



August 2, 2012

Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues in our Law School Community,

Serving as dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law has been the greatest honor of my professional career. It has been a joy to serve the wonderful faculty and hard-working staff of this school, our incredible students, and our impressive and loyal alumni, donors and friends.

I have also enjoyed serving the state's judiciary, governor, and legislature in the various roles required of this law school. It has been an honor. As you know, this is the institution where my legal education began. I arrived here in the summer of 1990 for the American Indian Law Center's Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians. I have loved this law school, as well as the State of New Mexico, ever since.

Today, the White House has asked me to become the next Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. The Assistant Secretary's primary constituents are the American Indian people and Indian tribes all across the United States. It is the highest position in the federal government that focuses primarily on Indian Affairs. As a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, it is an incredible honor and a great responsibility to be asked to serve in this role.

I have accepted the nomination and the President of the United States has forwarded my nomination to the United States Senate for confirmation. In light of the presidential election, it is not clear when that will happen.

I have communicated with the UNM President Frank and UNM Provost Abdallah throughout this process. They are aware that they will need to consult with the faculty about the leadership of the School of Law in anticipation of my confirmation. I am grateful for their support.

For now, I will continue to serve the school that I love as Dean, but I wanted to personally let you know of this development. We have a lot of forward momentum, and I will continue to be part of that wonderful momentum until I leave for Washington. Thank you for your support and for being part of this wonderful learning community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin K. Washburn".

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