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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday, December 20, 2019

THREE NAVAJO NATION PROBATIONARY JUDGES CONFIRMED

The Navajo Nation Council confirmed three probationary district court judges on Thursday, December 19, 2019. Neomi Gilmore, Letitia Stover and Malcolm Laughing each took the oath of office administered by Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne immediately following the respective votes on the confirmation.

Legislation to confirm Gilmore as a probationary district court judge was approved with a vote of 16 in favor and 2 opposed. Legislation to confirm Stover was approved 17 in favor and 1 opposed. Legislation to confirm Laughing was approved 18 in favor and 1 opposed. Each of the legislation was sponsored by Delegate Otto Tso.

Judge Gilmore is originally from Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes), N.M. She attended University of Idaho Law School where she earned a juris doctor degree. After law school, Ms. Gilmore served as Attorney Candidate of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Chapters Unit serving 110 Chapters and the Administrative Service Centers.

Judge Stover is originally from Naatsis'áán (Navajo Mountain). She attended University of South Dakota School of Law earning a juris doctor and received her Masters of Law (LLM) from the University of Arizona. Before she went back to law school, Stover was a teacher. She was the staff attorney for Kayenta Judicial District Court for the past five years.

Judge Laughing is from Crystal, N.M. He has an associate of arts degree in pre-business administration and associate of applied science in tribal court advocate. He has over 17 years tribal advocate legal experience including employment with Navajo Housing Authority, Navajo Nation Credit Services, Navajo Nation Public Defender's Office and private practice.

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation continues to recruit for applicants for judge as there remains vacancies for district court judges and one associate justice.

Pursuant to Navajo Nation law, the President of the Navajo Nation appoints probationary judges and the Navajo Nation Council confirms the appointments. The probationary judges serve a two-

year probationary period and upon completion of the probationary period are evaluated and considered for permanent appointment.

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