



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

For Immediate Release
April 28, 2005

Contact: Marsha Catron
505.476.2248

Governor Bill Richardson Appoints Hilary Tompkins as New General Counsel

First Native American to hold this position

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today appointed Hilary Tompkins as his new General Legal Counsel. Tompkins has served as the Deputy Legal Counsel for Governor Richardson since the beginning of his administration.

"Hilary Tompkins brings a wealth of legal experience and a fresh perspective to the office of General Counsel," said Governor Richardson. "We will all benefit from her unique understanding of the state and our diverse population."

Tompkins was born in Zuni, New Mexico, and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and earned her law degree from Stanford University. Tompkins has worked in the private sector representing pueblos and tribes in a general counsel capacity on a wide variety of issues. In addition to her experience with state and tribal governments, Tompkins began her law career as an honor program trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to law school, she worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice as a tribal court advocate after passing the Navajo Nation bar exam.

"I am pleased that Governor Richardson has given me this opportunity to continue to serve the people of the state as part of his administration," said Hilary Tompkins.

Tompkins replaces Geno Zamora, who left the office to join the Santa Fe law offices of Gallagher & Kennedy.