FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2018

TUNI CONFIRMED PROBATIONARY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Rhonda Tuni was confirmed as a probationary district court judge by the Navajo Nation Council on January 25, 2018, with a vote of 20 in favor and none opposed.

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.

Tuni has been employed with the Judicial Branch as a staff attorney for the Ramah Judicial District since October 2017. 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.

Tuni said she has always stayed close to home due to her close relationship with her maternal and paternal grandmothers. She said she was raised to practice the traditional ways of the Navajo people and continues to have a strong urge to help her people utilizing her understanding of the Diné way of life and teachings.

Tuni was recommended as an applicant for the position of district court judge by the Law and Order Committee through Resolution No. LOCO-26-17 and was appointed by President Russell Begaye on January 16, 2018. Law and Order Committee member Otto Tso presented the legislation to confirm her probationary appointment. Judges and justices of the Navajo Nation are initially appointed for probationary periods of two years.

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