

No. SC-SP-02-07

SUPREME COURT OF THE NAVAJO NATION

In the Matter of Policies for the Conduct
of Hearings Outside the Navajo Nation.

POLICIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF HEARINGS
OUTSIDE THE NAVAJO NATION

Before YAZZIE, Chief Justice, and FERGUSON, Associate Justice.

Original proceeding pursuant to 7 N.N.C. § 301(C).

Pursuant to 7 N.N.C. § 301(C), the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation establishes the following policies for the conduct of hearings outside the Navajo Nation:

The Supreme Court may hold hearings outside the Navajo Nation upon the following conditions:

- (1) The hearing must be held at the invitation of a law school. Non-law school departments of a university may co-sponsor a hearing, but a law school must make the invitation. The law school shall invite the Supreme Court to hold a hearing through a letter addressed to the Chief Justice.
- (2) The Chief Justice will accept such invitation when he or she believes that holding a hearing at the law school will benefit the Navajo Nation and the Judicial Branch by informing the public about the work of the Navajo Supreme Court, the Navajo Nation and its laws, government, and culture, and the importance of tribal sovereignty.
- (3) The Chief Justice will give priority to schools with Navajo law students.
- (4) The Chief Justice may only accept two invitations each calendar year.
- (5) Upon acceptance of an invitation, the Supreme Court shall select a case to hear, and shall inform the parties of its intention to hold a hearing at the law school. The parties shall have the opportunity to object to the hearing being held outside the Navajo Nation. If any party objects, the Supreme Court shall select another case.
- (6) The law school shall cover all expenses of the Supreme Court's appearance, including, but not limited to, airfare, lodging and meals.

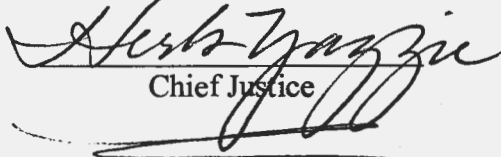
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Judicial Branch funds shall not be used to fund hearings outside the Navajo Nation. The law school shall also cover the expenses of one representative, whether an attorney or pro se party, for each party to the case. The expenses of any additional representatives shall be covered by the parties.

- (7) If the law school records the hearing, it shall provide a recording to the Supreme Court at no charge.

These policies are effective immediately.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2007.


Chief Justice


Associate Justice Ferguson