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PRESS RELEASE

**VANESSA RAY HODGE,
SENIOR COUNSELOR TO THE SOLICITOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
HAS JOINED SONOSKY CHAMBERS LAW FIRM IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.**

Washington, D.C. (February 24, 2016)

The law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP is pleased to announce that Vanessa Ray Hodge (Pueblo of Acoma) has joined the firm as a Partner in Albuquerque. Ms. Ray-Hodge has served for nearly 6 years as the senior counselor appointed to work directly with Solicitor Hilary Tompkins of the Department of the Interior and has practiced for more than 12 years in the field of Federal Indian law since graduating from law school. She has been instrumental in advancing and serving as a primary author for several key decisions and opinions issued over the course of her tenure with the Department. Ms. Ray-Hodge advises clients on an array of Indian law issues, including water, natural resource, treaty rights, gaming, land and ICWA issues.

On Vanessa's recent move to the firm, Sonosky Founding Partner Reid Chambers said, "Vanessa brings the highest caliber work product and an adept and skillful understanding of issues facing tribes. We are very proud to have her as a part of our team again." Vanessa worked previously as an associate at Sonosky. The firm is based in Washington, DC, with additional offices in Alaska (Anchorage and Juneau), San Diego and Albuquerque. Founded in 1976, the firm has a long and successful history representing Tribes and tribal organizations in litigation, on governmental relations, and in economic development matters, and it has an active appellate and Supreme Court practice. The firm's work involves the broad range of issues affecting Tribes, including tribal sovereignty, self-governance, Treaty rights, health care, environmental law, child welfare matters, land acquisition, gaming, transportation and infrastructure development, and water rights.

Vanessa stated that, “I am honored to have had the opportunity to work for the first Native American woman Solicitor of the Interior Department. However, I am grateful now for the opportunity to return to Indian country and determined to help tribes in their future and on-going successes by representing them directly.”

Ms. Ray-Hodge, enrolled at the Pueblo of Acoma, attended Wellesley College where she graduated in 2000 with a major in Anthropology. She then went on to Columbia Law School, graduating with honors in 2003 as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. In the past she has served as President of the Native American Bar Association of D.C. from 2005-2006, and is currently the Vice Chair on the Board for the Native American Youth and Families organization in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Ray-Hodge is barred in Oregon, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C.

For more information, feel free to contact the Albuquerque office of Sonosky Chambers at 505-247-0147.