

AFFIDAVIT OF CELESTE ROBERTSON

STATE OF ARIZONA     )  
                                      ) ss.  
County of Maricopa    )

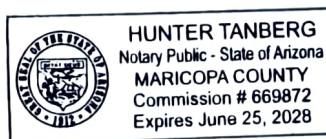
I, Celeste Robertson, the undersigned, being duly sworn, hereby affirm and declare that:

1. My name is Celeste Robertson and I am appointed as a Special Deputy County Attorney for Apache County for the purpose of prosecuting felony cases.
2. I was a Special Deputy County Attorney in June 2025.
3. Garek Kartchner is also appointed as a Special Deputy County Attorney for Apache County for the purpose of prosecuting felony cases and was a Special Deputy County Attorney in June 2025.
4. On June 23, 2025, at 2:27 PM, Round Valley Police Department Chief Dayson Merrill texted me stating:  
                                      “When you get a chance can you give me a call. Bryce Hamblin wanting to do a deposition interview in reference to the Evens wrongful death. He said the defense attorney wants to be present. What’s your thoughts? Ok he said the prosecutor wants to be there.”
5. In response to his request, I called Chief Merrill on June 23, 2025, at 2:29 PM. During that phone call, Chief Merrill asked me whether an attorney would be present for the depositions conducted by Bryce Hamblin in a civil probate case. I stated Mr. Kartchner would be present, but only for observation purposes. I informed Chief Merrill that Mr. Kartchner did not represent Chief Merrill or Officer Jala and would not be objecting or otherwise participating in the depositions. I further informed Chief Merrill that he could contact the Town of Springerville’s attorney or the police union attorney if he wanted counsel present during the depositions. Chief Merrill acknowledged he understood.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2025.

  
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Celeste Robertson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of August, 2025 by Celeste Robertson.



  
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Notary Public