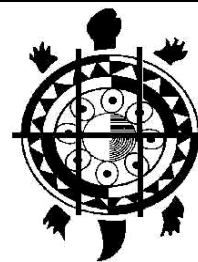




# 'MSHIKE' MZENEGEN' TURTLE PRESS

"MKO GISES"  
~Bear Moon~



## SUPREME COURT



## INVESTITURE CEREMONY

**On December 16, 2010, a very important event took place in the continuing growth of the Tribal Government and in its efforts to expand and assert sovereignty.**

Left to right (front row): Tribal Council Secretary—RoAnn Beebe-Mohr, Chief Justice—John Wabaunsee, Associate Justice—Holly Thompson and Associate Justice—Matthew Fletcher.

Left to right (back row): Tribal Council Sergeant-At-Arms—Nat Spurr, Tribal Council Treasurer—Dorie Rios, Tribal Council Chairman—Homer A. Mandoka and Tribal Council Vice Chairman—Jamie Stuck.

Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Indians

## FIRST TRIBAL SUPREME COURT

(Cont'. from front page)

On that day, the first Tribal Supreme Court was sworn in with **Chief Justice, John Wabaunsee, and Associate Justices, Matthew L. M. Fletcher and Holly K. Thompson** accepting their judicial robes, ceremonial blankets and tobacco from the Tribal Council and the assembled Tribal Members.



**OUR NEW TRIBAL SUPREME COURT**

*left to right: Associate Justice, Matthew Fletcher; Chief Justice, John Wabaunsee and Associate Justice, Holly Thompson, being sworn in by Tribal Council Secretary, RoAnn Beebe-Mohr.*

Having an appellate level court is a very significant step in fully developing and implementing a Tribal judicial system. The appointment of the NHBP Supreme Court fulfills the constitutional mandate to have an appellate court. Additionally, it is a necessary component in order to have a complete judicial system. Now, Tribal Members and everyone, know that there can be a meaningful review of the Tribal Court's actions, orders and decrees. As human institutions, it is possible that mistakes might be made. Review allows mistakes to be corrected. This will continue to inspire confidence that the Tribe's judicial system is fair and equitable.

All three justices are attorneys in good standing in their respective State Bar Associations as mandated by the Tribal Constitution. Chief Justice Wabaunsee is licensed to practice law in the State of Wisconsin; Associate Justice Fletcher is licensed to practice law in Michigan, Arizona and Washington State; and Associate Justice Thompson is licensed to practice in Michigan and Illinois.

Chief Justice Wabaunsee is a Member of the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi of Kansas and is Chief Justice of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Court of Appeals. He was born on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota where his parents were teachers for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He graduated from DePaul University College of Law in 1973. He has served as an attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, at the Indian Desk of the Legal Services Corporation in Wisconsin (which served residents of Indian Reservations), and he finished his legal services career at Wisconsin Legal Services (which served low-income residents of 13 rural Wisconsin counties, as well as the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Chief Justice Wabaunsee worked for the Wisconsin State Public Defenders Office for over 20 years handling criminal defense and high profile cases on a state-wide basis retiring in 2008. During his legal career he assisted the Ho-Chunk Nation and his own Tribe in the development of their court systems. He has been Chief Judge of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation Court of Appeals since 1993, and is also a special judge to the Ho-Chunk Nation.



*After Chief Justice Wabaunsee was sworn in, Tribal Council Chair, Homer Mandoka, presented and assisted him with his judicial robe.*

Associate Justice Fletcher is an Associate Professor of Law at the Michigan State University College of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law.

# FIRST TRIBAL SUPREME COURT

He is the Chief Justice of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Supreme Court and sits as an Appellate Judge for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the Hoopa Valley Tribe. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1997.

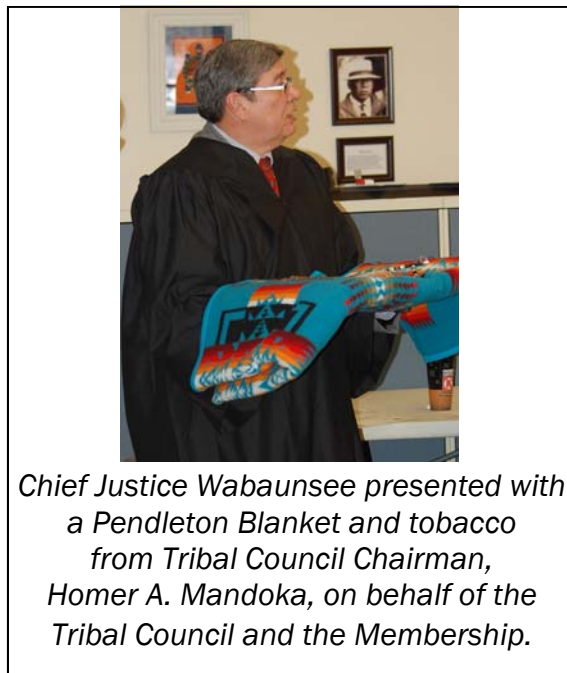
He is a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and has significant family relations who are Potawatomi, having grown up in Wayland, Michigan. He is married to Winona Singel, a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and they have 2 sons.



*After Associate Justice Thompson was sworn in, Tribal Council Chairman, Homer A. Mandoka, presented and assisted her with her judicial robe.*



*After Associate Justice Fletcher was sworn in, Tribal Council Chairman, Homer A. Mandoka, presented and assisted him with his judicial robe.*



*Chief Justice Wabaunsee presented with a Pendleton Blanket and tobacco from Tribal Council Chairman, Homer A. Mandoka, on behalf of the Tribal Council and the Membership.*

Associate Justice Thompson is in private legal practice in Northern Lower Michigan and presently serves as Acting Interim Chief Judge/Associate Judge for the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Court.

She graduated from DePaul University College of Law in 1999 and began her legal career as a Hearing Officer for the Chicago Public Schools. She has also worked as a *Guardian Ad Litem* for the Cook County Public Guardian's Office representing more than 230 children involved in the abuse and neglect system. She has a diverse private practice which focuses on family law, juvenile law, criminal law, estate planning and real estate law. She also teaches criminal justice classes for the University of Phoenix. She is descended from the Yaqui, Apache, Tarascan, and San Felipe Pueblo Tribes. She is married and she and her husband have 3 children.

*Associate Justices Fletcher and Thompson were also presented with a Pendleton Blanket and tobacco from Tribal Council Chairman, Homer A. Mandoka, on behalf of the Tribal Council and the Membership.*

