

RESOLUTION OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF  
THE NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL

Recommending the Establishment of the  
Judicial Conduct Commission

WHEREAS:

1. The Judiciary Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council, the standing committee providing oversight to the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Tribal Government, is authorized to sponsor projects and legislation to improve the quality of the Navajo justice system; and

2. On July 21, 1986, the Judiciary Committee adopted a resolution requesting the Chief Justice to develop a plan for a Judicial Conduct Commission; such a plan has been prepared and submitted to the Judiciary Committee by the Chief Justice; and

3. The plan has been approved by the Navajo judiciary in Judicial Conference and it should be supported by all parts of the Navajo Tribal Government as it will strengthen the courts by providing guidelines and procedures for handling judicial misconduct or impropriety; and

4. It is in the best interest of the Navajo judicial system and of the Navajo people that the proposed independent Judicial Conduct Commission be established so as to promote public confidence in the Navajo judiciary by establishing a uniform system of accountability for the Navajo Tribal Justices and Judges.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. The Judiciary Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council supports and recommends the establishment of the Judicial Conduct Commission as outlined in the attached Exhibit A.

2. The Judiciary Committee requests and recommends the Navajo Tribal Government to support and assist the Judicial Conduct Commission.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered by the Judiciary Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 05 in favor and 00 opposed, this 31st day of August, 1988.

  
Chairman  
Judiciary Committee

RESOLUTION OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

SUPPORTING A JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION

**WHEREAS:**

1. 7 N.T.C., Sec. 371, makes the Chief Justice the administrative head of the Judicial Branch and the supervisor of the work of the Navajo Nation justices and judges;

2. 7 N.T.C., Sec. 351, provides for removal of justices and judges for certain causes;

3. Guidance and discipline of justices and judges are the responsibility of the Chief Justice;

4. Although the Navajo Nation judiciary has adopted the Code of Judicial Conduct there is no procedure for complaints of violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or of other judicial impropriety;

5. In order for the public to maintain confidence in the Navajo Nation judicial system it is necessary that the justices and judges establish a system of accountability;

6. It is in the best interests of the Navajo Nation justices and judges and of the Navajo people that a Judicial Conduct Commission review serious and substantial allegations of judicial misconduct.

7. On November 21, 1986, the Judicial Conference passed a resolution supporting a Judicial Conduct Commission and that resolution was affirmed on January 29, 1988.

8. Since that time minor revisions have been made in the plan for the Judicial Conduct Commission and the revised plan has been reviewed by the justices and judges.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

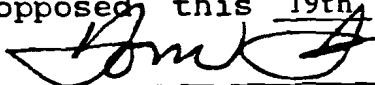
1. The Navajo Nation justices and judges in Judicial Conference support the establishment of a separate Judicial Conduct Commission to review serious and substantial allegations of judicial misconduct.


2. The plan for a Judicial Conduct Commission submitted by the Chief Justice is supported by this Judicial Conference.

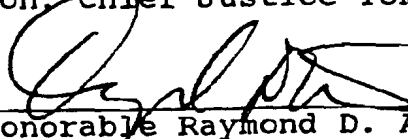
3. The resolution of the Judicial Conference regarding the Judicial Conduct Commission passed on November 21, 1986, and affirmed on January 29, 1988, is hereby rescinded.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Justices and Judges of the Navajo Nation at a duly called Judicial Conference in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 11 in favor and 0 opposed, this 19th day of August, 1988.

  
Hon. Chief Justice Tom Tso

  
Honorable Homer Bluehouse

  
Honorable Raymond D. Austin

  
Honorable Marie F. Neswood

  
Honorable Harry D. Brown

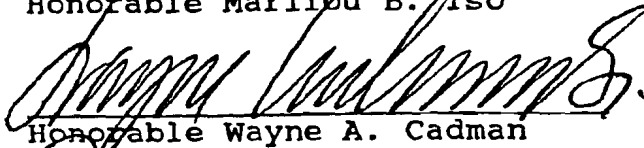
  
Honorable Evelyne E. Bradley

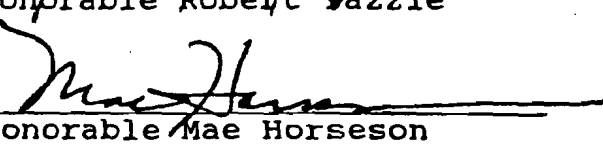
  
Honorable Leonard Hilt

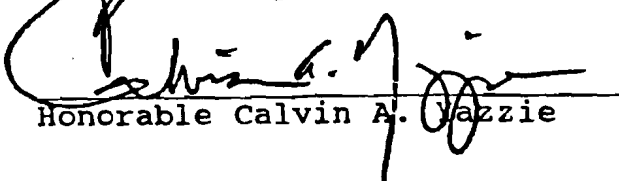
  
Honorable Manuel Watchman

  
Honorable Marilou B. Tso

  
Honorable Robert Yazzie

  
Honorable Wayne A. Cadman

  
Honorable Mae Horseson

  
Honorable Calvin A. Yazzie

  
Honorable Ray Gilmore