

### **GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COUNSEL**

**DEFINITION:** Under general direction, performs professional legislative work of considerable difficulty in conducting legal review, analyzing, formulating and advocating legislation and initiatives impacting the Navajo Nation to Congress and the Federal government; acts as principal counsel primarily responsible for providing guidance on issues, strategies and points of law and policy to the Navajo Nation Washington Office; renders guidance on legal issues, legislative and policy; analyzes overall impacts on the Nation and develops coherent strategies to further the Nation's position; performs related work as assigned.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:** This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

#### **TASKS:**

Provides guidance on issues, strategies and points of law and policy to the Navajo Nation Washington Office staff; ensures compliance with Navajo Nation laws by conducting initial review of all office policies and procedures; coordinates review of policies, procedures and legal documents with appropriate legal offices and departments; conducts analysis and research on proposed and pending legislation and policy initiatives to ensure that legislation and initiatives do not adversely affect the Nation; prepares draft proposals including budgetary and appropriations requests, legislative bills, policy proposals and position papers; prepares and provides detailed reports on the activities of Congress to the Nation; advocates and communicates extensively with congressional representatives and federal agencies to protect the interest of the Nation; analyzes legislative, policy and budgetary initiatives developed by the federal government, provides reports to the Nation outlining the political and policy ramifications of these initiatives and provides strategic recommendation on how the Nation should address these initiatives.

Advises Navajo Nation government officials and member of various Standing Committees of the Navajo Nation Council on legal and policy questions; may provide expert testimony on Congressional Acts and legislative proposals that may impact the Nation; in coordination with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney General's office, state and federal Department of Justice, district attorneys and other tribal legal representatives reviews case laws, authorities, precedents and positions on issues impacting the Navajo Nation, as appropriate; prepares testimony and oral remarks to be presented at hearings; maintains contact with Navajo Nation officials, Standing Committees and divisions on issues affecting the Nation; provides guidance and assistance in the formulation of the Nation's agenda; assists in securing federal funding for the Nation's needs and ensures that ongoing projects continue to receive funding.

Schedules meetings with congressional representatives and federal officials; prepares materials and strategy for the meeting and accompanies Navajo officials in the meetings; develops public affairs campaigns and formulates coalitions with interest groups, non-governmental organizations and other governments to further the Nation's position; attends congressional hearings, press conferences and markups to gather important intelligence on matters of concern to the Nation; assists in the preparation of news releases and articles for publication to increase the awareness of the Nation's needs; attends strategy meetings; keeps abreast of current events and national news regarding Native Americans; may represent the Navajo Nation at various functions.

#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:**

Knowledge of Navajo Nation, state and federal governmental processes.  
Knowledge of the principles, theories and practices of the legislative process.

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Knowledge of statutes and legal decisions governing Federal Indian Law and Federal Trust responsibilities in assigned area.

Knowledge of legislative, economic and social issues affecting the Navajo Nation.

Knowledge of legislative affairs planning, legislative analysis techniques, regulatory systems and procedures analysis.

Knowledge of Navajo Nation, federal and state laws, regulations and guidelines governing aspects of tribal operations relative to the principles and techniques of policy analysis.

Skill in the collection, analysis and evaluation of information to arrive at sound conclusions and recommendations.

Skill in the interpretation and analysis of legal and quasi-legal documents including Navajo Nation, federal and state guidelines.

Skill in developing and monitoring complex legislative processes in order to analyze and present policy alternatives.

Skill in managing complex internal relationships and providing advice and counsel to Navajo Nation and other governmental officials.

Skill in maintaining open communication and effective working relationships.

Ability to research and analyze complex Federal statutes and pending bills in Congress and legislative and rulemaking proposals of Federal agencies.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:** Work involves a minimum of physical effort in an office setting.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A Juris Doctorate degree; and eight (8) years of professional experience in the legal field.
- License to practice in Arizona, New Mexico or Utah and the Navajo Nation.

#### **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Washington D.C. Bar admission.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.