

Diné Justice

A Newsletter of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

Atsábiyáázh
2018



Learning to transcribe the Diné language

The following story was shared by Shirley Leonard, court clerk at Chinle Judicial District, about her experience with the Navajo Court Transcription program at Navajo Technical University, particularly about the 5-page essay the students had to write entirely in the Navajo language:

One day on a Saturday morning, I was stressing out so much on my 5-page essay. I keep putting it off, because I didn't know what to write about or how to start. So, I said to myself, "Okay, I have to do this." As I was typing my essay, my younger sister comes into my house and says, "Good Morning sister. How are you doing?" I told her I am having trouble starting my essay. After a little small talk, she left. A few moments later she returned, and she said, "Shadi, (sister) I found someone who can help you." So, I said, "OK. Who?" I was looking to see who would be coming into my house, but there was no one. Finally, she sat by my side and said, "I brought him." She opened her hands and there was a small horned toad sitting on her right palm. I was surprised. I immediately went to my purse and got my corn pollen and said a prayer and held it to my heart. I blessed myself with the horned toad. After that, I finished both 5-page essays without any problems. It was so amazing. I received an A for my paper. I will always remember this awesome experience. Just imagine how a powerful prayer with corn pollen to a small horned toad can work miraculously.

I am ready to transcribe. I want to be able to continue to keep my Diné Language strong by speaking, reading and writing daily and to also teach my co-workers and my own grandchildren and the younger generation. We will not lose our Diné Language. ●



Shirley Leonard, court clerk at Chinle Judicial District, walks up to the stage to receive her certificate during the commencement ceremony at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M. on December 8, 2017.



The Magnificent 7 show off their certificates following the NTU commencement ceremony.

More from the Navajo Court Transcription Program

Retirement

Acting Chief Justice Holgate



The Judicial Branch thanks Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate for serving as the Acting Chief Justice from August 1, 2017 to January 24, 2018. Holgate emerged from retirement to help out the branch. He was appointed by President Albert Hale in 1997, served as district court judge in Window Rock and Shiprock Judicial District Courts, retired in 2012, and returned to the branch in 2017. The branch wishes him and his family the best as he has returned to retirement. ●

Judge Geraldine Benally



Judge Geraldine Benally is retiring from the bench officially effective March 30, 2018. She is the longest serving judge currently on the bench.

Judge Benally has served the Navajo Nation as a district court judge for 16 years. She has served at Ramah, Kayenta, Chinle, Window Rock and Shiprock Judicial Districts. She also served as an Associate Justice by designation when called upon.

Judge Benally was also a prosecutor for the Navajo Nation for more than 11 years.

Thank you Judge Benally for your service. ●



Welcome



JoAnn Jayne takes the oath of office on January 24, 2018.



ABOVE: Rhonda Tuni takes the oath of office delivered by Chief Justice Jayne with her family and members of the Law and Order Committee watching.

LEFT: Elmer Yazzie is the new Traditional Program Specialist at To'hajilee.

Congratulations and welcome to our new Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, new District Court Judge Rhonda Tuni and new Traditional Program Specialists Elmer Yazzie and Elmer Jackson.

Chief Justice Jayne was confirmed and took the oath of office on January 24, 2018. Jayne is Tábaqhá, born for Kinyaa'áanii. She was born in Shiprock, N.M., and grew up in Tohatchi, N.M. She has a bachelor of science degree in agricultural industry from Arizona State University, a master of science degree in watershed management from University of Arizona and a juris doctor degree from the University of Montana School of Law. She served four consecutive terms in the Montana State House of Representatives where she served on the Appropriations Committee. She was also elected a state Justice Court judge in Lake County, Mont., and has served as a judge in Blackfeet Tribal Court, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court, and the Crow Tribal Court.

Judge Tuni was confirmed and took the oath of office on January 25, 2018. Tuni is from Mexican Water, Utah, and Dennehotso, Ariz. She began her education at Todahdikani Headstart and attended Dennehotso Boarding School and Monument Valley High School. She attended Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., as an undergraduate studying political science and criminology. She earned her juris doctor degree from Arizona Summit Law School where she served as an extern with the Arizona Supreme Court. Ms. Tuni was employed with the Judicial Branch as a staff attorney for the Ramah Judicial District before she was confirmed. Previously, she had worked for the Office of the President and Vice President and the Office of Legislative Counsel. She has also worked for the Judicial Branch under the Nábinahaázlaago Initiative providing case management services for juveniles at the Tuba City Juvenile Detention Center.

Mr. Yazzie began working for the Peacemaking Program on January 22, 2018, at To'hajilee peacemaking office. Mr. Jackson started working February 5, 2018, at Window Rock peacemaking office. ●

Navajo Court Transcription Program



*The rewarding part was meeting new people and just getting to know my classmates more, working together as sisters and communicating together knowing that we could depend on each other.—
Peggy L. Bahe, court clerk, Dilkon Judicial District*



I feel that I have more confidence to communicate with Navajo speaking individuals and to also teach my fellow coworkers on what I have learned.—Rhiannon Guerro, court clerk, Crownpoint Judicial District



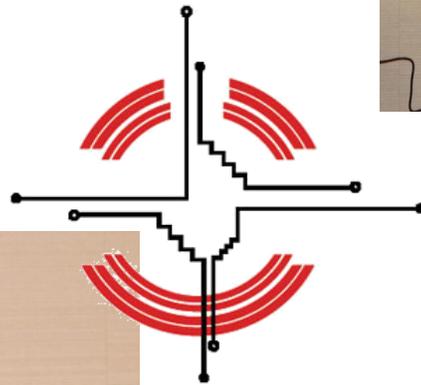
I plan to continue to educate myself and continue teaching my children and others of the wonderful tools and techniques I was able to acquire. - Maris Roe, office technician, Ramah Judicial District, pictured at the graduation ceremony with Dr. Elmer Guy, president of NTU, and retired Acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan, commencement speaker.



JoAnn Plummer, court clerk at Window Rock Judicial District, walks into the commencement ceremony at NTU on December 8, 2017.



I will be able to continue to speak, read, and write Dine language with more confidence. I'm willing to teach the younger generation.—Ruby Frank, traditional program specialist, Ramah Judicial District



Ronda Lewis, court clerk at Window Rock Judicial District, speaks at the reception honoring the Judicial Branch employees who completed the Navajo court transcription program at NTU.



Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley accepts the Honorable Mention award for Best Practices with Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne presenting at the Navajo Nation Public Safety Summit on January 31, 2018, on behalf of the Office of the Chief Justice and Navajo Technical University. The Navajo Court Transcription Program was one of four recipients for the Honorable Mention award.

Judicial District FY 18 1st Quarterly Updates

TUBA CITY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Staff attorneys Tina Tsinigine and Letitia Stover facilitated two pro se training for the public. Training topics included dissolution of marriage, paternity, child visitation, child custody, child support, correction of record, name change, declaration of name, and how to answer a petition. Before they can file pro se packets, individuals wishing to represent themselves are required to attend pro se training so they are aware of what the law requires and their duties and responsibilities in court. A total of 28 participants attended the pro se trainings.

Judge Victoria Yazzie, with assistance from court administrator Alice Huskie and office technician Orlando Sam, facilitated a Criminal Justice Summit meeting on December 8, 2017, at the Tuba City Judicial District. In attendance were representatives of Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Corrections, Navajo Nation Probation/Parole Services, Peacemaking Program, Division of Social Services, and the Tuba City Judicial District. Other local service providers that have an interest in delivery of services by the justice system also attended the meeting. With collaborative efforts, the group hopes to work on identifying ways to share and streamline existing processes to better serve the community.

On October 27, 2017, the Tuba City Judicial District met with local schools to present a flow chart for school truancy. During the summer months, key personnel from the Office of the Prosecutor, Peacemaking Program, Probation and Parole Services, Department of Family Services, and Tuba City Court worked together to develop a work flow chart for the schools to address truancy issues. The schools were appreciative of the truancy program and reported that they are addressing truancy issues in their schools. A follow-up meeting will be held January 12, 2018. ●

KAYENTA JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Kayenta Judicial District court clerks commenced their bi-annual clerk rotation on October 2, 2017. The rotation promotes cross training in different aspects of district and family court proceedings and case management.

On November 9, 2017, the Office of the Chief Justice issued Administrative Order 43-2017, assigning Judge Tina Tsinigine to the Kayenta Judicial District and reassigning Judge Malcolm P. Begay to the Dilkon Judicial District.

All Kayenta Judicial District staff participated in the 2017 Judicial Branch Training on October 31–November 3, 2017, in Phoenix, Arizona. The staff garnered 20 hours of continual education and essential information to enhance and foster professional development within their respective job titles. Judge Malcolm Begay, court administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie, court bailiff Brandyn Benallie, office technician Regina Jones, and clerks Geneva Salt and Valentina Smith served as training presenters.

By invitation, Judge Malcolm P. Begay rendered oaths of office to Mr. Willie Greyeyes as the newly elected secretary/treasurer representing the Naatsi'áan Chapter and new Kayenta Navajo Nation police officer Jonah Davis Tsosie.

Court administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie and court clerks Geneva Salt and Valentina Smith participated in on-line and in-person training for the US Department of Justice and Navajo Nation Tribal Access Program. The training provided information the courts can attain and share with the National Criminal Information Center database.

Judge Tina Tsinigine, staff attorney Letitia Stover, and court administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie received Judicial Branch updates and learned new developments from the quarterly judicial conference on November 29, 2017, in Chinle, AZ.

Staff attorney Letitia Stover provided three pro se trainings for 68 individuals. These trainings are held for individuals who wish to represent themselves and file pro se packets with the court. ●

ANETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

On October 4, 2017, the Aneth Judicial District staff completed a four-hour training on “Active Shooter” provided by the Utah Highway Patrol, Utah Department of Highway Safety. The training was attended by numerous resources from the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation. Participants learned how to provide a safe work environment for staff and the public and how to handle emergency situations as they arise.

On October 26, 2017, staff attorney Glen Renner and traditional program specialist Stanley Nez presented information on probate and quiet title procedures for 20 grazing permittees and District 9 Grazing Committee officials at the Mexican Water Chapter House in Mexican Water, Utah.

On October 2, 2017, staff attorney Glen Renner participated in a conference call on the Tribal Access Program (TAP) with representatives of the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice. Judge Irene S. Black, staff attorney Glen Renner, and Navajo Nation representatives participated in a follow-up TAP meeting in Farmington, NM, on December 4 and 5, 2017.

On October 5, 2017, staff attorney Glen Renner and Kayenta staff attorney Letitia Stover worked on the draft Domestic Violence Bench Book and reviewed forms for the Justware data management system.

On October 20, 2017, staff attorney Glen Renner shared court-related information with ten participants who attended the Aneth District Court Pro Se Clinic.

The United States District Court Tribal Reentry Court (TCRC) for the District of Utah held hearings in Aneth, Utah. The October 6, 2017 hearing was held at the Aneth District Court, and the November 3, 2017, hearing was held at the Aneth Chapter meeting hall since the Aneth District Court was closed due to the training conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The opportunity allowed the Utah Federal Tribal Re-Entry Program to work directly with the Aneth Chapter. TCRC holds monthly review hearings for participants released from federal incarceration to assist them with re-entry back into the Aneth Judicial District communities.

Aneth Judicial District welcomed the assistance of newly hired Judicial Hearing Officer Dorethea Dennetsosie. Ms. Dennetsosie is stationed at the Kayenta Judicial District and travels to Aneth District Court to hear domestic violence cases on Thursday of each week. Ms. Dennetsosie conducted the first DV hearings in Aneth on December 7, 2017. The Aneth Judicial District is thankful and appreciative of Ms. Dennetsosie's help. ●

CHINLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT



The Chinle Judicial District staff began providing court services in the new Chinle Justice Center on October 2, 2017. The staff is excited about the new facility. The public expressed positive comments about the building and how spacious it is. The Chinle Judicial District appreciates Mr. Edward Martin for all the hard work he put into advocating for the building and Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate for permitting staff to move into the building.

The Chinle Judicial District received funds through the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court Grant. Judge Cynthia Thompson was assigned to spearhead the grant. The district is currently in the planning stages of implementing the grant and will meet with key stakeholders in the local communities and begin advertising the resource coordinator position. ●

DZİŁ YIJIIN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Dził Yijiin Judicial District successfully hosted a pro se clinic by DNA People's Legal Services, Inc., on December 11, 2017. The clinic offered legal advice and assistance for individuals seeking legal aid in family civil domestic proceedings, i.e., divorce, name change, correction of record, paternity/child support, guardianship of minor(s), and validation of marriage. The clinic helped individuals file pro se packets with the court for further proceedings.

On October 5, 2017, court administrator Arlene Lee and Judge Rudy Bedonie attended the quarterly Dził Yijiin Regional Council meeting at Hard Rock Chapter. Judge Bedonie presented on the daily court functions and operations at Dził Yijiin Judicial District. The meeting consisted of representatives from various chapters, agencies, local Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, and Apache County sheriffs and deputies.

During the Pinon Chapter community Thanksgiving dinner on November 20, 2017, Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate presented on continuing efforts to collaborate with Navajo Department of Law Enforcement and local resources to maintain the safety and welfare of the communities within the Dził Yijiin Region.

The Dził Yijiin Judicial District Modular Building Project contract packet was assigned #009391. The district anticipates having a complete contract by the end of next quarter. ●

DILKON JUDICIAL DISTRICT

On October 2, 2017, staff participated in the ropes

course/team building exercises at the Northern Arizona University Campus in Flagstaff, Ariz. The court personnel appreciated and enjoyed Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate's presentation on court information and traditional winter stories during the staff Christmas luncheon on December 21, 2017. On October 31–November 3, 2017, the Dilkon Court staff participated in the Judicial Branch 2017 Training Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. These types of activities help staff to be more productive and effective in the workplace and in serving the community.

The Dilkon Judicial District hosted pro se classes on the last two days of each month. Louise Grant with DNA Legal Services, with assistance from staff attorney Jordan Hale, provided monthly public education which has been very helpful for the public, and more and more people are attending the classes.

WINDOW ROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In addition to performing their regularly assigned duties, court clerk Patricia Joe and office technician Patricia Mariano performed delegated court administrator duties and attended scheduled meetings during an extended leave of absence by the court administrator.

Victor Clyde was hired as a judicial hearing officer to handle domestic violence cases in the Window Rock Judicial Districts and other districts as requested.

Judge Geraldine Benally administered oaths of office to law enforcement personnel on October 23, 2017, and November 16, 2017.

On October 26, 2017, Judge Perry attended a meeting regarding exclusion and banishment at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Bi-Culture Training Manager Elaine Henderson with the Peacemaking Program provided Life Value Workshops on October 27, 2017, November 17, 2017, and December 15, 2017. ●

SHIPROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Shiprock Judicial and Public Safety Facility Project task force, Navajo Nation Department of Corrections director Delores Greyeyes, and staff worked diligently on the project following funding of \$3.1 million for the Judicial/Public Safety Facilities Fund for the project management services. Publication of the Statement of Qualifications and Fee Proposal for a full project management firm, submission of proposals, proposal evaluations, and interviews were completed. The Notice of Award went to Parsons followed by a negotiation meeting with Parsons project manager Tom Bielecki on No-

vember 27, 2017. The Notice of Intent to Award – Project Management Services was issued to Parsons on December 12, 2017, by Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, Department of Corrections. Once applicable contract documents are submitted to the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections, they will be sent through the Section 164 Review process for approval. ●

CROWNPOINT JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In preparation for the e-payment roll out to Crownpoint Judicial District, two staff were assigned to update traffic information from 1998 to the present. One clerk completed updates from 1998 to 2001, and the other completed updates from 2012 to 2017. This task will continue until it is completed.

Two local in-service trainings on Fire & Safety Evacuation and Establishing a Safety Committee were held for the Crownpoint and Pueblo Pintado court staff. The district schedules in-service trainings and presentations for court staff for personal and professional development.

The Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court in Pueblo Pintado, N.M., will soon be opening its doors. Punch list items are being addressed, wiring for internet connections was completed, requests for telephone installation were submitted to Navajo Nation Telecommunications and Utilities, and staff cleaned the exterior grounds of the area. The final walkthrough of the modular building for issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy is anticipated in the next quarter, as well as relocation of staff and court services.

Court administrator Rena Thompson and the staff of Pueblo Pintado gave an update on the opening of the circuit court during a Law & Order Committee meeting in Pueblo Pintado on December 5, 2017. The committee discussed the need to expedite the opening of the circuit court and to establish it as a separate judicial district.

The Crownpoint Judicial District was fortunate to have one student intern this quarter. Ms. June Chavez, student intern with the University of New Mexico Gallup Branch, completed 104 hours assisting the Crownpoint Judicial District on Thursdays and Fridays beginning October 19, 2017, and ending December 15, 2017. ●

RAMAH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court administrator Esther Jose and staff attorney Rhonda Tuni hosted a resource meeting to provide an important mechanism for interagency planning and coordination at the service delivery level, as well as to help define a clear vision for strategies to coordinate future

services with other programs. Key stakeholders representing cultural communities and educational institutions, are given opportunity to participate in the resource meetings at Ramah District Court. At the conclusion of the meeting, comments and questions raised by the participants were addressed, and refreshments and lunch were served to the participants.

Temporary worker Arbre Jake's last day working with the Ramah District Court was November 17, 2017. Ms. Jake was a volunteer worker under the WIA Program which was funded by the Ramah Navajo School, Board, Inc. Ms. Jake's work as a temporary office technician was excellent. Not only did she perform office technician duties, she also assisted the court clerks and other staff, as needed. On November 29, 2017, Ms. Jake was rehired as a temporary employee to February 16, 2018, using the Ramah Judicial District's budget. ●

ALAMO/TO'HAJIILEE JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Program coordinator Dorothy Waisanen and court administrator Regina Begay-Roanhorse participated in the 3rd Annual Gallup Veterans Summit & Stand Down at the Red Rock Park in Gallup, New Mexico. Ms. Waisanen and Ms. Begay-Roanhorse attended several planning meetings with the military support group to plan the Veterans Summit & Stand Down, "Finding Your New Normal, on October 5–6, 2017. The group met with Veterans Affairs Center, HUD VASH, Navajo Department of Behavioral Health Services (traditional and faith-based providers), Diné Bi Hohan, New Mexico and Navajo Veterans Administration, Navajo Nation Veterans Service Office, City of Gallup, volunteers, veterans, and families to identify speakers to address PTSD as a result of military service and to provide other support services. Other presentations included College Process for Veterans, State Benefits/Compensation Pension, Vet Center Services, Questions Persuade and Response Training (Suicide Training), HUD-VASH Housing for Veterans, Gallup Outpatient Program, and the New Mexico State Veteran Cemetery Program. A 5K run/walk was sponsored by Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services, veterans from different branches of services shared stories of transition and healing, and a Q&A session was held. With all the teamwork, this event was a success.

Ms. Waisanen and Ms. Begay-Roanhorse attended Eastern Navajo Veterans Organization meetings and strategic planning sessions. The organization is comprised of 32 Navajo chapter veteran organizations. Although these organizations are not Navajo Nation organizations, they receive some funding through their chapters. The VJO and

court administrator attended meetings on October 12, 2017, at Manuelito Chapter, November 9, 2017, at White Rock Chapter, and December 14, 2017, at Ramah Chapter to provide information on resources for veterans. The VJO and court administrator facilitated strategic planning sessions at Church Rock Chapter, Bread Springs Chapter, and Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M., on August 20, September 17, and October 23, 2017. The product of these meetings is a strategic plan for trust funds, education, and housing for Navajo veterans which are natural supports for veterans involved with behavioral health services for PTSD and/or other combat-related challenges.

The Naasgo Hozho Whindzin Coalition consisting of staff of Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District, Alamo Behavioral Health Services, Alamo Navajo School Board, Alamo Chapter, Alamo Peacemaking Program, and community members completed its 2017 Strategic Plan. Technical assistance was provided by Kauffman and Associates. Though funding that was available through a SAMHSA grant was expended, the coalition continued to meet in the Fall of 2017.

The Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District convened the Naasgo Hozho Whindzin Coalition resource meetings on October 27, November 17, and December 4, 2017, to discuss the Coalition's vision and future activities. There was a strong push to engage Navajo Nation police services again because of the increasing drug activities and violent crimes. Previously, the coalition tried to hold a law enforcement roundtable. However, that effort turned into a negative experience for the community. This time, the coalition decided to draft questions before the town hall so that decision-makers at Navajo Division of Public Safety can research and prepare responses prior to the town hall so that when they meet with the community, there is a focused discussion. The Coalition drafted a document of proposed questions and gave it to Ramah/Alamo/To'hajiilee council delegate Norman M. Begay in efforts to schedule a future "town hall."

The Children's Court Improvement Commission (CCIC) is made up of members appointed by the Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court to improve New Mexico's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The CCIC invited Peacemaking Program coordinator Roman Bitsuie and Alamo/To'hajiilee staff attorney Alisha R. Thompson to a regular meeting to discuss the Navajo Nation Peacemaking Program. At the meeting on October 26, 2017, Mr. Bitsuie and Ms. Thompson discussed how peacemaking works and recommended that it is culturally appropriate to be included at every juncture in the New Mexico child welfare system. Efforts will be made to refer children and families to the Peacemaking Program before and after disposition. Further discussions are needed to identify resources to fund the project. ●

Office of Probation & Parole Services

The chief probation officer Lucinda Yellowhair implemented projects at each district to work with service providers, the community, and schools to educate and provide clarification on the duties and responsibilities of Navajo Nation Probation Services, how probation services help people in terms of making proper referrals for clients, and to ensure safety for victims and the community.

The Coconino County Probation Services requested to renew its existing memorandum of understanding which permits them to facilitate Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) sessions for both Coconino County probation clients and Navajo Nation probation clients at Tuba City Probation Services. A Navajo Nation MRT is in the development stages.

The Office of the Chief Probation Officer worked with districts in auditing cases and reviewing and updating quarterly reports and statistics.

The CPO and senior probation officers met three times during this quarter to discuss, update, plan, and implement new projects/tasks for the district probation officers, resolve issues within the districts regarding clients, personnel, and/or concerns by the public, and to enhance the Navajo Nation Probation Services.

The CPO met with the Tuba City probation officers to discuss revisiting MRT implementation with Coconino County Probation Services. As a result of technical issues experienced by the CCPS, the last year did not work out as anticipated. The technical issues have been resolved, and the team is eager to resume facilitating and working with Tuba City Probation Services. Both probation departments are collaborating in assessing clients for Navajo as well as referring Navajo clients that are under CCPS's supervision. The MRT sessions are progressing.

The CPO met with Kayenta, Tuba City, and Chinle Probation Services to review quarterly reports, discuss previous reports, and clarify the type of information needed to prepare a report. The CPO will work with the other districts in the next quarter. The purpose of this review of reports is consistency, to identify information that needs to be reported, and to help staff develop, enhance, and report work they do on a daily basis.

Senior probation officers Harmon Mason and JoAnn Holyan-Terry, CPO, and staff attorney Alisha Thompson held a one-week work session on revising the Standard Operation Procedures for Probation Services. The revision of the manual is a lengthy process and requires a lot of discussions, thought, and legal clarification to ensure that the product is an adequate procedural manual for probation services. The manual is anticipated to be finalized after Ms. Thompson's final review.



Probation officers present during the Navajo Nation Public Safety Summit.

Senior probation officer Harmon Mason and CPO completed new staff orientation with two newly hired probation officers. The orientation included an overview of statistics, case management, and reports. Both probation officers started receiving cases and are now working on assigned cases.

By invitation of Arizona Supreme Court Probation Department Manager Shanda Breed, probation officers Bernita Dalton and Shelia Begishie and CPO Lucinda Yellowhair attended the 2017 Sex Offenders Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. The information obtained was informative and provided ideas of how Navajo Nation Probation Services can account for clients on probation who are registered sex offenders and find available resources to help them. Discussions will continue and eventually this topic will be added to PPS case management.

The CPO met with Kerry Hyatt, grant manager for the Arizona Department of Corrections, to discuss potential grant offers regarding reentry issues and working together to seek grants. Ms. Hyatt was interested and eager to work and find avenues to assist Navajo reentry development. Future meetings will continue and include grants administrator Raquel Chee.

The Navajo Nation Probation Services operations and case management is a daily task. The senior probation officers and CPO are routinely faced with various issues related to cases, clients, courtesy cases, and working with service providers to strategize and plan for a collaborative infrastructure to help that one person before the Navajo courts. Accountability, consistency, and proper management are tasks that PPS continually works on a daily basis. The Navajo Nation probation officers work hard, face challenges, and progress with limited resources to help clients. It is a continual work in progress. ●

Peacemaking Program



Work on the new \$350,000 grant is slowed because the grant has not yet been accepted by the Navajo Nation. During first quarter, the Peacemaking Program submitted an application for a \$700,000 grant to implement the violence against women aspects of the Diné Action Plan. The

grant award will be announced in October 2018. The program appreciates the assistance of grants administrator Raquel Chee, who continues to be professional and responsive.

Elaine Henderson's move from the Window Rock Traditional Program Specialist position to the bi-culture training specialist position is solidifying in the first quarter. In this revised role, Ms. Henderson provides direct supervision of day-to-day operations for the TPS and other staff. Her expertise will assist all Peacemaking Program staff as the program operation is refined to achieve higher consistency, quality, responsiveness, and professionalism.

Ms. Henderson's history of high quality work will benefit the entire Peacemaking Program. She is working to improve the reporting and case management practices, and to assure that the reporting statistics reflect all goals including those that are subjective and culturally-based.

In spite of fiscal limitations, the Peacemaking Program met or exceeded all of its quarterly performance criteria goals. The traditional program specialists provided direct peacemaking services in 380 encounters.

The Peacemaking Program coordinator worked with staff and external stakeholders. Meetings included training and coordination with 13 community peacemakers, 30 personnel from the New Mexico courts, working with Navajo Judicial Districts, and a meeting with the Pueblo of Laguna. External agency meetings included US DOJ regarding the new grant, the Navajo Nation Judicial Conduct Commission, and the USDOJ regarding the Diné Action Plan. Internal strategic meetings included meeting with the former chief justice and an attorney regarding the proposed Title 25.

The Peacemaking Program prioritized work based on the goals set by the Navajo Nation Council and the Judicial Branch. These are examples from some of the judicial districts:

Alamo. The new TPS is successfully managing a full workload. She provided peacemaking services for cases referred by the probation officer, truancy, and walk-ins.

The walk-in case was referred by Alamo Health Services Coordinator of Addiction Treatment Services. There are three truancy cases including two referred by the prosecutor. She is refreshing the Memoranda of Agreement with the schools and working to reduce truancy. She is also working with the chapters and local health administration.

Dilkon. The TPS focused on working with schools and students, and pursuing activities under the schools' Memoranda of Agreement. She also provided peacemaking services for court-referred cases and walk-ins, and engages strongly with the community.

Dzil Yijiin. The TPS is severely hampered by the lack of office space. He works out of the Hard Rock chapter house when the situation permits, but has no home base from which to conduct work.

Kayenta. The TPS is using community-based peacemakers to work closely with the local school district. Twenty-six referrals were made from the San Juan Utah School District for peacemaking and individual life value engagement sessions for truancy, low grades, traditional talk/teaching, grief and loss, absent parent(s), and teen relationship problems. Twenty-five referrals are open and pending at the request of the school and students. Students are taught about the history of peacemaking, K'e concept, clan system, healing concept, Fundamental Laws of the Diné, and male/female puberty stage (tacheeh). The assigned peacemaker shared the journey narratives and twin warrior stories.

The TPS worked with Navajo Nation Probation and Parole Services and court-referred cases to provide 25 peacemaking counseling sessions. There were nine referrals by Kayenta Probation and Parole Services for group sessions. The TPS provided Diné traditional teaching/counseling and lectures on the difference between the court process and Diné peacemaking process. Individuals are court ordered by Kayenta, Shiprock, or Chinle courts to complete life value engagement sessions while in custody at Kayenta Department of Corrections. Counseling was provided three times a week to inmates at Kayenta DOC.

Tuba City. The Tuba City TPS has been actively engaged in direct LVE services on wide-ranging issues, including incarcerated persons, and has been successfully working with community-based peacemakers for families who are seeking Navajo traditional teachings and biblically-based information. Successes include reduction in truancy and return to Hozho for families in distress over domestic violence, teen parenthood, alcohol abuse, and other issues.

The TPS has also been working with schools and community groups to teach residents about peacemaking services, provide traditional education, and coordinate services with educational and health care providers. ●

Navajo Nation Integrated Information Sharing Project

NNIJISP program manager Michelle Yazzie monitored expenditures in the NNIJISP Business Unit. In FY2018, NNIJISP received \$484,160 to continue its data sharing efforts among the NNIJISP partners. The FY2018 program performance criteria goals and objectives were developed and shared with the partners. The FY2017 appropriated amount of \$300,000 for NNIJISP was expended at 99 percent. A portion of these funds is used to pay expenses for other NNIJISP partners, i.e., Justware support and user licenses totaling \$79,275 for Division of Social Services; servers totaling \$15,987.33 for DPS Information Management Section; and network penetration testing totaling \$30,000 for Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology. The Judicial Branch also purchased additional equipment totaling \$66,384.80.

The NNIJISP partners officially re-grouped as a committee and updated the memorandum of understanding. The Division of Natural Resources, including Animal Control, Rangers, Fish & Wildlife and Resource Enforcement, is interested in becoming a NNIJISP partner.

NNIJISP will move forward to address three important issues brought up by Division of Public Safety executive director Jessie Delmar in that the Navajo Nation is far behind in technology and it needs more people, more infrastructure, and more technology. As an example, Voice Over IP (VOIP) has been in use outside Indian Country for decades, and is finally being introduced on the Navajo Nation. The data sharing technology, in and outside the Navajo Nation, benefits all criminal justice components, i.e., prosecutors, law enforcement, courts, etc., to combat crime.

Electronic signature capability is available in Justware; however, the Navajo Nation needs to address the rules and regulations of its use before it is implemented.

Frontier Communications, the local ISP provider, stated that the connections are saturated; therefore, NNIJISP needs to look at other alternatives to address internet connectivity, stable connectivity, and speed of network connectivity.

NNIJISP Program Manager Michelle Yazzie:

- Gave updates on NNIJISP at the Administrative Office of the Courts manager meetings.
- Participated in weekly conference calls regarding the Tribal Access Program (TAP). The User Agency Agreement (UAA) was signed for NNIJISP to participate as a Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC). TAC will administer FBI CJIS programs within the user agency and ensure compliance with policies. TAC acts as the local agency security officer, joint automated booking systems/civil applicant system local agency coordinator, and the N-DEx agency coordinator. The TAC responds to requests for new user accounts, password resets, validating user accounts, requesting account suspension when access is no longer needed, and ensuring that validations are accurate and complete within the validation certification period.
- Participated in meetings regarding the Judicial Branch's participation in TAP. After discussions, evaluations, assessments, and research, a decision was made that the Judicial Branch would not participate in TAP.
- Participated in weekly conference calls with USDOJ for the implementation of TAP. Provided a listing of Judicial Branch participants and key personnel along with the identification for Open Fox Messenger. The TAP go-live week was November 13, 2017 and a kick-off meeting was held at the Navajo Nation Museum and Library in Window Rock, Arizona.
- Participated in a meeting with USDOJ and Judicial Branch to identify roles and responsibilities of district court staff on November 14, 2017.
- Participated in JusticeWeb regarding on-line payment account setup and account approval. Journal Technologies and nCourts are working on issues involving multiple bank accounts before implementing the next phase of the pilot project, which includes Shiprock, Aneth, and Chinle courts.
- Assisted with planning of the Judicial Branch Training Conference held October 31–November 4, 2017, in Phoenix, Ariz. Coordinated and identified Justware breakout sessions and other breakout sessions that would benefit clerks, office technicians, probation officers, custodians, bailiffs, judges, staff attorneys, traditional program specialists, court administrators, and staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Discussions were held on agenda topics, i.e., welcome address, master of ceremonies, special guest speakers, and other dignitaries.
- Conducted work sessions with staff attorneys to consolidate JDA forms that will be included in the Justware application throughout the judicial districts.
- Involved in plans to implement the FMIS 6B Roll-Out provided by the Department of Corrections staff.
- Participated in the final revisions of the Diné Action Plan document. ●

Judicial Conduct Commission



Judicial Conduct Commission member Troy Eid, JCC Vice Chairman Manley Begay, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley, JCC member Judy R. Apachee, and JCC member William Thorne.

The Judicial Conduct Commission held a work session on December 7, 2017, with the Law and Order Committee at Twin Arrows, Arizona. The Committee and the Commission discussed the possibility of the Commission taking on additional duties to assist the Committee with screening and selection of judge applicants. The Commission has assisted previously with evaluating the writing sample required as part of the application for judges. Within this quarter, the Commission has once again been asked to assist with evaluation of writing samples and has recommended that its members also interview the applicants before making a recommendation.

The Commission held an official meeting on December 7, 2017. During this meeting, the Commission heard reports from Commission member Judy R. Apachee and staff members Alisha Thompson, LaVerne Garnenez, Karen Francis and Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley on the 25th National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics conference. They expressed to the Commission that other commission members and staff are very interested in the unique development of the Navajo Nation Judicial Conduct Commission's plan of operations and rules and procedures

and that the Navajo Nation JCC is the first Native American Commission that many are aware of attending the conference. The attendees learned a lot from attending the conference and have already used some of the knowledge they gained in addressing other issues on behalf of the Judicial Branch. Commission members were given binders of the extensive materials that were covered during the conference. During the December 7, 2017, meeting, the Commission heard a report from Human Rights Commission Chairwoman Dr. Jennifer Denetdeal and Lauren Bernally of the Human Rights Commission Office on, "The Status of Navajo Women and Gender Violence." The Commission heard a report from Roman Bitsuie, Peacemaking Program Coordinator, on Diné Fundamental Law training curriculum for judges.

Judicial Branch staff who have been assisting the Commission include Karen Francis, government relations officer; Alisha Thompson, staff attorney; LaVerne Garnenez, law clerk; Roman Bitsuie, Peacemaking Program coordinator; Ralph Roanhorse, human resources director; Linda Williams, office technician; and Paulette Begay, financial technician. ●

Employee Recognition

In November 2017, the Judicial Branch recognized and honored employees for their years of service to the Navajo Nation. The following Judicial Branch employees have worked for the Navajo Nation for 20 or more years.

20-24 years

Geneva Lee
 Ruby K. Frank
 LaVerne Garnenez
 Patricia Peterson
 Tanya J. Chavez
 Rosella T. Chee
 Emma Hannah
 Linda M. James
 Cornelia Jones
 Verlena Hale
 Larry Hoskie, Jr.
 Darlene LaFrance
 Charlotte Tapaha
 Genevieve Woody
 Loretta Yazzie

25-29 years

Emma R. Davis
 Susie Martin
 Michael Smith

Sharon J. Willie
 Lavonne Yazzie
 Pauline Yazzie
 Alice Huskie
 Leonard R. Livingston
 Vanessa Mescal
 Joann Plummer
 Marlene Johnson
 Gibson McDonald
 Vernita Numkena
 Geraldine Sakiestewa
 Chester J. Stanley
 Dianna Tsosie
 Louise C. Weaver
 Joseph Bedonie
 Arlene Begay
 Geraldine Benally
 Shirley Leonard
 Ben Mariano, Jr.
 Melva C. Ramsey
 Lucia M. Barton-Jensen

Paulette C. Begay
 Marshall Benally
 Eleanor Shirley
 Virginia T. Vandever
 Lucinda A. Yellowhair

30-34 years

Glenda Begay
 Teresa Chee
 Margie D. Craig
 Amy Hatathlie
 Victoria Joe
 Geneva Salt
 Camille Linkous
 Doris Tsosie
 Lenora Begay
 Esther Jose
 Ethel S. Laughing
 Tom B. McCrary

35-39 years

Rudy I. Bedonie
 Joanna Terry-Holyan
 Eva A. Sam
 Clarina Simeona
 Patricia Joe
 Bernice Roe
 Roberta Sam

40+ years

Margaret A. Benally
 Rena Thompson
 Marie Denetdeal



Sharon J. Willie, Pauline Yazzie, Susie Martin, Lavonne Yazzie and Emma R. Davis have served 25 years each.

Doris Tsosie (RIGHT), pictured with Linda Williams, was recognized for 33 years of service at the Employee Recognition during the Judicial Branch's Annual Conference in November 2017. Ms. Tsosie is a court clerk at Window Rock Judicial District. Ms. Williams is an office technician at the Administrative Office of the Courts.



This photo shows more than 100 years of experience with the Navajo Nation. Esther Jose, Tom B. McCrary and Ethel Laughing have each served the Navajo Nation for 34 years. Ms. Jose is the court administrator for Ramah Judicial District, Mr. McCrary is a probation officer at Tuba City Judicial District and Ms. Laughing is the court administrator for Shiprock Judicial District.



Clarina Simeona and Rudy Bedonie were recognized for 35 years of service to the Navajo Nation. Ms. Simeona is a court clerk at Chinle Judicial District. Judge Bedonie is the presiding judge at Chinle and Dził Yijiin Judicial Districts.



Other news

February 19, 2018

President's Day Holiday. Judicial Branch closed.

February 22, 2018

Pro Se Class, Chinle Judicial District Court, Chinle, Ariz.,
8:30 a.m.

March 1, 2018

Pro Se Class, Chinle Judicial District Court, Chinle, Ariz.,
8:30 a.m.

March 8, 2018

Pro Se Class, Chinle Judicial District Court, Chinle, Ariz.,
8:30 a.m.

March 15, 2018

Pro Se Class, Chinle Judicial District Court, Chinle, Ariz.,
8:30 a.m.

March 22, 2018

Pro Se Class, Chinle Judicial District Court, Chinle, Ariz.,
8:30 a.m.

April 4, 2018

Justice Day, Chinle Judicial District, Chinle, Ariz.

April 5, 2018

Justice Day, Dził Yijiin Judicial District, Pinon, Ariz.
Justice Day, Crownpoint Judicial District, Crownpoint,
N.M.

April 6, 2018

Justice Day, Dilkon Judicial District, Dilkon, Ariz.
Justice Day, To'hajiilee Court, To'hajiilee, N.M.
Justice Day, Kayenta Judicial District, Kayenta, Ariz.
Justice Day, Tuba City Judicial District, Tuba City, Ariz.

Judicial Branch Statistical Caseload Report for FY18 1st Quarter

CASE TYPE	CASELOAD	CLOSED CAS-ES
Civil	1789	229
Criminal	7252	993
Civil Traffic	6735	1591
Criminal Traffic	1592	211
Family Civil	2564	562
Domestic Violence	1609	762
Dependency	497	48
Delinquency	205	30
CHINS	70	5
Supreme Court	131	25
Probation/Parole	3050	853
Peacemaking	505	185

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT

The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has received a petition to amend parts of the Navajo Rules of Criminal Procedures. The Supreme Court has the authority to adopt, and thereby amend, rules of pleading, practice and procedure applicable to all proceedings in courts of the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation Code, at 7 N.N.C. § 601, requires consultation and public comment to adopt rules of procedure. The petition and the proposed rules can be found on the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch website at <http://www.navajocourts.org>. Public comment and consultation on the proposed Rules are being accepted from January 24, 2018 through February 23, 2018, at 5 p.m.

Please direct all input to the Government Relations Officer at karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov by that date. •