

ENGLISH / NAVAJO GLOSSARY
OF
LEGAL TERMS



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY, 1985

VOLUME I

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Preface.....	1
A.....	1
B.....	14
C.....	19
D.....	37
E.....	51
F.....	61
G.....	73
H.....	78
I.....	85
J.....	97
K.....	101
L.....	103
M.....	112
N.....	124
O.....	128
P.....	135
Q.....	158
R.....	160
S.....	176
T.....	193
U.....	198
V.....	203
W.....	206
Y & Z.....	209

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

PREFACE

This glossary of Navajo/English legal terminology is the product of considerable concern, dedication and hard work. It is the first extensive glossary in the Navajo language dedicated primarily to legal terms for use in effective interpreting for court proceedings.

The project could not have been completed had it not been for the unrelenting and fruitful endeavors of Robert Yazzie, J.D., and Esther Dennison Yazzie. They pursued the compilation of terms in both languages over an extended period and continually strove for the most useful and correct terms and definitions. The end product is a reflection and a credit to their unselfish, untiring efforts and demonstrated professionalism. The project was funded primarily by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and we must acknowledge the support and faith for the undertaking, given by Mr. Jon A. Leeth of the Office of Court Reporting and Interpreting of the Administrative Office.

Dr. William Morgan, a Navajo language specialist from Fort Defiance, Arizona, gave much of his time and energy with the literal translation. He was especially helpful in ensuring the proper spelling and usage of the Navajo language. Judge Tom Tso of the Navajo Tribal Courts assisted with the translation of legal terms from English into the Navajo language. Former Judge Merwin Lynch and now Director of the Division of Community Development of the Navajo Nation and Judge Harry Brown of the Navajo Tribal Courts also made valuable contributions in translating frequently used legal terminology into the Navajo language. Mr. Albert Hale of the Navajo Tribe Department of Justice and President of the Navajo Nation Bar Association made useful comments and suggestions with the overall review.

We are also grateful to Ms. Tova Indritz, Federal Public Defender, and Mr. Mark Jarmie, Assistant United States Attorney, District of New Mexico, for their review and suggestions concerning the English legal

definitions. Mr. Clay Slate, Instructor at the Navajo Academy in Farmington, New Mexico, also made valuable suggestions as to the general English definitions.

Dr. Robert Young, Professor of Linguistics of the University of New Mexico was invaluable as the Chairman of the Review Panel who reviewed the initial draft. As a recognized authority in the Navajo language, Dr. Young contributed materially to refinement of the glossary because of his expert knowledge and extensive experience with the Navajo language.

We also extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Navajo Tribal Judicial Branch and especially to Chief Justice Jerome McCabe and Mr. Edward Martin, Court Administrator, for providing some of the funding used for the project. We also thank Mr. Juan Jose Pena, Official Court Interpreter for the District of New Mexico for his assistance in providing court interpreting techniques as general guides towards development of the glossary.

Finally, we express our appreciation to Mr. Jesse Casaus, Clerk of Court, District of New Mexico, for his overall shepherding of the glossary from concept to completion.

Copies of the glossary are being made available to all federal, state, municipal and tribal courts which have need for this court interpreting tool for non-English speaking Navajos. Similarly, the glossary will be sent to educational institutions which may find such a resource useful.

A supplement to this glossary will be prepared in the near future for land and anatomical terminology to provide an extended base, useful in civil as well as criminal litigation.



Howard C. Bratton
Chief Judge