Bay Mills Election 2013 Candidate Profiles

Shelly Deuman-LeBlanc, Chief Judge candidate

My name is Shelly Deuman-LeBlanc and I'm running for Chief Judge. I was an Appellate Judge for 5 years prior to being appointed Chief Judge on July 1, 2010 until November 2011. For those 6 years, I learned a lot about Tribal Law, procedure and its fair application and enforcement. I have enjoyed the experience I have gained in this position and I would like to do more. That is why I have chosen, once again, to pursue the Chief Judge position.

I stand for fair but firm decision-making. The law is supposed to work with the community, not against it. And I like to think of myself as having the ability to bring what is most important in a case to consideration…the people. But, I can't and will not do this alone. To accomplish this, I must work with the various departments support staff and committees (i.e. social services, law enforcement, and child welfare) to provide a team effort to fighting crime, educating the public, and promoting a safe community. After all, crime in Bay Mills affects us all and it's going to take a community-wide effort if we are to effectively deal with it and realize the most important goal: a safe and proactive community.

Times have changed in Bay Mills, and I feel it is important that our legal system recognize this fact. More than ever, this community is faced with many temptations that could adversely affect the lives of tribal members and those that depend upon them. In particular, our tribal youth is a sensitive population, and if we expect them to be law-abiding citizens, our efforts must begin with them. That's why I support an effort that demonstrates a safe, healthy and law abiding lifestyle with our youth. As your Chief Judge, I would support the allocation of available resources to coordinate a concerted effort toward meaningful programming that would assist our youth in making positive choices or provide a tough but rewarding path for those with bigger issues.

This community is my home. I only want what we all want. A safe community, but an efficient and active justice system to deal with those who need firm persuasion or tough love. I believe my experience can provide this to the Tribe. Miigwetch!

Justin T. Carrick, Chief Judge candidate

To the members of the Bay Mills Indian Community, my name is Justin Carrick and I announce my candidacy for the seat of Chief Judge. I am the oldest son of Justin and Karen Carrick. I am 34 years of age and I have a beautiful wife (Joyce) with three wonderful children (Kendra, Justin, and Brooke). I have a fair amount of experience in the criminal justice system as I have worked for the tribal police department as an officer and also I have worked for the department of corrections. My experience with tribal laws and ordinances is derived from my employment with the police department, my current job with the conservation department and having served a four year term on the conservation committee. I am reasonably knowledgeable with our consent decrees, conservation code, tribal laws and ordinances.

I live my life by standards that far exceed the minimum for this seat. If you elect me as your Chief Judge you will know exactly what you are getting. I treat people with respect and that will never change. I am considerate and impartial and I believe that is important to keep all things fair and just. I respect the laws and ordinances of the Bay Mills Indian Community, and I will see that the integrity of those laws and ordinances are upheld with the highest respect. I love my community, this is the place that we call home and I will see that Bay Mills will remain a clean and safe place to raise our families.

Chief Judge candidates Leah Parish, Justin Teeple, Tamara Munz, and Lynda Parrish-Pesola did not submit profiles.

Bryan Newland, Chief Judge candidate

Dear Bay Mills,

My name is Bryan Newland, and I am asking for your vote for Chief Judge.

I grew up here in Bay Mills, and I still call it home. Because of the opportunities afforded to me by our tribe, and my family, I was able to pursue a higher education and a career in Indian law and policy. While those things took me away from the community that raised me, my heart really never left.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve our tribe as Chief Judge. I believe that the law can be used as a positive force for change, and that a well-functioning legal system can be a great asset to tribal communities. I have built my career on these beliefs.

In 2007, I graduated with High Honors from the Michigan State University College of Law, with a Certificate in Indigenous Law and Policy. Afterwards, I worked for one of the largest law firms in Michigan and later served as an appointee of President Obama at the Department of the Interior. Last year, I moved back to Michigan to establish my own law firm, and to be closer to my family and my tribe. In my law practice, I represent tribes from across the country. I have also been appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Michigan State University College of Law, where I also serve as an Adjunct Professor of Law.

I believe that this experience will help me to effectively serve as Chief Judge.

If elected, I will promote "access to justice" in our community; meaning that I want to make our Tribal Court easy to use for lawyers and non-lawyers alike. This would include publishing tribal court decisions and tribal laws, and making it easier for tribal citizens to go through our justice process – even without a lawyer. I would also work to make sure that our justice process reflects Anishnaabe values.

As your Chief Judge, I would conduct myself according to the highest ethical standards. Ethics, fairness, and professionalism ensure that our tribal citizens trust our tribal court.

Our Tribal Court can be a valuable asset for our community, and can ensure that our tribal laws are enforced. I would be honored to be a part of our tribal justice system by serving as your Chief Judge. And I would be honored to have your vote. Miigwetch.

DNR to host open house on forest management Nov. 7

The Department of Natural Resources will host an open house on Nov. 7 in Newberry to provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments for 2015 in the Newberry management unit, which includes Chippewa and Luce counties. The open house is set for:

Thursday, Nov. 7, 3 to 6 p.m.

DNR Newberry Field Office, 5666 M-123 S, Newberry

Each year, DNR personnel evaluate one-tenth of the state forest. The inventory provides key decision-making information for foresters and wildlife, fisheries and other resource managers. The age, health, quality and quantity of trees and other vegetation are assessed to enable DNR staff to make informed decisions. Timber management, wildlife and fisheries habitat, minerals, archeological sites, recreational use, wildfire potential and social concerns are just some of the topics taken into consideration during this review.

Because the forest is inventoried approximately two years in advance, a year of entry is assigned to indicate when treatments will be prepared. Information currently under review has a 2015 year of entry. This means that treatment activities on lands being reviewed this year will actually begin in 2015.

Proposed treatments, which may include timber harvesting, replanting and other management activities, are designed to ensure the sustainability of all forest resources.

To more easily and efficiently oversee the forest resources, the DNR divides each management unit into smaller units or "compartments."

Maps and information regarding proposed treatments will be available at the open house. The information can also be found at www.michigan.gov/forestplan.

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