



Contact: Karen Francis, Judicial Liaison Officer
Administrative Office of the Courts
Navajo Nation Judicial Branch
928-871-7018 (office)
928-871-6761 (fax)
Email: karenfrancis@navajo.org
<http://www.navajocourts.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday, January 25, 2011

OPINION ISSUED IN SEANEZ DISBARMENT

WINDOW ROCK - The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has issued its opinion explaining its January 20, 2011 reinstatement of the permanent disbarment of Frank Seanez for the unauthorized practice of law.

The Court had previously disbarred Mr. Seanez on October 22, 2010 and had lifted the disbarment at his request on November 24, 2010, imposing instead a period of suspension.

The Court was asked to revisit Mr. Seanez's suspended status by the Chief Prosecutor whose investigations had shown Mr. Seanez to still be serving as Chief Legislative Counsel for the Navajo Nation Council during his suspension, and continuing to be practicing law.

In its Opinion, the Court also imposed a civil penalty of \$72,612, which constitutes triple the funds paid to him by the Navajo Nation as mandated by 7 N.N.C. § 606(C).

The Chief Prosecutor had submitted timesheets for Mr. Seanez that showed he received \$24,204 between October 25, 2010 and December 31, 2010. Although Mr. Seanez has continued to be employed past this date, the Court based the triple penalty on the information that it has.

The Court declined to impose the sanction of exclusion, which is also authorized by 7 N.N.C. § 606(C).

The opinion is available at <http://www.navajocourts.org>

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