

# Hashkééjí Nahat'á Bahane'

A Newsletter of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

YA'IISHJÁÁSHCHILÍ  
2021



## Peacemaking staff mentors Navajo youth

By Harry J. Begay, Traditional Program Specialist  
Peacemaking Program, Dilkon Judicial District

This last semester this young lady, Karly Robertson contacted me to mentor her with her Navajo Language Class and I agreed to help her. We spent many hours with her Navajo Language Class. There were many things that we covered; things like items in the home, names of different parts of the body, names of animals and many others.

It was a challenge to properly say things in Navajo. Many times we had to describe what we were talking about for the instructor to understand. The instructor was a non-Navajo.

At the end of her semester she graduated with her Bachelor Degree and I was invited to the graduation. The institute presented me with an appreciation certificate for mentoring this young lady. This was a good opportunity to keep our Navajo Language alive and share and help other people, especially the young adults and our youth. ●



Harry Begay, Traditional Program Specialist, and student Karly Robertson.

## Districts resuming resource meetings

Dilkon, Ramah and Crownpoint /Pueblo Pintado Judicial Districts have begun resuming resource meetings by teleconference. Kayenta Judicial District has been holding resource meetings throughout the year by teleconference.

Before the pandemic, many judicial districts held regular meetings with local resources to coordinate and share information. Resuming these meetings by teleconference ensures the safety of all participants.

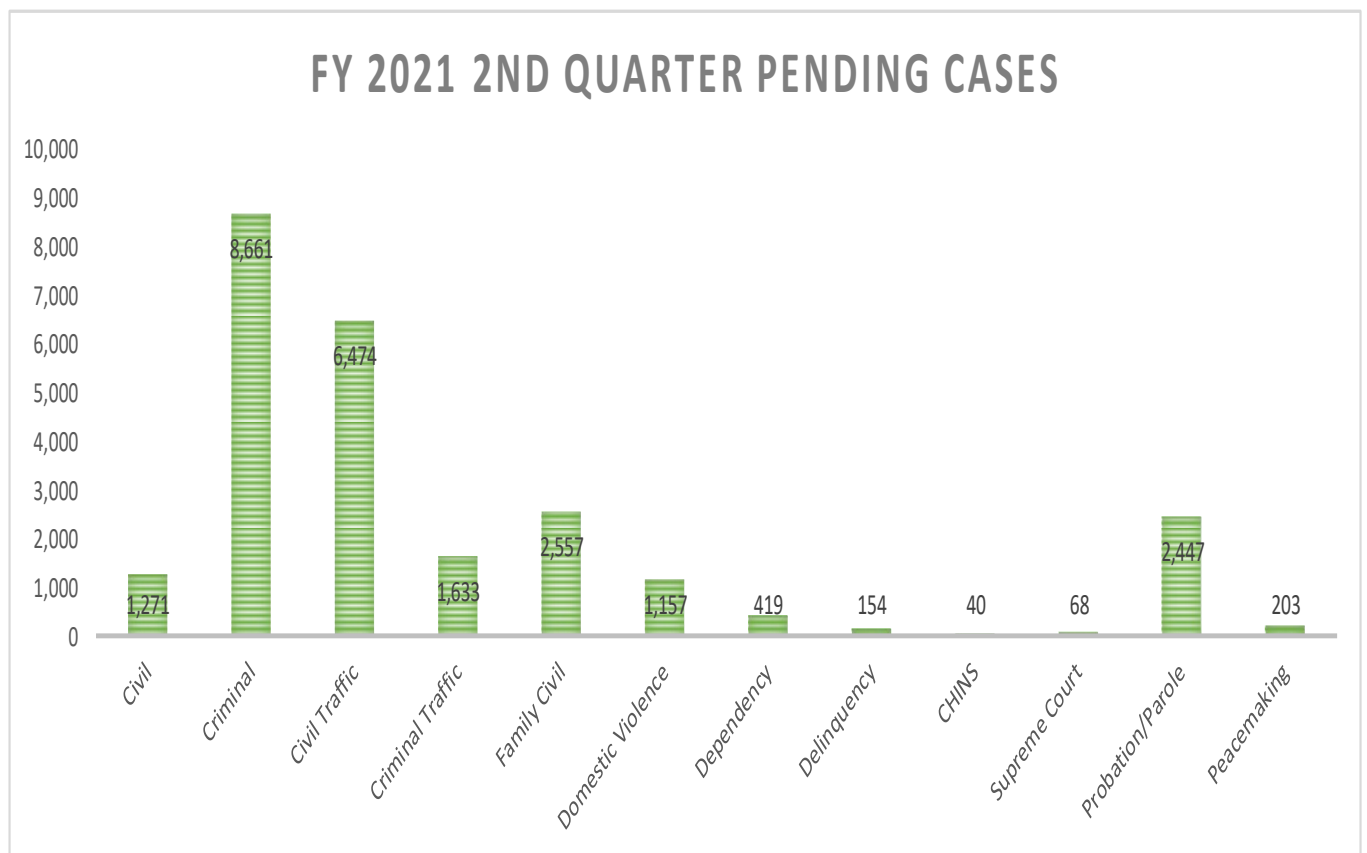
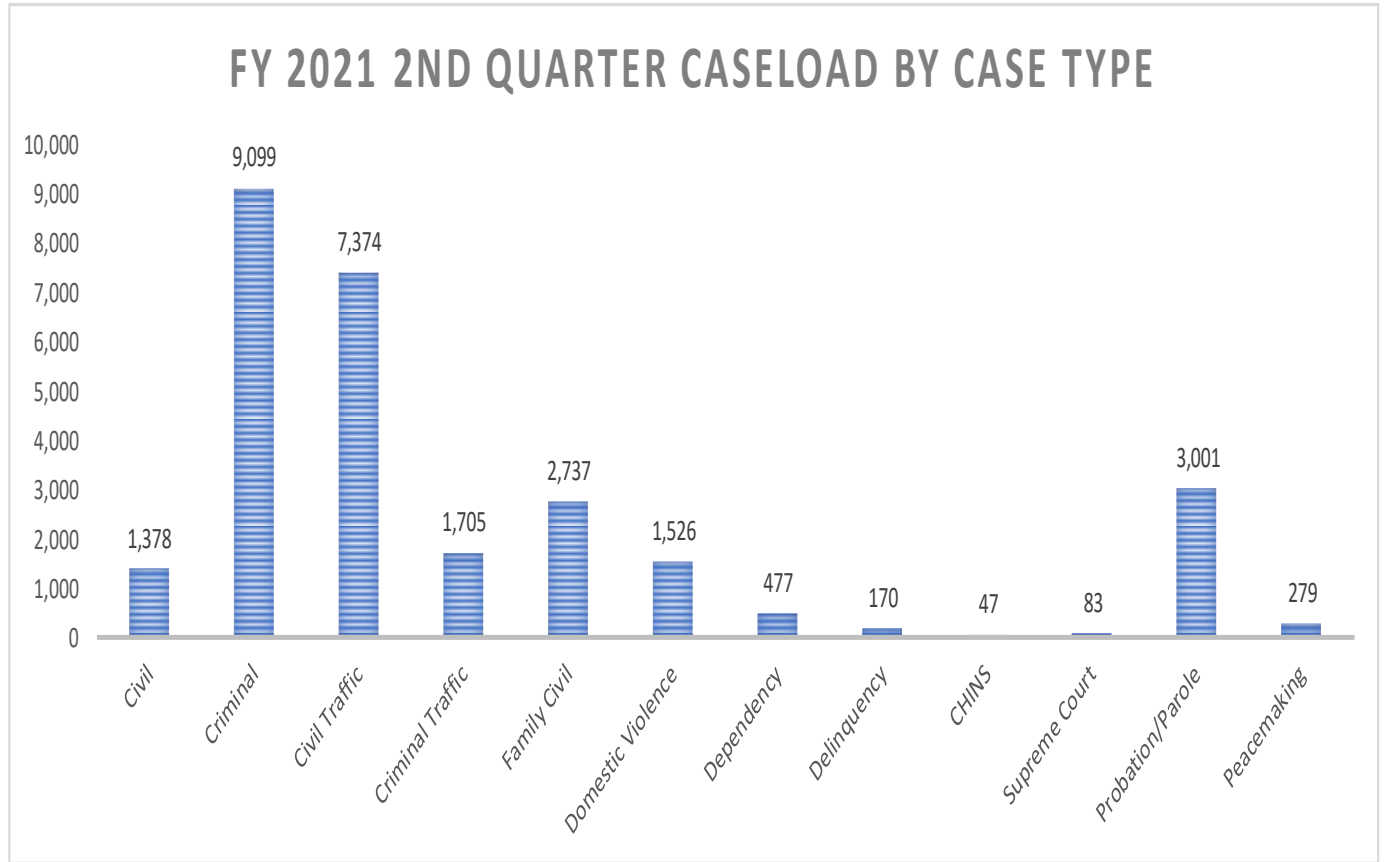
One of the exciting updates shared by Dilkon Family Court at a recent meeting is its partnership with Dzil Yijiin Family Court on a grant proposal to implement a Healing to Wellness Court for dependency cases involving substance abuse in both districts. This initiative involves many of the local service providers including Peacemaking Program and other community

partners. The Peacemaking Program Dilkon office shared that staff are still working remotely but are accepting referrals from other departments.

The Crownpoint Judicial District holds quarterly criminal justice summits, the last one being on May 27, 2021. Court Administrator Tanya J. Chavez said the summit had a successful turnout with resources available to hear information from departments regarding pandemic restrictions and other public information. "This resource meeting was held to have better coordination of efforts between the different programs and resources," Chavez said.

Dilkon is holding its next resource meeting July 23, 2021, and Crownpoint is holding its next criminal justice summit October 28, 2021. ●

# Judicial Branch Statistics



## P E A C E M A K I N G P R O G R A M



## STATEMENT ON HOPE AND REJUVENATION

We are the image of our ancestors created in connection with all creation. Since time immemorial, our people have faced numerous trials and tribulations and we endure as Diné. There are many times when our resolve was tested and our ability to rebuild ourselves and rise above our dilemmas was demonstrated. We have proven resilient time and again.

When faced with a problem, anáhóót'i'go, we are able to think about our predicament and then plan a way to address it, Nitsáhákees dóó Nahat'á. We're also able to put these plans into action and then find a place of wisdom and reflection, and with confidence in knowing that we have accomplished something important, "Iná dóó sihasin. And then the process starts all over again when new situations and new challenges arise. In our Diné origin and clans migration stories, we have travelled through many obstacles and challenges. With the guidance of the Holy People and our capacity to look ahead, we have come to this point in our history where we have again been confronted with another form of Naayéé', a force of nature that means to cause us great harm and destroy us. In our Diné Twin hero's narrative journey stories, Naayéé'neizghání and Tóbájishchíní, the warrior twins, are important examples of holy beings who guide and protect us still to this day. Along with their mother, Changing Woman, they hold a unique relationship with us, her children, we the Nihookáá' Diyin Dine'é Bíla'ashdla'ii, The five-fingered, earth surface holy people.

Many Diné believe there were signs that are foretold of the newest calamity that we face now. It was foreseen by our gifted Diné Hataaíi to see and interpret various natural occurrences. There was talk of how the bright red twilight and red dawn started to occur often, was one such sign that was read as something foretelling misfortune. Some also said that the red ray of light that sometimes surrounds the sun also foretold the impending fate of COVID-19. Still others believe that

the breakdown of our cultural values, ethics, and morals and loss of language and our way of life were also indicators of the coming of Nayéé'.

It's in our nature to be survivors and Naabaahii. Our cultural knowledge, practices, and ceremonies conditioned us to be resilient. We have never fully succumbed to any force that was intent on destroying us. We have always found a way to survive. We continue to conquer many "monsters" using our own, varying, spiritual beliefs. Many of us have done this with the continued respect and honoring of the traditional teachings from our ancestors and the Holy People. Even in this time of fear and uncertainty, we are continuing to face this new challenge head on. Our people are suffering. Many of our relatives and loved ones are no longer here because of this pandemic, and we have experienced deep trauma. We are tired and we've become impatient and complacent during these troubled times. Yet, in spite of this, many of us still cling to the teachings of our ancestors and the Holy People. We trust in our Diné way of life, strong history and our own strength and will to overcome COVID-19. This is the way of our Ancestors and our Diné Fundamental Laws teachings. It is how we are created in their image, and how we are connected deeply, to all of creation.

We have crossed into 2021 and have learned much about this new Nayéé'. We've come to this point where the tide is soon to change. Thinking and planning have helped our leaders to assess our situation and discuss possible solutions. They have done the work and have learned new knowledge that builds their confidence and prepares them for new challenges to come. Our Nation will survive and we will gain new knowledge. We can have confidence to stand up and feel a sense of accomplishment and continuity. Our ancestors gave us these teachings with the hope that someday, we can remember them and apply them. This is what our elders pray for and to our future. ●

# Crownpoint Judicial District Court Administrator



Tanya J. Chavez is the new Court Administrator for Crownpoint Judicial District Court. She is originally from To'Hajiilee, N.M., and is Tsi'naajinii-Black Streaked Wood/Dark Streaked/Black Horizontal/Black Rock; Tabaahi-Waters Edge/Among the Waters; Kinyaa'aanii – Towering House People; and Ashiichi-Salt Clan.

As the newest member of Crownpoint Judicial District, Tanya J. Chavez comes to join the Crownpoint Judicial District with over 23 years of experience in the Navajo Nation Judicial System. She says that her success has been attributed to her jovial and humble attitude with impressive professional skills. A former Court Clerk for To'Hajiilee Court, she is proud to be promoted as a Court Administrator who understands the needs of employees.

Ms. Chavez is passionate about learning and development. Knowing that achieving a higher level of education would help her with her endeavors, Ms. Chavez turned her focus toward finishing her degree as a full-time student while working full-time as a Court Clerk at To'hajiilee Judicial District. Ms. Chavez received an Associate of Applied Science in Paralegal Studies from Central New Mexico Community College-Albuquerque New Mexico and her Bachelors of Applied Arts and Sciences with a major in Applied Arts and Sciences and concentration in Criminal Justice/Sociology from Eastern New Mexico University-Portales, New Mexico.

Ms. Chavez said in her role as court clerk it was an honor to work with different judges that were previously assigned to the courts, as she dedicated many years with To'hajiilee Judicial District; She is now excited to specialize in her field and focus on her passion and development presenting herself as a reliable, hardworking professional who is organized, determined, and efficient with whatever projects she takes on with Crownpoint Judicial District. ●

## Judicial Hearing Officers

The Judicial Branch recently welcomed two new Judicial Hearing Officers. Rodriquez Morris and Tyson Yazzie are the new Judicial Hearing Officers serving the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. Mr. Morris is stationed at the Crownpoint Judicial District and Mr. Yazzie is stationed at the Chinle Judicial District; though, each provide JHO services to other judicial districts.

JHOs preside over hearings and dispositions involving the Domestic Abuse Protection Act and Áłchíní Bi Beehaz'áannii Act within the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation District Courts. Specifically, the JHOs preside over shelter care hearings to determine temporary custody of children taken into physical custody by the Division of Family Services and domestic abuse protection proceedings involving families who need protection due to domestic violence.

Mr. Yazzie possesses a Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University, and has been a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association since 2012. He has more than nine years of legal experience working with the Navajo Nation Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Morris possesses an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, and has been a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association since 2015. He also successfully completed law enforcement certificate training at the University of New Mexico. His legal experience spans more than 20 years, including work with the Navajo Nation, other Tribes, and the state of New Mexico in the capacities of Legal Advisor, Ethics and Rules Director, Juvenile/Adult Presenting Officer, Prosecutor, Public Defender, and Adjudicator. His legal work history also includes six years as a Legal Specialist in the Army. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 2009.

The JHO positions are funded by Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Justice Support through the Tiwahe Initiative. Tiwahe is a Lakota word that means "family." According to the BIA, the Tiwahe Initiative focuses on family, community and tribal culture to address interrelated problems that include substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, poverty, family violence, unemployment and high incidence of incarceration. ●



# Welcome new employees

## Training Manager

Ya'ah'teeh. My name is Francine E. Bradley-Arthur, I am Tohdichiinii clan, born for Kinyaanii my cheii is Tsenjikinih and my nali is Aashiihi. I'm married, and between the two of us we have ten children and ten grandchildren. I grew up in Window Rock, AZ, graduated from Window Rock High School, and went to college at Northern Arizona University for my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Police Administration. I just received my Masters in Public Administration from Grand Canyon University, a feat I thought I wouldn't do, but I accomplished it with the support of my husband, children and grandchildren.

I "retired" from a 20-year career with the Navajo Police Department, where I spent most of my years in the Kayenta Police District. I loved being a Navajo Police Officer, Sergeant and Lieutenant. It was an honor and privilege to serve and protect my people. I became a police officer because of what I learned in one of my classes in college, on how in the Criminal Justice system in America you could get away with murder by having a good lawyer! I originally wanted to be a lawyer before I changed my mind and got into criminal justice. I decided that if this is the case then I would be a police officer and do my best to keep this from happening!

I saw life and death as a police officer. You're the Thin Blue Thin between peace and chaos. I encouraged our young people to become police officers, I once gave a talk at Monument Valley High School in Kayenta to their graduating class. A few years later I had a new young police officer whom I was training. She shared with us at our daily shift briefing why she became a Navajo Police Officer. She said it was because of what I shared with them during my motivational speech to her senior class!

I've always been interested in the Criminal Justice system and my desire to help others be successful has always driven me to do my best in everything I do, along with the teachings from my parents. While in Law Enforcement I became a trainer which I loved doing—being able to share my knowledge with others and encourage them to do better. When I retired, I applied a couple of years later for Navajo Nation Judge because I wanted to continue to make a difference in the criminal justice system. I studied to take my Navajo Nation Bar exam but we had a loss in our family and I decided to take another road.

I've worked on and off the Navajo Nation since I retired and always wanted to work for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. I've always admired how they worked together, emphasizing Navajo tradition and culture. I'm not a Navajo speaker but I have knowledge in our Navajo way of life. My mom was a judge and she was highly admired for the way she conducted herself as a judge. I was told good things about her from the staff and even the defendants. I remember a time when I arrested a person and he saw my nametag and he asked if Judge Bradley was my mom? I said yes. He said she was a good judge, she talked to him like a mother and he appreciated it.

My vision for training is to establish a well-rounded, excellent program tailored to the Judicial Branch by utilizing the resources that are already here.

Ahe'hee',

*Francine E. Bradley-Arthur*



## CONTACT INFORMATION

# PEACEMAKING PROGRAM

CENTRAL PEACEMAKING  
(928) 797-1329

ALAMO PEACEMAKING  
ANNABELL PINO, TPS  
[apino@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:apino@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1370

ANETH PEACEMAKING  
STANLEY NEZ, TPS  
[stanleynez@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:stanleynez@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1371

CHINLE PEACEMAKING  
LAVEENA BEGAY, TPS  
[laveenambegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:laveenambegay@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1367  
VALERIE BROWN, OT  
[vbrown@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:vbrown@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1373

CROWNPOINT PEACEMAKING  
DARLENE DESIDERIO, TPS  
[ddesiderio@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ddesiderio@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1378

DILKON PEACEMAKING  
HARRY BEGAY, TPS  
[hbegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:hbegay@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1379  
LORETTA YAZZIE, OT  
[lorettayazzie@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:lorettayazzie@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1380

DZIL YIJIIN PEACEMAKING  
ROBERT JOHNSON, TPS  
[rjohnson@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rjohnson@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1381

KAYENTA PEACEMAKING  
CHESTER STANLEY, TPS  
[cstanley@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:cstanley@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1368

RAMAH PEACEMAKING  
RUBY FRANK, TPS  
[rubyfrank@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rubyfrank@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1316

SHIPROCK PEACEMAKING  
SARA PIERCE, TPS  
[spierce@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:spierce@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1382  
CANDIDA FOSTER, OT  
[cfoster@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:cfoster@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1317

TO'HAIILEE PEACEMAKING  
ELMER YAZZIE, TPS  
[elmervazzie@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:elmervazzie@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1321

TUBA CITY PEACEMAKING  
ROSIENE CHARLEY, TPS  
[rcharley@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:rcharley@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1322

WINDOW ROCK PEACEMAKING  
JIMMIE BURBANK, TPS  
[jburbank@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:jburbank@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1325  
GLENDA BEGAY, OT  
[glendabegay@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:glendabegay@navajo-nsn.gov)  
(928) 797-1327



# HOW TO CONTACT THE NAVAJO NATION COURTS

## WINDOW ROCK DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 5520, Window Rock, AZ 86515  
Telephone: (928) 206-7469 or (928) 871-6626

Fax: (928) 871-7560

Email: [nnwrcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnwrcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## CHINLE DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 547, Chinle, AZ 86503  
Telephone: (928) 674-2070

Fax: (928) 674-2089

Email: [nnchcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnchcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## SHIPROCK DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 1168, Shiprock, NM 87420  
Telephone: (505) 368-1270

Email: [nnsrcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnsrcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## CROWNPOINT DISTRICT COURT & PUEBLO PINTADO CIRCUIT COURT \*

P.O. Box 6, Crownpoint, NM 87313  
Telephone: (505) 786-2072 or (928) 797-1542

Fax: (505) 786-2086

Email: [nncpcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nncpcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

Email: [nnppcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnppcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## KAYENTA DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 2700, Kayenta, AZ 86033  
Telephone: (928) 697-5541

Fax: (928) 697-5546

Email: [nnkycourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnkycourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## TUBA CITY DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 725, Tuba City, AZ 86045  
Telephone: (928) 283-3140 or (928) 283-3145

Fax: (928) 283-3158

Email: [nntccourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nntccourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## RAMAH DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 309, Ramah, NM 87321  
Telephone: (505) 775-3218

Fax: (505) 775-3399

Email: [nnrmcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnrmcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## DILKON DISTRICT COURT

HC 63 Box 787, Winslow, AZ 86047

Telephone: (928) 551-2385

Fax: 928-657-8146

Email: [nndkcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nndkcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## ANETH DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 320, Montezuma Creek, UT 84534

Telephone: (435) 651-3545

Fax: (435) 651-3546

Email: [anethcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:anethcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## ALAMO COURT \*

P.O. Box 5458, Alamo, NM 87825

Telephone: (575) 854-2668

Fax: (575) 854-2660

Email: [nnalcourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnalcourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## TO'HAJIILEE COURT\*

P.O. Box 3101-A, To'Hajiilee, NM 87026

Telephone: (505) 908-2817

Fax: (505) 908-2819

Email: [ntocourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ntocourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## DZIL YIJIIN DISTRICT COURT \*

P.O. Box 129, Pinon, AZ 86510

Telephone: (928) 725-3781

Fax: (928) 725-3786

Email: [ndycourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ndycourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## SUPREME COURT

P.O. Box 1779, Window Rock, AZ 86515

Telephone: (928) 871-6763

Fax: (928) 871-7016

Email: [nnsupremecourt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnsupremecourt@navajo-nsn.gov)

## PROBATION SERVICES

Chinle/Kayenta/Dzil Yijiin/Tuba City:(928) 421-3475

Crownpoint: (505) 393-5481, (505) 862-9064

Shiprock: (505) 354-1528, (505) 609-8278, (505) 750-4640

Aneth: (435) 315-2038

To'Hajiilee/Alamo: (505) 280-2186

Window Rock: (505) 901-9840

Dilkon: (480) 788-7170

Ramah: (505) 862-9250

\* HAS DROP BOX FOR DOCUMENT DROP OFF

[www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov)





## Seeking applicants for District Court Judge

Judicial District Court, Navajo Nation Wide. The District Court Judge is responsible for presiding over civil, criminal and family court cases; and provides policy direction and guidance in the operation of the Judicial District.



---

For more information, please call the Office of Human Resources at (928) 797-1493 or (928) 797-1525 or email [cswatchman@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:cswatchman@navajo-nsn.gov), [mcolin@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:mcolin@navajo-nsn.gov), or [vupshaw@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:vupshaw@navajo-nsn.gov).



Please visit [www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov) for details on qualifications, job description and how to apply.