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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: Tuesday April 17, 2018**

### **KAYENTA JUDICIAL DISTRICT HOLDING AMNESTY DAY**

The Kayenta Judicial District is holding Amnesty Day for individuals to address bench warrants. The Amnesty Day provides individuals with the opportunity to come in and resolve outstanding warrants at the judicial district without fear of being arrested.

The Amnesty Day will be held on April 30, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Kayenta Judicial District has 380 pending criminal and criminal traffic bench warrants pending service of process. This represents 50 percent of the district's backlog of cases.

Navajo Nation Public Defender, the Office of the Prosecutor and Probation and Parole Services will be on-site to help resolve the outstanding warrants.

In addition, the Kayenta Judicial District will be offering its mobile court services for easy access for users to Navajo court related information and processes on Friday, April 20, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Tsa'ah bii Kin Chapter House in Inscription House, Ariz.

Mobile court services include new Navajo Nation court case filings, pending family and district court case inquiries, fine/fee payments, probation services, peacemaking services and free pro se legal clinic.

For more information, please call (928) 697-5541.

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“most recently when we took a look at our backlog, we ran our annual statistics. In there when you look at our annual report, when we dissected it, much of the older cases, criminal and traffic cases that are pending, as of the end of December, on our crim cases we had 46% of the backlog was bench warrants. In traffic criminal 55% was pending warrants. When we say backlog, at the end of 2012 that means all cases from 2015 on back, criminal we had 267 backlog cases and 4\_% was pending warrants, for traffic crimianl55% were pending warrants. With shortage of police officers out here they don't have manpower to actively serve warrants so a lot of them remain pending until the person is picked up or if reviewed, case gets closed due to lack of service. This gives an opportunity to the defendant to come to take care of cases. Navajo nation and public defender will be here in Kayenta. They can meet with prosecutor or if they have trials they failed to appear for for sentencing they can sit down and talk to nn, bring case back up to schedule for resolution.