

# Diné Justice

A Newsletter of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

NOVEMBER 2017



## Judges assigned to judicial districts

By order of Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate, judge assignments have been made, effective November 8, 2017.

District Court Judge Tina Tsinigine, who was confirmed as a probationary judge by the Navajo Nation Council in October, has been assigned to the Kayenta Judicial District. Judge Malcolm Begay, who was confirmed for permanent appointment by the Council also in October, is assigned to the Dilkon Judicial District.

Judge Cynthia Thompson is assigned to the Window Rock and Chinle Judicial Districts. Judge Leonard Livingston is assigned to the Crownpoint Judicial District and Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court. Judge William J.J. Platero is assigned to the To'hajiilee/Alamo and Ramah Judicial Districts.

Judge Rudy Bedonie continues presiding at Chinle and Dził Yijiin Judicial Districts; Judge Genevieve Woody presides at Shiprock Judicial District; Judge Victoria Yazzie presides at Tuba City Judicial District; Judge Irene Black presides at Aneth Judicial District; and Judges Carol Perry and Geraldine Benally continue to preside at Window Rock Judicial District.

In addition, two hearing officers have been hired under a one-year grant. Victor Clyde is stationed at Window Rock Judicial District and Dorothea Denetsosie is currently stationed at Tuba City Judicial District.

There are 11 district court judges throughout the Navajo Nation. The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation continues to seek applicants for the positions of district court judge and associate justice. Visit [www.navajocourts.org/vacancies.htm](http://www.navajocourts.org/vacancies.htm) for more information. •



Judge Malcolm Begay and Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate present Judge Begay's legislation for permanent confirmation to the Navajo Nation Council with Law and Order Committee member Kee Allen Begay and Chairman Edmund Yazzie October 18, 2017.



Tina Tsinigine takes the oath of office delivered by Acting Chief Justice Holgate on October 18, 2017, before the Navajo Nation Council. Ms. Tsinigine was confirmed as a probationary judge the day before by the Council.

**INSIDE: Judicial Branch reports for FY17 4th Quarter**

# Tuba City Judicial District



Staff attorney Tina Tsinigine provided six pro se trainings for the public. Training topics included dissolution of marriage, paternity, child visitation, child custody, child support, correction of record, name change, declaration of name, answering a petition, guardianship of a minor, and probate. Trainings are held for individuals who wish to file pro se packets with the court. An individual who wants to represent himself/herself is required to attend pro se training so he/she is aware of what the law requires and his/her duties and responsibilities in court. The total number of attendees for the pro se trainings was 92 participants.

The Tuba City Judicial District held a criminal justice summit meeting on August 25, 2017. Programs in attendance included law enforcement, corrections, probation/parole services, peacemaking, social services, courts, and other local service providers that have an interest in delivery of services by the justice system. With collaborative efforts, the group hopes to continue work on identifying ways to share and streamline existing processes to better serve the community.

On August 18, 2017, the Tuba City Judicial District staff joined staff from the Administrative Office of Court for staff development training in Flagstaff, Arizona. The group participated in the Northern Arizona University Challenge Ropes Course. The event concluded with a

training on the teachings of the dawn and the eclipse by Window Rock traditional program specialist Elaine Henderson. The group enjoyed the informational training and activity.

On September 8, 2017, the Tuba City Judicial District met with local school officials to present a work flow chart for school truancy. During the summer months, key personnel from the Office of the Prosecutor, Peacemaking Program, Probation and Parole Services, Department of Family Services, and Tuba City Judicial District worked together to develop a work flow chart for the schools to address truancy issues. The schools were appreciative of the truancy program.

On September 14, 2017, court administrator Alice Huskie and court clerk Geraldine Sakiestewa participated in a Justware work session in Window Rock. Justware is the case management program utilized by all Navajo Nation Courts. The group held lengthy discussions, reviewed the Justware application, and recommended proposed changes to better meet the needs of the courts. All Navajo Nation Judicial Districts are represented and have input at these work sessions.

Tuba City Court and Child Support Enforcement (CSE) are collaborating information in hopes of locating and serving absent parents. During this quarter, the CSE held

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# Kayenta Judicial District



Office technician Thomasine James participated in a training entitled, “Drug Identification and Recognition to Support Tribal Justice,” on August 7-10, 2017, in Albuquerque, N.M. The free training offered insight on drug abuse and recognition systems, identifying signs and symptoms of an individual under the influence, current drug trends and legal considerations related to drug investigations.

Judge Malcolm Begay participated in a National Judicial College training entitled, “Judging in the Digital Age: Conquering Discovery and Admission of Electronically Stored Information,” on August 15-17, 2017, in Reno, Nev. The course offered insights on procedural rules and substantive law addressing the litigants’ obligations in handling ESI evidence; analyzing issues regarding the discovery, proffer, and admission of such evidence; discussing ethical dilemmas for both lawyers and judges when confronted with ESI evidence; and addressing concerns regarding personal privacy and security.

Court clerks Michelle Dennison, Linda M. James, and Valentina Smith completed, “Microsoft Excel: The Basics and Beyond the Basics,” training on August 22-23, 2017, in Farmington, N.M. The training was beneficial in learning the most efficient way to use the program for building worksheets through new and enhanced features.

Judge Malcolm Begay participated in a training entitled, “Diné Fundamental Law,” on August 29 - September 1, 2017, in Farmington, N.M. The Navajo Nation Judicial Conduct Commission and Peacemaking Program coordinated the training for judges with focus on Diné Fundamental Law and the new JCC rules and procedures and plan of operations.

Court administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie participated in several strategic budget planning meetings and presented the district’s proposed FY2018 General Fund Budget before the Navajo Nation Council Law & Order Committee. The Committee was supportive of the district’s proposed portion of the Judicial Branch’s overall budget despite a shortfall in funding.

Court clerk Geneva Salt and court administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie participated in two Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project (NNIJISP) Judicial Branch Justware configuration work sessions to review and recommend enhancements to the court software program.

Judge Malcolm Begay represented the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch at the Arizona State, Tribal and Federal Court Forum on September 15, 2017, in Phoenix, Arizona. Members and participants addressed child support

# Aneth Judicial District



The United States District Court Tribal Community Reentry Court (TCRC) for the District of Utah held monthly hearings in July, August, and September 2017, at the Aneth District Court for individuals from the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation. The TCRC meets with participants who have been released from federal incarceration to address the high recidivism rate of individuals re-offending. The TCRC holds monthly review hearings for participants to assist them with re-entry into the Aneth and surrounding communities.

Staff attorney Glen Renner facilitated a pro sé clinic for the Aneth Judicial District on August 25, 2017, with 7 attendees. Ms. Renner also helped Tuba City Judicial District by conducting a pro se class for the district on July 31, 2017. In addition, Ms. Renner assisted 84 individuals from the Aneth District who did not attend the pro se clinic but came to the court seeking court-related information and questions.

Court administrator Susie Martin participated in the Navajo Nation FY2018 budget orientation on July 13, 2017, at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Arizona.

Court administrator Susie Martin participated in two Judicial Branch budget work sessions to prepare for the FY2018 budget. Ms. Martin presented the Aneth Judicial

District's FY2018 general fund budget before the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council on August 15, 2017. The committee accepted the proposed budget presentation/report.

The Aneth Judicial District staff diligently worked on completing their FMIS training requirements, i.e., FMIS Common Foundations and FMIS Inquiry. All Aneth District staff, except two, successfully completed the training. They learned the basics of logging into and working with the Navajo Nation Financial Management Information System (FMIS).

Staff attorney Glen Renner worked on the Domestic Violence Bench Book (draft) and reviewed forms for the Justware data management system with the aid of Kayenta staff attorney Letisha Stover. The attorneys met three times during the quarter to work on the projects.

Court administrator Susie Martin participated in Justware work sessions on August 28, 2017, and September 14, 2017. Work sessions are held to improve the case management system for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch.

On August 15, 2017, court administrator Susie Martin and staff attorney Glen Renner met with Utah Senator

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# Chinle Judicial District



Mike Lee's staff to present issues facing the Aneth Judicial District related to law enforcement, corrections, social services, and court services.

On August 15 to August 18, 2017, court bailiff Daren Roberts obtained training in, "Defensive Tactics." The training was conducted by the Navajo Nation Police Training Academy at the Kayenta Police Department.

From August 28 to September 1, 2017, Judge Irene S. Black obtained training in "Diné Fundamental Law" during her travel to Dinétah. She learned about the significance of the sacred sites of Dinétah.

From September 25 to 29, 2017, office technician Elvira Benally participated in the Four Corners Indian Country Conference. Conference topics included violence against women, elders, and children. The conference also addressed human trafficking in Indian country. Mrs. Benally reported that the conference was excellent, and she received a lot of valuable information. ●

## CHINLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT

In Justware work sessions, the court administrator and assigned court clerks assisted the group in making changes to the data system. Currently, staff are working on the Justware Document Automation (JDA) forms with assigned staff attorneys.

The court administrator has been actively involved in the budget process. There were no personnel cuts and adjustments were made in operations to meet the district's allocation. The court administrator attended the oversight committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and Navajo Nation Council budget hearings to support the district's budget. The budget process and the discussions were of interest.

Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate approved the district's request to move into the new building. Employees are excited and have been diligently moving case files and furniture to the new building. Transfer of telephone lines by Frontier Communications is pending. Internet lines from the patch panel to the switchboard needs to be completed by the Judicial Branch IT Section. The Chinle Judicial District has now moved into the facility and is currently providing services at the new site.

Judge Rudy Bedonie continued to cover Dził Yijiin Judicial District in addition to the Chinle Judicial District. He presided and reviewed cases in Dził Yijiin Judicial District in Whippoorwill, Arizona, on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. The court administrators of the two districts worked together to coordinate the judge's schedule. ●

# Dził Yijiin District



The Dził Yijiin Judicial District provided court services and coordinated meetings with chapters and local resource providers within the Dził Yijiin region.

On July 6, 2017, court administrator Arlene Lee and Judge Rudy Bedonie presented on the daily court functions, operations, and court statistics during the quarterly Dził Yijiin Regional Council meeting at Low Mountain Chapter. The meeting included representatives from various chapters within the Dził Yijiin region.

Court administrator Arlene Lee presented the Dził Yijiin Judicial District's proposed FY2018 general funds budget to the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council on August 15, 2017. The committee voted in support of the budget with minor questions on the funds to purchase a modular building to provide court services and house the court personnel.

On August 2 and September 14, 2017, court administrator Arlene Lee and court clerks Marita Lee and Myron Begay attended Justware work sessions facilitated by Melanie Price. The group reviewed the functions of Justware and recommended changes to better meet the needs of the courts.

On August 15–17, 2017, court bailiff Richard Claw successfully completed a 24-hour course and was recerti-

fied in the “Defensive Tactics” training offered by the Navajo Police Training Academy.

On September 19, 2017, court clerk Marita Lee attended the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) training in Window Rock, Arizona.

On September 27–29, 2017, bailiff Richard Claw and court clerk Myron Begay participated in the Four Corners Indian Country Conference in Glendale, Arizona.

Throughout the fourth quarter, court administrator Arlene Lee attended meetings and work sessions on behalf of Dził Yijiin Judicial District including: budget orientation, budget allocation, and planning process for FY2018; court administrator meetings in Window Rock, Ariz., on August 30 and September 20, 2017; 2017 Judicial Branch Training planning meetings on September 13 and 14, 2017; and meeting with civil engineer and land surveyor with Iina Ba, Inc., on September 21, 2017, to discuss surveying 2.3 acres of tract designated for court modular building development.

In collaboration with project manager, Andy Thomas with Capital Project Management Department (CPMD), the district completed the selection review process for professional services to develop a court facility for Dził Yijiin Judicial District. ●

# Dilkon Judicial District



Dilkon Judicial District staff attended trainings and/or work sessions pertaining to the Justware case management system. These work sessions, which are orientated by Judicial Branch IT staff, further enhance staff knowledge to understand and learn the application for a more uniform and efficient case management system. The court administrator and Subject Matter Expert/court clerk Christine Maloney attended Justware work sessions on July 26-27, 2017, and on September 14, 2017.

The Dilkon Court conducts pro se classes as a form of public education on the last two days of each month with assistance from Louise Grant with DNA Legal Services, Inc. The classes have been very beneficial and, as a result, more people are attending the classes.

The Dilkon Judicial District staff participated in the FMIS exercises. The majority of the staff completed their modules and received their certifications to access FMIS. This is an ongoing process with the Administrative Office of the Courts until all Judicial Branch personnel are certified.

The court administrator presented the Dilkon Judicial District's FY2018 general funds budget to the Law and Order Committee and the Nabikiyati Committee.

Judge Cynthia Thompson and staff attorney Jordan Hale actively participated in meetings pertaining to the Tribal Action Plan throughout the quarter.

The Dilkon Judicial District staff attended a staff development session entitled, "Reflections of Our Chief Justices," at Twin Arrows Casino and Resort on August 18, 2017.

Eight Judicial Branch employees are participating in the Navajo Technical University's Navajo Language Transcription, Navajo-English Interpreter, and Translation Program for one semester. The Dilkon Judicial District is very proud to have one of its own court clerks, Peggy Bache, selected to participate in the program. Participants will earn certificates at the end of the semester.

The following in-service trainings were held:

- August 16, 2017, Robert Johnson, Peacemaking Program, on, "Eclipse"
- September 21, 2017, Sandra Dalgai, AOC/Fiscal, on, "Budget update, FMIS, and fiscal process"

Trainings are held to educate and update court personnel on legal matters so they are more productive and effective at the workplace and in serving the general public. •

# Window Rock Judicial District



Court clerk Kendra Dale became a permanent employee with the Window Rock Judicial District on August 11, 2017. The district is fortunate to have her on board.

The district hired Mattie Roan and Noreen Sloan on a temporary basis to assist the Window Rock Judicial District with filings and helping the public while two court clerks attended the Navajo Transcription training.

Staff cleaned, packed, and moved more items from the old court to the new court location. However, there are items that remain at the building due to the shortage of storage space at the new location. The district plans to move a storage unit to the new site and purchase an additional unit.

Court clerk Patricia Joe and office technician Patricia Mariano were designated co-acting court administrators during the absence of court administrator Verlena Hale. In addition to their regularly assigned duties, both successfully performed the duties of the court administrator by attending meetings regarding the Window Rock Judicial/Public Safety Complex, FY2018 Budget Instructions Manual (BIM) orientation, budget work sessions with other Judicial Branch personnel, and budget hearings by the Law and Order and the Budget and Finance Committees.

Judge Geraldine Benally attended the AMIkids Board Meeting on July 15, 2017, in Cuba, N.M. The program

serves kids, including Navajo children, who are involved with the federal juvenile probation program which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The children reside in dormitories at a remote location which is structured to help them work through their issues and gain the skills needed to return to their families and communities.

Judge Geraldine Benally and Judge Malcolm Begay presented on, "How to Apply Fundamental Law," during the National Institute for Trial Advocacy training on September 29, 2017.

The Window Rock Judicial District Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) attended Justware work sessions and helped with the planning of the 2017 Judicial Branch Training to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, October 31-November 3, 2017. The Window Rock Judicial District SMEs are court clerk Corina Begay and office technician Patricia Mariano. Accomplishments by staff attorney Robyn Neswood-Etsitty

Conducted adult guardianship pro se clinics on July 13, 2017, for 22 attendees; August 24, 2017, for 32 attendees; and September 26, 2017, for 37 attendees.

Assisted with requesting additional funding to hire temporary staff during the absence of two court clerks attend-



# Shiprock Judicial District



The budget process for FY2018 was successfully completed. Preliminary budget discussions and formulation of the Judicial Branch budget allocations were conducted during work sessions and orientations held on July 13-14, 2017, and July 17, 2017. Presentations of district budgets before the oversight committee occurred on August 15, 2017.

Archiving of court records was successfully accomplished. A total of 2,899 traffic civil/criminal court cases was processed and archived during this quarter.

An inventory of bench warrants on 2009 traffic criminal cases was completed.

The Shiprock Northern Justice Complex Task Force and Delores Greyeyes, director of Navajo Department of Corrections, held important meetings with the Navajo Nation Law & Order Committee.

On July 28, 2017, at the invitation of Shiprock Chapter President Duane Yazzie, the Law and Order Committee toured the current public safety and court facilities and held discussions on the Shiprock Northern Justice Complex. The Committee directed the task force and Ms. Greyeyes to develop a project plan and give a status report at the Committee's next meeting.

At the August 28, 2017, Law and Order Committee meeting, Delores Greyeyes gave a report on the project plan for the Shiprock Northern Justice Complex. The Law & Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0326-17 which allocates \$3.1 million for the Shiprock Northern Justice Complex, demolition of the former Shiprock Boys and Girls Club, site preparation, and pre-construction costs. Ms. Greyeyes and the task force were instructed to move forward with the project.

On September 15, 2017, during the Shiprock Northern Justice Complex Task Force meeting, Ms. Delores Greyeyes, director of Navajo Department of Corrections reviewed the Request for Specific Statement of Qualifications for the Project Manager Consultant which is proposed for legal advertisement on September 25, 2017, and ending October 30, 2017. Other updates included allocation of the \$3.1 million and the demolition of the Shiprock Boys and Girls Club. A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2017, at the Shiprock Chapter.

The Shiprock Judicial District's total caseload for FY2017 fourth quarter was 3,473. This includes 2,545

# Crownpoint Judicial District



On August 16, 2017, the Crownpoint Judicial District participated in a site monitoring visit with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Awarding Official Technical Representatives. This annual site monitoring visit is pursuant to the P.L. 93-638 contractual agreement between the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch and Bureau of Indian Affairs. The representatives had numerous questions which the court administrator addressed. The results of the visit are pending.

The Crownpoint Judicial District included local staff in-service training in its daily court operations. Staff attorney Sharon Noel provided a one-day training on the rules and procedures of domestic violence. The second training was "Active Shooter," by Officer Farrell Begay. Officer Begay alerted staff to be aware of individuals who are coming into the court building and their behavior. The third training was on case management and what a permanent injunction is and what it entails.

The court administrator worked on the opening of Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court. The punch list was issued by the Capital Project Management Department as a result of the walkthrough of the modular building. The cleanup and renovation are complete. The electricity hookup has been completed. The building is almost ready for occupancy with a few punch list items needing to be addressed. Once

the punch list items are addressed, Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court will receive its Certificate of Occupancy

Judge Leonard Livingston presided over court hearings, reviewed pending motions, reviewed new case files, and handled court related matters at the Crownpoint and Ramah Judicial Districts. Judge Livingston is in Ramah Monday and Tuesday and in Crownpoint Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Three court staff updated traffic information from 1998 to present in Justware in preparation for the district to go live with e-payments. The task was time consuming, but accurate information is imperative to the on-line payment option.

The office technician, one bailiff, and three court clerks completed trainings in, "Front Desk Safety and Security" and "Fire Safety." These trainings brought awareness that there is need to develop a fire evacuation plan as well as protocol for preparation for any type of incidents.

The Crownpoint Judicial District responded to 93 dispositional/document requests from the public and other entities including the Office of Background Investigations, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, and United States. I

The court administrator participated in two court administrator meetings and two 2017 Judicial Branch Training

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# Ramah Judicial District



On September 25, 2017, the Ramah Judicial District went live with Justware, the Navajo Nation courts' case management application. Training was conducted on the document flow and procedures with the court clerks. They reported that the new application is easy to use. The assigned SMEs assisted the court clerks as needed. They worked on identifying areas where the functions of Justware are different among the courts. The goal is to have a standard operating system for data entry. The court administrator and court clerks were trained on Justware financials, community service work vouchering, and issuing receipts. The staff is looking forward to the new beginning of brighter technology for the Ramah Judicial District.

In this quarter, the district hired a court clerk and acquired a volunteer office technician. On July 20, 2017, three applicants were interviewed for the vacant court clerk position. On July 31, 2017, Roxanne Yazzie was selected to fill the position. She was given orientation, and started handling family court cases. On August 28, 2017, Arbre Jake came on board as a volunteer office technician to assist the district with clerical work to December 29, 2017. Ms. Jake is an excellent worker and very helpful as an office technician. The district will continue to provide in-service training for its new court personnel.

On July 13, 2017, court administrator Esther Jose attended an orientation sponsored by the Office of the Manage-

ment and Budget regarding the FY2018 General Fund Budget Instructions Manual. Following the orientation, the program managers met with financial services manager Yvonne Gorman regarding the FY2018 budget and presentations to the Law & Order Committee.

In preparation for the FY2018 general fund budget process, court administrator Esther Jose participated in a one-day strategic budget planning meeting in Window Rock, Ariz., with the financial services manager, administrative director of the courts, acting chief justice, and district court administrators on July 14, 2017.

On July 17-18, 2017, court administrator Esther Jose presented the Ramah Judicial District's proposed FY2018 general fund budget to the Law & Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The committee was supportive of the district's portion of the Judicial Branch's overall budget despite a shortfall in budget funding and accepted the district's budget. Questions were asked on the number of cases filed with the courts..

On August 29, 2017, IT manager Ben Mariano and automation/information services specialist Elton R. Dalgai were in Ramah Judicial District to establish internet connection to CellularOne and set up the systems for the Ramah Court staff.

On August 29 to September 1, 2017, Judge Leonard Liv-

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# To'hajiilee/Alamo Judicial District



The Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District court staff, community members, Alamo Behavioral Health, Alamo Navajo School Board, Alamo Chapter, and Peacemaking Program as a coalition completed and submitted the Naasgo Hoozhogo Whinzin Strategic Plan, also known as the Alamo Prevention Plan, to technical assistance partners, Kauffman and Associates, who then submitted it to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. The plan was approved and the activities developed as part of the plan were implemented during this quarter including: peacemaking apprenticeship program, Botvin life skills (substance abuse prevention) with the cultural program, peacemaking traditional life skills, safety camp, justice day sobriety walk and behavioral health presentations, singspiration faith-based event and teen court day. Funding through Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services was awarded in the amount of \$38,000.

On July 24-25, 2017, in collaboration with Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services, the Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District facilitated a sustainability training for the Naasgo Hoozhogo Whinzin Coalition. The group did an evaluation through a SWOT analysis of the activities that were completed over the summer. The group discussed its future and Navajo Na-

tion Department of Behavioral Health Services provided information on whether or not there are carryover funds to continue the effort.

Teen Court coordinator Sherrilyn Apache and court administrator Regina Roanhorse participated in an online meeting on September 12, 2017, with the SAMHSA and Kauffman stakeholders to address sustainability.

The Alamo Court and presiding Judge William J.J. Platero took a leadership role in the Alamo community to develop the Naasgo Hoozhogo Whinzin Strategic Plan to address mental health and substance abuse in the Alamo community where there is a high rate of heroin addiction and alcohol abuse with very little Navajo Nation resources. The planning process initiated the group to re-convene with the courts to utilize the Teen Court and Wellness Court for restorative justice purposes. Other issues that affected the community were reports of unreported drug dealing and burglaries for those who steal to buy drugs. Since there is little or non-existent Navajo law enforcement, the Naasgo Hoozhogo Whinzin Coalition wanted to focus on activities that were actionable and productive.

The Teen Court coordinator attended Alamo School's

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# Peacemaking Program



Community-based peacemakers are being engaged to handle more peacemaking sessions and counseling. During the fourth quarter, there were 64 instances of using community-based peacemakers. Yeel was paid by the participants during the fourth quarter, but the new grant will provide funds for some services in the future, making these services more available to the Navajo people.

Focus on youth. Peacemaking had 144 outreach and training contacts with young people. They received curriculum training and other direct culturally-based services, even with reduced funding for this work. Prevention work included over 600 contacts, many including youth or the school and community services professionals who administer services to young people. An agreement has been reached with the San Juan (Utah) School District to provide peacemaking services for youth. Four other new Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) have been signed. The Peacemaking Program now has MOAs with 46 schools.

The program worked internally and with judges to advance the use of the peacemaking curriculum. On July 24-26, 2017, the coordinator met with all TPS and central PMP staff on the curriculum used by the Peacemaking Program.

On August 11, 2017, the coordinator met with the Office

of the President, Office of Attorney General, and Judicial Branch staff on the Diné Action Plan (DAP) which is the Navajo Nation's strategic plan for addressing violence, substance abuse, and suicide. The Peacemaking Program's role is to focus on strengthening youth and families through traditional teachings, problem-solving, and culturally-based approaches. The new grant will significantly improve the program's ability to deliver on this element of its mission.

Maintain our professionalism. The Peacemaking Program continues to stress timeliness and responsiveness to its clients and stakeholders. The staff is working through issues with compatibility in the reporting systems, which has resulted in some discrepancies in case management records. Desk audits will be done during the first quarter to reconcile physical files to our computer-based records.

Elaine Henderson was selected to fill the vacant bi-culture training manager position. In this expanded position, she will use her expertise to more strongly link the reporting methodology and data collection to the traditional and cultural goals of the program's work. Her expertise in case management protocols, statistical reporting, and other key administrative areas will be of benefit to all of the Peace-

# Office of Probation & Parole Services



The probation services management team completed the 2018 comprehensive budget for probation services. The team identified monies in each line item that will suffice expenditures for FY2018. The chief probation officer is responsible for representing and advocating on behalf of the PPS business unit at budget hearings before the Law and Order and Budget and Finance Committees. There were questions in regards to the performance criteria numbers that fell short of meeting the program's objective numbers. The CPO was able to justify why PPS was not able to meet its numbers.

Navajo Nation Probation Services sent half of its probation staff to attend the Drug Identification for Tribal Justice Training presented by Fox Valley Training Center for Tribal Justice. The instructors provided information that probation officers were able to take note of while supervising clients and recognizing various drugs-stimulants/opiates being abused in the communities. In addition, probation officers were trained to examine current trends of drugs and its legal consideration.

Navajo Nation Probation Services filled probation officer positions at Window Rock Judicial District and Ramah Judicial District. Ms. Alberta Smith-Jumbo was selected to fill the position at Window Rock, and Ms. Brendolyn Begay was selected to fill the position at Ramah. The probation officers have been orientated by PPS staff and are

familiarizing their roles to take on cases upon successful completion of their 90-day introductory period.

The chief probation officer is working with Hope McDonald-LoneTree in coordinating a two-day re-entry introduction and orientation for the Navajo Nation Probation Services' staff. Upon continual discussions and meetings, the date and location of the orientation will be finalized and confirmed.

The probation services management team scheduled four PPS Round Table management meetings. The purpose of the PPS Round Table meetings is to update regional supervisors and share information related to the PPS department i.e., travel, training, CMS, supplies, equipment, and other probation-related issues. The team also discussed the goals and objectives, policy issues in relation to probation, and clarified cases that need staff attorney review.

A one-day staff development outing was held for all Navajo Nation Probation Services staff at Wheatfields Lake, Ariz. The Peacemaking Program traditional Diné researcher Joseph Sandoval and Chinle traditional program specialist Robert Johnson shared their traditional perspectives of working together, acknowledging one another with respect, and ensuring proper services are provided to the public. The day also gave staff time to interact, refocus, to distress, and enjoy each other's company.

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# Administrative Office of the Courts



The information data technician prepared, organized, and scanned 18,876 documents/files, including: Judicial Branch Human Resources: Inactive Personnel Records; Chinle Judicial District: 2015 Record Search Requests; Dilkon Peacemaking Program: 2011, 2014, 2015 Inactive Records; Tuba City Judicial District: 2015-2016 Record Search Requests; Window Rock Judicial District: 1992 Silver vs. Pahe Case File and 2015-2016 Record Search Requests.

The information data technician assisted Chinle, Window Rock, Tuba City, Shiprock, and Crownpoint Judicial Districts with retrieval of archived microfilmed records. The Judicial Branch has only one machine at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Window Rock to view and print records. District personnel travel to or send their films to Window Rock to retrieve and print records. Fifty-two microfilmed cartridges were received from five judicial districts to print records requested by the public.

## Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project

The NNIJISP partners officially re-grouped as a committee and recommended that official meeting minutes be kept for record. On July 5, 2017, the NNIJISP partners updated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with current partners: Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, Division of Social Services, Department of Information Technolo-

gy, Division of Public Safety, Office of the Prosecutor, Office of Public Defender, and Navajo Nation Probation Services.

The proposed FY2018 budget NNIJISP was submitted to the Office of Management & Budget in the amount of \$648,949 on July 26, 2017. The amount includes support costs and equipment purchases for the NNIJISP partners. A revised NNIJISP budget was submitted for \$484,160, which was approved by the Budget and Finance Committee.

During the July meeting, the NNIJISP partners were asked to submit funding assistance requests to the NNIJISP program manager to expend the remaining 2017 budget. Based on the submissions, NNIJISP funds paid for: 1) DSS Justware support and user licenses totaling \$79,275; 2) three servers for Division of Public Safety IMS totaling \$15,987.33; and 3) Judicial Branch equipment totaling \$66,384.80.

The NNIJISP systems and programming manager participated in weekly Tribal Access Program conference calls. A User Agency Agreement was signed for NNIJISP to participate as a Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC). The NNIJISP systems and programming manager is the designated TAC and will be responsible for administering the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services programs with-

# Judicial Conduct Commission



The Government Relations Officer hired and supervised two temporary office technicians to assist with clerical duties for the Judicial Conduct Commission during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. The first was Aaliyah Moore, a sophomore at New Mexico State University, who worked from July 5 to August 11, 2017. The second was Melissa McCray, who worked from September 6 to September 29, 2017. Alisha Thompson, Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District staff attorney, supervised a law student intern – Chad Abeyta – who also worked for the Judicial Conduct Commission through the summer of 2017. The goal for the Commission is to get young people interested in the judiciary and provide education on the judiciary through temporary employment.

On August 15, 2017, Karen Francis presented the Judicial Conduct Commission's proposed FY 2018 budget to the Law and Order Committee during the budget oversight hearing.

On August 17-18, 2017, the Judicial Conduct Commission held a work session on judges' training to discuss curriculum being developed by the Peacemaking Program on Diné Fundamental Law at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino and Resort. The Commission held the work session to discuss ways to improve judicial services on the Navajo Nation in accordance with its Plan of Operations (III. A. 2.

Develop methodologies, tools and professional education for assessing and improving judicial performance). The Commission also heard from law school intern Chad Abeyta on work he had done in reviewing Title 7.

The Commission held a meeting on August 18, 2017, at which time the Commission approved a resolution supporting the establishment of an Indian Country Criminal Justice degree program at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Raymond Austin, former associate justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, presented the resolution to the Commission.

The Commission co-sponsored Staff Development training for the Judicial Branch with a session on, "Reflections from Our Chief Justices," on August 18, 2017, at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino and Resort. Judicial Branch staff heard from former Chief Justices Tom Tso, Robert Yazzie and Allen Sloan and from current acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate. It was an educational event for all employees who attended.

The Commission sponsored the Diné Fundamental Law and ethics training for judges and its assigned staff from August 29 through September 1, 2017, based on the discussion on training for judges that occurred at the August 17-18, 2017 work session. The training, conducted by the Peacemaking Program and Lorenzo Max of Northern Ari-



zona University, included visits to our sacred sites at Dinétah where the judges and staff were able to hear Diné creation stories and how those are related to Diné Fundamental Law and ethics. They also heard presentations on Diné constellations and a training on the Commission's Plan of Operations and Rules and Procedures conducted by Chairman Yazzie. Vice Chairman Manley Begay and Commission member Judy R. Apachee were also in attendance.

On August 31, 2017, Chairman Robert Yazzie and Vice Chairman Manley Begay attended the Budget and Finance Committee's revisits of the Judicial Branch budget to be available for any questions on the Commission by the Committee.

On September 6, 2017, office technician Melissa McCray assisted with preparing the Judicial Branch's informational booth for the Navajo Nation Fair at Nakai Hall. On September 7, 2017, she assisted Judicial Branch staff with providing public education and promotional items to fair attendees.

On September 28, 2017, the Judicial Conduct Commission Chairman Robert Yazzie delivered an oral and written report to the Budget and Finance Committee on the history and accomplishments of the Judicial Conduct Commission. The report was passed as part of the Judicial Branch's report to the Committee by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

A brochure was developed with assistance from temporary office technicians Melissa McCray and Quanah Yazzie and is now available on the Judicial Conduct Commission webpage. ●



Aaliyah Moore served as a temporary Office Technician for the Judicial Conduct Commission in the summer of 2017.

*Cont'd from page 12*

"Back to School" event. Over 150 youth were provided information on the teen court program and drug free activities in collaboration with the Alamo Naasgo Hoozhogo Whinzin coalition members.

Staff attorney Alisha Thompson and Teen Court coordinator Sherrilyn Apache provided information on Navajo laws and life skills utilizing the Botvin evidence-based substance abuse prevention curriculum to 20 youth at Teen Court Day on August 1, 2017, in To'hajiilee. In 2011, the Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District was awarded Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention USDOJ funds to implement a substance abuse prevention initiative in the Alamo and To'hajiilee communities. Although the grant ended on September 30, 2017, the district plans to continue to develop Teen Court Day where youth can learn more about the Navajo legal system, their laws and concepts, and learn skills to address substance abuse in their communities. Combining this public health strategy with knowledge of the courts is a way to engage youth not only to spark interest in the legal field, but to learn how to resist drugs and make good life choices for themselves or their communities to address the increasing number of drug-related offenses that are being committed in the district. A similar initiative was successful in Alamo with youth participating in the Teen Court Day and justice day activities as part of the Alamo Community Prevention Plan, that was developed by the local anti-drug community coalition, Naasgo Hoozhogo Whinzin. As a follow up, the teen court coordinator finished a life skill class on August 19, 2017.

The Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District Healing to Wellness Court's Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Project participated in a multi-disciplinary/service coordination effort to develop behavioral health services for wellness participants and their families and to develop a peer support network to address substance abuse and mental health issues for Native American veterans.

VJO coordinator Dorothy Waisanen and court administrator Regina Roanhorse worked with the military support group on August 4, 17, September 1, 8, and 29 to plan the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Summit for October 5-6, 2017. They met with the Veterans Affairs Center, HUD VASH, Navajo Department of Behavioral Health Services, Dine Bi Hoghan, New Mexico and Navajo Veterans Administration, volunteers, veterans and families to identify speakers to address post traumatic stress disorder as a result of military service, and to provide other support services.

On July 10-11, 2017, VJO coordinator Dorothy Waisanen and court administrator Regina Roanhorse assisted the military support group, Veterans Administration, and Navajo Veterans Department with the 1<sup>st</sup> Annu-

*Cont'd on page 21*

## Tuba City Judicial District

*Cont'd from page 2*

two administrative hearings for clients in courtroom no. 1. They hold their administrative hearings at the court where it is more structured and secured for clients.

The Tuba City Chapter initiated a letter to the court requesting assistance in addressing illegal trash dumping within the community and utilizing community service workers. On July 5, 2017, court administrator Alice Huskie and staff attorney Tina Tsinigine met with officials of Tuba City Chapter regarding concerns and issues related to the illegal trash dumping. Frederick Sherman with the Navajo Nation Office of Environmental Protection presented the Navajo Nation's protocols on illegal trash dumping, how to properly dispose of trash from household to livestock to commercial items, and enforcement of violations. The meeting went well. The information and handouts provided were educational to the participants.

On August 16, 2017, Jonathan Pacheco, Senator John McCain's staff, visited the Tuba City Judicial/Public Safety Complex. Mr. Pacheco met with key staff from the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections, Office of the Prosecutor, and Tuba City Judicial District. The courts were represented by Judge Victoria Yazzie, court administrator Alice Huskie, and Administrative Director of the Courts Stephen B. Etsitty. The departments presented issues and concerns with their respective operations. The courts presented the need for new court facilities, increased funding from BIA P.L. 93-638, improved internet resources and connectivity, and federal government support for operations and maintenance at existing court facilities. The Tuba City Judicial District has a new facility but does not get any operations and maintenance funds through the BIA P.L. 93-638 contract.

On September 7, 2017, court administrator Alice Huskie, staff attorney Tina Tsinigine, and court clerks Kandi Robbins and Amy Hatathlie participated in the meeting with Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Records Depart-

ment to address the need to better coordinate the flow of court documents and retrieval of service of process. Acting Captain David Butler presented the process of court documents from the court and assignments to the law enforcement officers.

On July 31, 2017, court administrator Alice Huskie and staff attorney Glen Renner provided training to two private process servers regarding service of process for domestic violence temporary protection orders. The training covered how to properly and safely service domestic violence temporary protection orders to respondents and completing travel and claims forms required for compensation. The grant is funded by the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

During the week of August 29 to September 1, 2017, staff attorney Tina Tsinigine participated in training on "Diné Fundamental Law" in Farmington, N.M. The group hiked Largo Canyon and Crow Canyon to sacred sites. Lorenzo Max gave a presentation on petroglyphs of the ancient stories of the Diné people as they made the journey. The group also visited Dził Na'oodilii and heard presentations on First Man, First Woman, Changing Woman, and the Twin Warriors.

On July 20-21, 2017, office technician Orlando Sam and custodian Pierson Tallman completed the OSHA Fall Protection-Confined Space & Hazard Communication training in Window Rock, Arizona. Participants learned about fall protection, proper use of ladders, adequate confined space, assessment and development of plans for corrective action plans.

On August 1, 2017, information data technician Teresa Chee provided training to new court clerk Jannie D. Nelson on archiving, proper use of the Fujitsu equipment, preparing/scanning documents for archiving, and retrieving information from the computer. ●

## Kayenta Judicial District

*Cont'd from page 3*

guideline development, Indian Child Welfare Act developments, and involuntary commitment legislation updates.

By invitation, Judge Malcolm Begay served as a presenter at, "The National Institute for Trial Advocacy Trial Skills Training," on September 30, 2017, in Window Rock, Ariz. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice facilitated the free training to Navajo Nation Bar Association members on how to prepare opening statements, closing arguments, and direct/cross examining witnesses.

Staff attorney Letitia Stover participated in three meetings to revise the Judicial Branch Domestic Violence Bench Book and finalize uniform court forms for the NNIJISP Judicial Branch Justware program.

Staff attorney Letitia Stover provided three free pro se trainings for individuals. The popular trainings are held for individuals who wish to represent themselves and file pro se packets with the court. ●

## Crownpoint Judicial District

*Cont'd from page 10*

planning meetings. She also attended one Justware work session with court clerk Jacqueline Belen. The meetings and work sessions were held in Window Rock, Arizona. She also participated in a conference call with the grant administrator regarding issues pertaining to the Tribal Access Plan, Private Process Server Project, and NNIJISP enhancements.

Court clerk Rhiannon Guerro is attending the fall semester of Navajo Language Transcription and Interpretation at the Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, New Mexico. This program is paid by a grant awarded to the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. ●

## Window Rock Judicial District

*Cont'd from page 8*

ing the transcription program at NTU.

Attended staff attorney meeting on September 15, 2017.

Attended the University of Arizona Law School Externship Program for recruiting purposes. Several contacts were made, and Jim Diamond, Director of the IPLP Program, said his students could perform research on various topics for the Judicial Branch.

Prepared materials for interviewing applicants for the judicial hearing officer position.

### Training

The Window Rock Judicial District staff participated in a staff development work session on August 1, 2017. The work session focused primarily on team building activities. Traditional program specialist Robert Johnson gave an informative and inspiring presentation.

Court clerks Ronda Lewis and Joann Plummer started the Navajo Transcription classes at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, N.M. The course will run through December 2017.

Staff attended presentations by former Chief Justices of the Navajo Nation on August 18, 2017, at the Twin Arrows Casino Resort in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Bailiffs Elaine Johnson and Pedro Tsosie attended the Tribal Community Safety Summit in Tucson, Arizona. The Summit focused on exploring strategies to enhance collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the community in efforts to reduce crime and improve the community quality of life on September 20, 2017.

The bailiffs successfully completed the Compliance Drug

and Alcohol Testing Training on August 30, 2017. The bailiffs are now certified to administer drug and alcohol tests.

Court clerks Louise Weaver and Corina Begay attended the Four Corners Indian Country Conference in Glendale, Arizona, September 26-29, 2017.

Traditional program specialist Elaine Henderson provided Life Value Workshops on July 21, 2017, August 18, 2017, and September 22, 2017.

Statistical information on Direct Services to the Public:  
July = 1,138; August = 1,227; September = 844; Total = 3,209.

Total number of document requests completed by the Window Rock Judicial District: July = 25; August = 28; September = 33; Total = 86. Note: These figures are relatively low because most records are archived and need to be researched, which is time consuming. The court continued to be inundated daily with requests which are being completed.

In July 2017, 155 family court and 264 district court hearings were held.

In August 2017, 163 family court and 325 district court hearings were held.

In September 2017, 118 family court and 242 district court hearings were held.

Judge Carol Perry administered oaths of office to 28 new police officers on July 28, 2017. ●

## Shiprock Judicial District

*Cont'd from page 9*

cases brought forward from FY2017 third quarter; 928 new filings; and 919 cases adjudicated. The balance of 2,554 cases will be carried over into FY2018 first quarter.

On July 27, 2017, a Justware work session was held at the Tuba City Judicial District. The agenda included preliminary planning for the Judicial Branch 2017 Training. Training topics, trainers/presenters, and proposed training dates were identified, and a proposed agenda drafted. Additional meetings were held on August 2, August 9, September 13-14, and September 20, 2017, to further refine the agenda, confirm presenters, and make logistical arrangements.

Staff attorney Derrick Burbank participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Legal Service Providers Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., on August 16-18, 2017. He attended plenary and track discussions on Fighting Children's Poverty, Healthcare, 2017 Legislative Update, Family Law Issues, Consumer Law Update, Tribal Law and Jurisdiction issues, and Ethics Plenary.

On August 18, 2017, Judge Genevieve Woody attended the "Reflections from Our Chief Justices" staff development at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort in Flagstaff, Ariz. Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley gave the welcome address; Chief Justice Emeritus Tom Tso and retired Chief Justice Robert Yazzie spoke on the formation and functions of the Supreme Court. Speaker Lorenzo Bates and President Russell Begaye thanked former Chief Justice Allen Sloan for his achievements and contributions; and Lawrence Ruzow, on behalf of the NNBA and as a former partner, spoke about his employment history as an advocate, judge, and acting chief justice. Chief Justice Sloan thanked the Judicial Branch for his 28 years of service. The event concluded with closing remarks by current Acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate.

Judge Genevieve Woody participated in the Diné Fundamental Law training in Farmington, N.M., on August 29-September 1, 2017. ●

## Peacemaking Program

*Cont'd from page 13*

making Program staff.

Advance our mission. The Peacemaking Program's core work is conducting peacemaking sessions, Life Value Engagements, and other elements of traditional problem-solving. Added to that is the youth initiative and a strong curriculum for youth apprentices. This work is continuing with high quality.

Keeping the vision and role of peacemaking in mind is crucial. Daily tasks are important in delivering services, but so is engagement as the voice of Diné traditions in interagency planning and policy development. By strengthening Diné culture, the program assists the People in finding their pride and strength. During the fourth quarter, staff worked with Navajo Nation-wide service providers on policy and program approaches to improve approaches to domestic violence, addiction, and suicide in the Diné Action Plan. The Plan incorporates many traditional teachings, including the story of the Twins and the four Diné steps for problem solving, *nitsáhakees, nahat'á, iiná, sihasin*.

On August 29-September 1, 2017, the peacemaking coordinator and central office staff trained five judges, three staff attorneys, two Judicial Conduct Commissioners, associate justice, and Judicial Branch staff on Diné Fundamental Law. The training included onsite visits to sacred sites where the cultural stories, traditional practices, and Diné teachings were shared. Participants also made offerings to the Holy People.

On September 29, 2017, the peacemaking coordinator and the central office staff provided training to five peacemakers, three TPS, and three local residents on the "Tachee (Sweat Lodge) Ceremony" and presented the proposed Title 25.

The Peacemaking Program prioritized work based on the goals set by the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. These are examples from some of the judicial districts:

Alamo Judicial District. The new TPS started her 90-day

introductory period in July 2017. She completed her core job training and other entry requirements and is performing services. The Alamo peacemaking office received ten cases from the Alamo Court and Alamo Probation Services. Eight, including four CHINS, cases were closed; one battery and two truancy cases were resolved; and one dependency case was referred back to the family court.

Aneth Judicial District. In coordination with the multidisciplinary team (MDT), the TPS reviewed cases presented to the team and participants shared information that may be relevant to the children and their families/caregivers in the community. Based on the assessment, children who are victims of child abuse, neglect or crime are identified and linked with resources for additional help. Fifteen families have benefitted from the MDT. The group currently has six to seven resources that participate in the MDT meetings.

In coordination with Whitehorse High School, a Talking Circle takes place every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the hooghan. On a voluntary basis, a student can talk about anything or just get some acknowledgment or kind words.

Crownpoint Judicial District. The TPS has been working with the Crownpoint Court in resolving criminal issues by bringing family members together to discuss traditional family values and an individual's role and responsibility within the family. Other issues include probate, family law, and truancy.

Dilkon Judicial District. Twenty-five students were referred to the TPS from the Winslow Residential Hall during the fourth quarter. A hands-on curriculum presentation was delivered. Students are scheduled for weekly individual or group Life Value Engagement sessions, which includes Navajo traditional beliefs, K'e, clan systems, and other traditional cultural topics. Other youth-focused services include working with student disciplinary matters, incorrigible youth, and meetings with schools regarding truancy, bullying, substance abuse, and other issues. ●

## Probation Services

*Cont'd from page 14*

A team of probation officers consisting of Calvin Silas, Lucy Yesslith, Marshall Benally, Sharon Willie, Marcellus Morgan, Arlene Begay, Bernita Dalton, Victoria Joe, Valerie Brown, Andy Harrison and Sheila Begishie conducted an orientation for two new probation officers. Their presentations pertained to probation issues, objectives, purpose, procedures, and protocols, as well as how the Probation Services operates and functions. The new probation officers commended the probation officers for doing an outstanding job in providing information on probation services. ●

## AOC

*Cont'd from page 15*

in the user agency and ensure that applicable policies are followed. The TAC serves as the local agency security officer, joint automated booking systems/civil applicant system local agency coordinator, and the N-DEx Agency Coordinator. The TAC also initiates requests for new user accounts, resets passwords, validates user accounts annually, requests account suspension when access is no longer needed, and reviews validations for accuracy and completeness.

The systems and programming manger participated in Justice-Web on-line payment account setup and account approval. Journal Technology and nCourts are working on multiple bank account issues before the next pilot project phase is implemented at Shiprock, Aneth, and Chinle Judicial Districts. ●

## Ramah Judicial District

*Cont'd from page 11*

ingston attended the Diné Fundamental Law training in Farmington, New Mexico. The training was held for the staff attorneys and judges.

On September 26, 2017, Judge Leonard Livingston administered oaths of office to three newly hired corrections officers with Ramah Department of Corrections and two newly hired police officers with the Ramah Navajo Department of Law Enforcement.

Staff attorney Dan Moquin assisted with cases at three judicial districts and the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. He provided training to a newly hired staff attorney, assisted Ramah Navajo Social Services with grant writing, participated in Judicial Conduct Commission meetings, and assisted with discussions on the Navajo Nation Retirement Plan for Justices and Judges with the Budget and Finance Committee. Other assignments included school truancy, staff development, staff attorney meetings, Title 7 revisions, Title IV-E Project, and the Navajo Nation Diné Action Plan.

On July 14, 2017, staff attorney Dan Moquin attended a Diné Action Plan meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona, with other

district staff attorneys and Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

On July 31, 2017, staff attorney Dan Moquin resigned as the staff attorney for the Ramah Judicial District.

The logs maintained by the court showed that 338 people signed in for court services, 465 incoming/outgoing telephone calls made, and 128 faxes sent/received. The bailiff's security report reflected 239 people served, 1 pocket knife confiscated, 3 bench warrants, and 29 public intoxications.

The Ramah Judicial District hosted a resource meeting with local service providers. These resource meetings are an important mechanism for interagency planning and coordination at the service delivery level, as well as to define a vision for strategies to coordinate future services, programs, and other initiatives, particularly for the youth. Key stakeholders representing all cultural communities and groups and educational institutions were given opportunity to participate in these resource meetings at the Ramah District Court. The meetings concluded with a comment and question session and serving of refreshments. ●

## To'hajiilee/Alamo Judicial District

*Cont'd from page 17*

al Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Summit. Over 200 veterans, family members, and service providers attended the summit at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona. The focus was to provide information on benefits, accessing care, suicide prevention, and housing. Cabinet Secretary Jack Fox provided information on the peer support project that he wants to implement in New Mexico. It would be a best practice model for wellness courts for all Native veterans who are justice involved and who live or work on or off the reservation.

VJO coordinator Dorothy Waisanen and court administrator Regina Roanhorse attended meetings and strategic planning sessions with the Eastern Navajo Veterans Organization which is comprised of 32 Navajo chapter veteran's organizations. Meetings were held July 13, August 10, August 27, and September 17. At the Church Rock Chapter meeting on August 27 and Bread Springs Chapter meeting on September 17, 2017, the VJO coordinator and court administrator facilitated planning sessions to develop strategic plans for trust funds, education, and housing for Navajo veterans.

On July 18, 2017, Alamo/To'hajiilee Judicial District Veteran's Justice Outreach participated in Operation Veteran Wellness organized by members of the military support group, i.e., Veterans Affairs, Navajo Veterans Administration, Dine Bi Hogan, Navajo Department of Behavioral Health Services. This is the second annual event to provide information on benefits and access to services for veterans in tribal, state, and federal areas. The event had approximately 200 veterans and families in attendance at the Rio West

Mall. Court Administrator Regina Roanhorse received special recognition for all the work she has done for veterans and behavioral health services.

On August 7, 2017, Waisanen and Roanhorse participated in a conference call with Melanie Suazo with New Mexico Department of Veterans Services. The intent is to develop a women's event in McKinley County, possibly in spring 2018.

On August 31, 2017, Waisanen attended the Bernalillo Court's Veterans Resource Day in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She shared information about the program since many Navajo veterans who are justice involved live both on and off reservation.

The staff attorney and court administrator participated in work sessions for Justware, the Navajo Nation courts' case management application that manages all cases filed with the court as well as probation and peacemaking cases, including financial receipts for fines, fees and trust accounts. Improvements to Justware are discussed at these work session, and information is given to the Judicial Branch IT Section to re-set dropdowns based on the filing and case management processes for the different types of cases filed in the courts. The court administrators also met on July 27, 2017, and September 14, 2017, to work on the e-payment project, the trust or bond management snap in, and case flow. The court administrators also met with the Administrative Office of the Courts to plan a Judicial Branch-wide training focusing on Justware. Planning meetings occurred on August 2 and September 13, 2017. ●



Former Chief Justice Allen Sloan was the grand marshal at the Western Navajo Fair Parade on October 14, 2017, in Tuba City, Ariz.



The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation also had a float with other components of the Navajo public safety system at the Western Navajo Fair Parade. Here, Judge Malcolm Begay hands out treats to parade go-ers.



Financial technician Sandra Dalgai assisted with decorating the Judicial Branch's float and handing out treats during the parade.



Judicial Branch staff and others pose with the branch’s banner in front of the public safety system float at the Western Navajo Fair Parade in Tuba City, Ariz.



Former Chief Justice Allen Sloan waves to the audience at the Western Navajo Fair Parade.

# Other news

December 6, 2017

Pro Se Clinic, Kayenta Judicial District, 10 a.m.

December 7, 2017

Meeting, Judicial Conduct Commission, Twin Arrows, Ariz.

December 15, 2017

Pro Se Clinic, Aneth Judicial District, 2 p.m.

December 22, 25 and 29, 2017

Holiday—Judicial Branch closed.

## Update on Shiprock justice center

The Shiprock Judicial & Public Safety Facility Project Task Force Committee and the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections Director Ms. Delores Greyeyes and staff are diligently working on the project following funding of \$3.1 million from the Judicial/Public Safety Facilities fund for the project management services. The legislation for funding was sponsored by Delegate Tom Chee, Shiprock, and approved by the Law and Order Committee on August 28, 2017. The Shiprock Judicial/Public Safety/Correctional Facilities project was placed as the second priority on the Judicial/Public Safety Facilities Fund Priority List, approved through Resolution No. LOCJN-04-17.

Publication of the Statement of Qualifications and Fee proposal for a full project management firm, submission of proposals, proposal evaluation, interviews are completed. Notice of Award is awarded to Parsons. A negotiation meeting was held on Monday, November 27, 2017 with Parsons Project Manager Tom Bielecki.

The Project Task Force Committee are very thankful for the funding and the support from members of the Northern Agency communities, Shiprock Chapter, Shiprock Planning Commission, and the Navajo Nation Council Delegates. •

## Judicial Branch Statistical Caseload Report for FY17 4th Quarter

CASE TYPE	CASELOAD	CLOSED CASES
Civil	1766	206
Criminal	6768	1264
Civil Traffic	5792	1414
Criminal Traffic	1624	327
Family Civil	2630	521
Domestic Violence	1791	929
Dependency	441	42
Delinquency	187	35
CHINS	76	13
Supreme Court	111	16
Probation/Parole	3031	982
Peacemaking	499	233

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Send submissions and ideas for our newsletter to Karen Francis at: [karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov).

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