.

The award recognizes extraordinary contributions to building collaborations that draw upon the skills and resources of a range of stakeholders within a community – including state and local community leaders, law enforcement officials, community leaders, and service providers. Melody was selected along a group of fifteen New Mexican recipients who have been addressing the MMIP initiatives through community collaboration.

"I want to congratulate Melody for this recognition of her work, but more importantly, I want to thank her for her dedication to seeking justice for the families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in New Mexico," said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**.

"In the heartfelt celebration of Melody Delmar receiving the Merrick B. Garland US Attorney General's Award in Washington DC, we extend our sincere congratulations and deep gratitude. Her achievement is not just an individual honor; it resonates profoundly with all the New Mexico Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations. This recognition brings hope to families dealing with the pain of missing or murdered loved ones, assuring them that the vital work continues. Melody's dedication symbolizes a collective commitment to justice and safety, reinforcing our shared responsibility to build resilient communities. In honoring Melody, we acknowledge the significance of her contributions, a beacon of hope for all those affected by these heart-wrenching situations." **Indian Affairs Cabinet Secretary Designate Josett Monette said.**

“Congratulations to Melody Delmar on receiving Merrick B. Garland US Attorney General’s Award in Washington DC! This is a remarkable achievement that reflects Melody’s outstanding contributions and dedication to bring awareness to all of our partners and all of Indian Country in New Mexico,” said **Governor Jenelle Roybal of Pojoaque Pueblo**. “Her hard work and commitment have clearly made a significant impact, and this recognition is so well-deserved. I am wishing you continued success in bringing awareness to and a hopeful end to the MMIP epidemic. Melody, you are a valued and appreciated member of our team and an amazing advocate for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons.”

Melody, with Secretary Designate Josett Monette and the Governor’s Office continue to lead state response to MMIP. They are looking forward to the next steps in addressing strategic response with the MMIP Advisory Committee, which will meet for the first time in the coming weeks.

“I’m thankful to receive this award from the honorable Merrick B. Garland, and I want to acknowledge this is not my award, this is ours. For our families, for those working in the background, for those who have been working alongside me and tirelessly. This is yours. I am honored to serve MMIP families,” Delmar said.

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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](http://www.iad.state.nm.us).*