
HASHKÉÉJÍ NAHAT'Á
(JUDICIAL BRANCH)
OF THE
NAVAJO NATION

FISCAL YEAR 2025
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT
JULY 1, 2025-SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

RELEASED OCTOBER 17, 2025

Role of the Supreme Court

- Appellate jurisdiction over trial court decisions
- Original jurisdiction over petitions for extraordinary writs (mandamus, prohibition and habeas corpus and other writs)
- Final adjudication of decisions by administrative bodies such as the Tax Commission, Office of Hearings and Appeals and Labor Commission
- Discretionary review of certified questions by trial courts and administrative agencies, and state/federal courts
- Regulatory authority over the practice of law and Navajo Nation bar membership
- Appellate jurisdiction over certain decisions of the Navajo Bar Association
- Authority to approve all new and revised rules, pleadings, and forms of the Navajo Nation courts

Role of the Judicial District Courts

Within a Judicial District, there are two courts: a District Court and a Family Court. Each court having separate and unique authorities and roles for resolving disputes.

District Court

- Original jurisdiction over crimes, civil causes and other matters under Navajo statutory law, Diné bi Beehaz'áannii, and Navajo Nation Treaties.
- Courts of general jurisdiction.
- Small claims division within each district court.
- Special Division of the Window Rock District Court.
 - Exclusive jurisdiction to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute ethics and corruption cases involving officials of the Navajo Nation government.

Family Court

Original exclusive jurisdiction over:

- o Cases arising under the Áłchíní Bi Beehaz'áannii Act
- o Domestic relations
- o Probate
- o Adoption
- o Paternity
- o Custody
- o Child support
- o Guardianship
- o Mental health commitments
- o Mental and/physical competency
- o Name changes
- o Elders

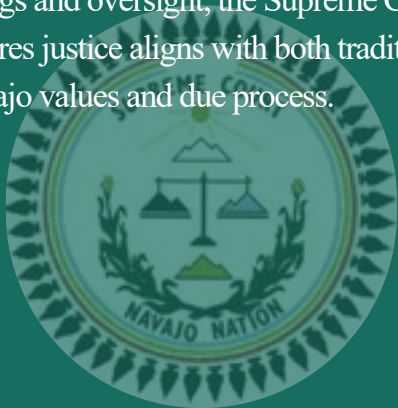
Supreme Court

Honorable Eleanor Shirley
Honorable William Platero (temporarily assigned)
Honorable Robert Yazzie (recalled)

Jurisdiction and Authority

The Navajo Nation Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in the Nation, serving as the final appellate body for decisions from District Courts and other lower forums. Its jurisdiction covers civil, criminal, and administrative matters under Navajo law.

The Court also regulates Navajo Nation Bar members, overseeing admissions, professional conduct, and discipline to uphold ethical standards. Through its rulings and oversight, the Supreme Court ensures justice aligns with both traditional Navajo values and due process.



Appointment of Acting Chief Justice

On July 3, 2025, the Executive and Legislative Branches concurrently appointed Eleanor Shirley as the Interim Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation. This appointment reflects the Navajo Nation's commitment to ensuring an independent judiciary and continuity of strong leadership at the highest level of the Judiciary.

Appointment of Associate Justices

The Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley further strengthened the Supreme Court by temporarily assigning Associate Justice William Platero and recalling Associate Justice Robert Yazzie through Administrative Orders 32-2025 and 33-2025. These assignments/recalls reinforced the Court's capacity to fulfill its constitutional duties and to serve the Navajo people with fairness and integrity.

Expansion of Judicial Support Staff

The Office of the Chief Justice welcomed Reba Francisco as Judicial Executive Assistant, bringing valuable court and administrative experience to support the leadership of the Court. In addition, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court welcomed Lisa Stephens as Temporary Law Clerk, enhancing legal research and case support functions for the Justices.

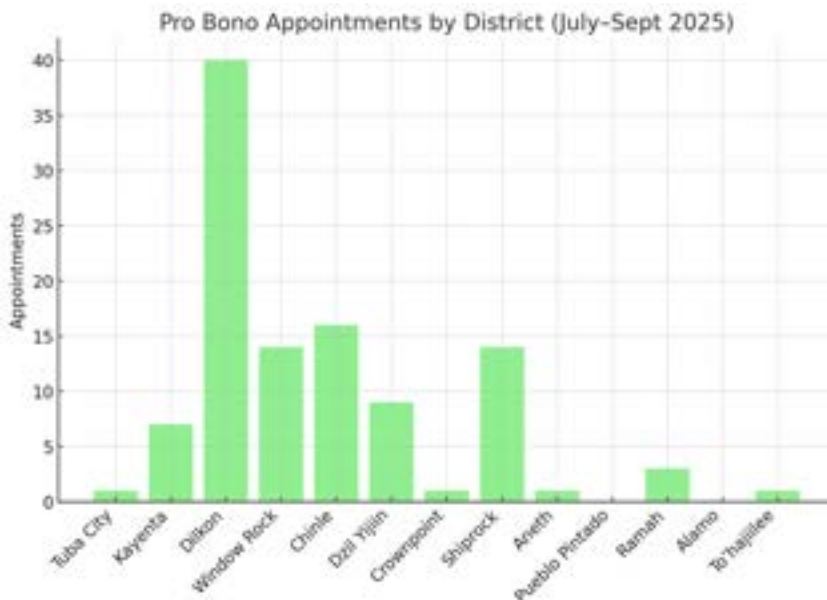
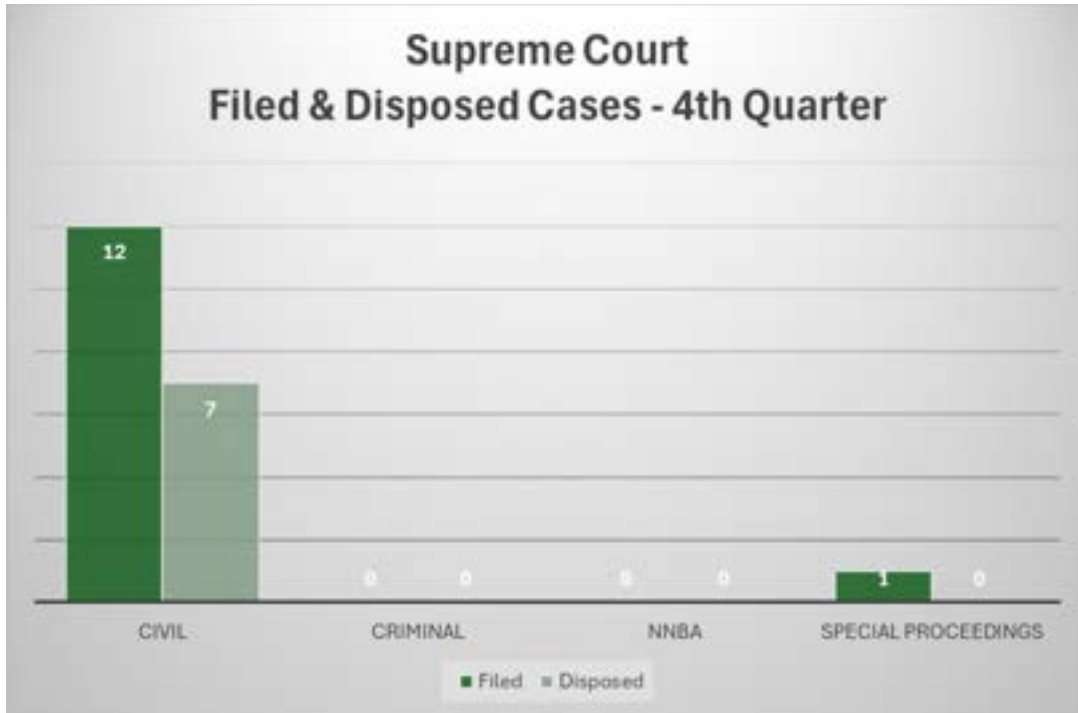
Administration of Oaths of Office

Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley administered the Oath of Office to 25 Navajo Nation elected officials representing all five agencies. This significant accomplishment ensured the lawful installation of leadership across the Nation and reinforced the Supreme Court's central role in upholding governance and accountability.

SUPREME COURT

4th Quarter Cases at a Glance

During the 4th Quarter, the Supreme Court managed a total of 12 new civil case filings. The most frequent filings included domestic violence (3), probate (1), and writs (6), along with matters such as contracts and other civil issues.



107

PRO BONO APPOINTMENTS

This quarter, the Supreme Court facilitated 107 Pro Bono Appointments across the Navajo Nation. These appointments help ensure community members have access to legal assistance, supporting fairness and equal opportunity in the justice system.

Alamo District and Family Courts

Honorable Leonard Livingston
(temporarily assigned)

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Alamo/Tó'hajiilee Judicial District serves both Alamo and Tó'hajiilee communities. Each facility has a district and family court.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Judicial Leadership

In August 2025, Judge Leonard R. Livingston from the Crownpoint District Court was assigned to the Alamo/Tó'hajiilee Judicial District following the appointment of Judge William J. J. Platero as Acting Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. Judge Livingston's assignment ensures continuity of judicial services and effective case management.

Virtual Hearings

With Judge Livingston's assignment, hearings for the Alamo District Court are being conducted virtually. While the virtual format occasionally presents technological challenges, the Judge remains engaged and actively presides over hearings, maintaining access to justice for the community.

Facility Maintenance

The Alamo Court experienced HVAC and cooling issues during the summer. These facility issues are a priority for the Judicial Branch to address and the Chief Justice has directed Facility staff to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all Judicial Branch facilities beginning in September.

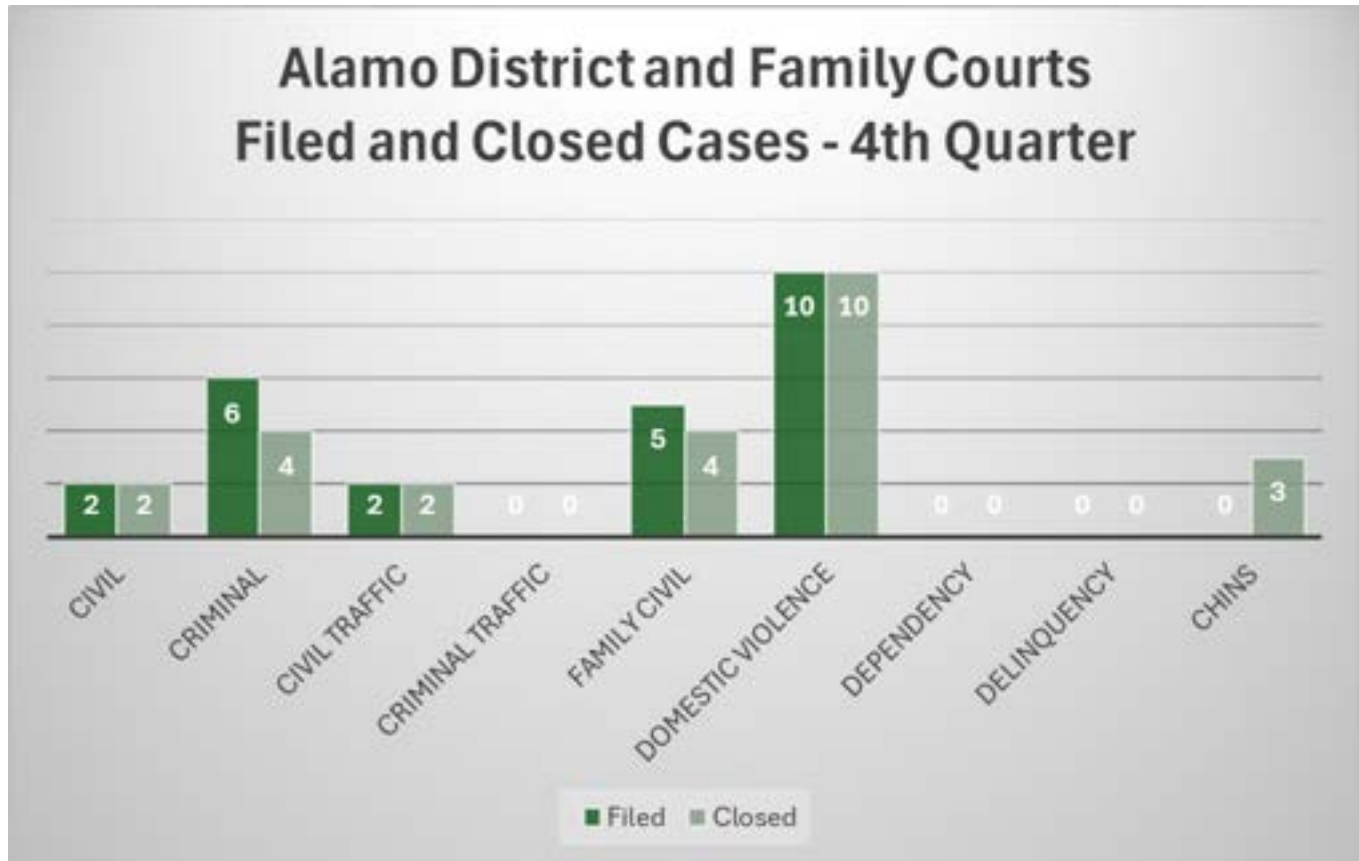
Staff Training

The Alamo Court Administrator and Court Clerks attended Court Clerk Training Parts I and II provided by the Judicial Branch. These trainings enhanced knowledge in case management, financial reporting, JustWare data entry, and court case processing, while strengthening supervisory skills and understanding of court procedures.

Staff Development and Recognition

The Alamo Court hosted a Staff Development Session in Alamo, New Mexico, with staff from the Tohajiilee Court. The session included instruction on court window services and customer service provided by the Staff Attorney, concluding with a recognition of staff for their dedication to serving the community.

ALAMO DISTRICT AND FAMILY COURTS



23

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

100%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025, a 100 new cases were filed with the Alamo District and Family Courts and closed 100 cases, achieving a 100% clearance rate.

Tó'hajiilee District and Family Courts

Honorable Leonard Livingston
(temporarily assigned)

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Judicial Assignment

In August 2025, Judge Leonard R. Livingston from Crownpoint District Court was assigned to the Alamo/To'Hajiilee Judicial District following the appointment of Judge William J. J. Platero as Acting Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in Window Rock, Arizona. Judge Livingston's assignment is for a 90-day period, ending on October 30, 2025.

Staffing Achievement

Lenny Abad Jr. became a permanent employee of the To'Hajiilee District Court as Court Clerk, effective August 7, 2025. Mr. Abad successfully completed Judicial Branch Court Clerk Trainings Part I and II, enhancing his clerking skills and knowledge of court operations.

Facilities and Maintenance

The To'Hajiilee District Court faced challenges with its HVAC system. These facility issues are a priority for the Judicial Branch to address and the Chief Justice has directed Facility staff to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all Judicial Branch facilities beginning in September.

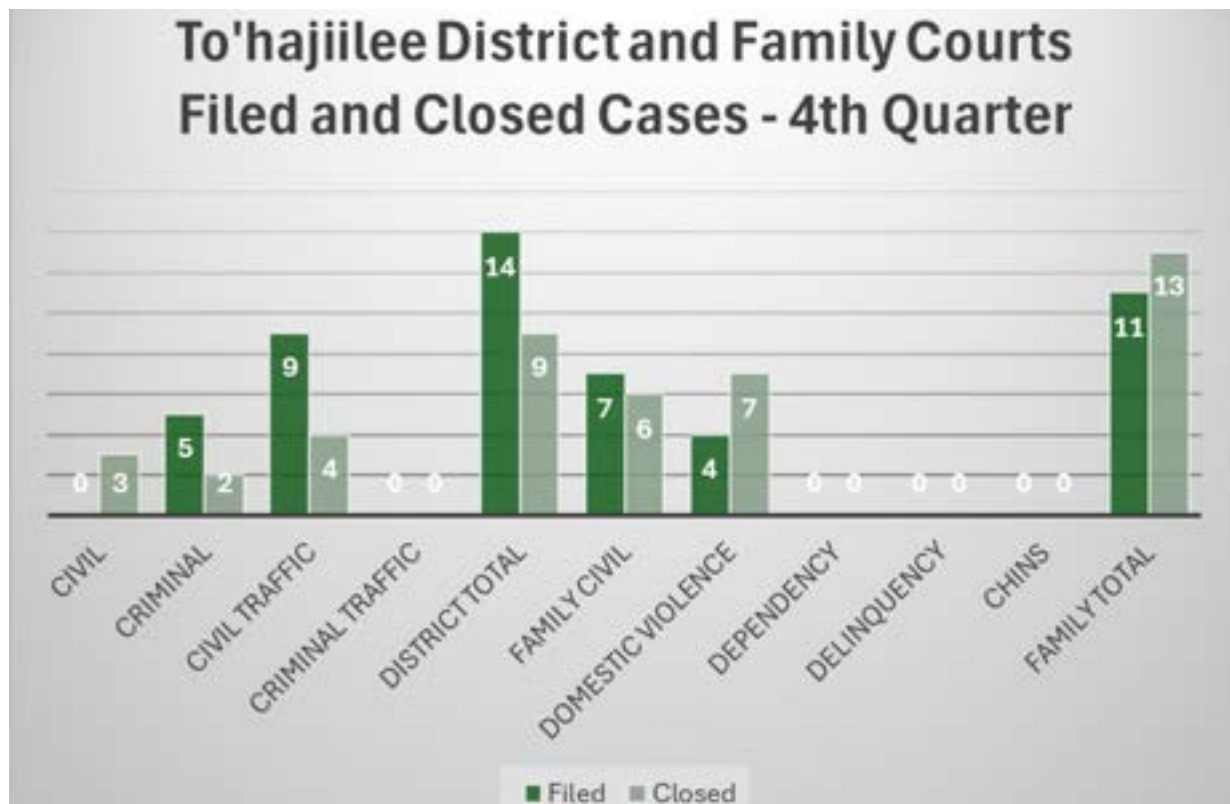
Staff Development

Court staff participated in the Alamo Staff Development training, which included instruction on court window services and customer service provided by the Staff Attorney. Updates were shared by the Court Administrator, and the session concluded with a staff recognition for their continued commitment to serving the community.

Operational Challenges

Staff from Alamo and To'Hajiilee continue to travel on remote and unpaved roads between the two locations. While tribal vehicles are regularly serviced, some routes require alternate paths through Socorro and Los Lunas. These conditions contribute to additional operational costs, highlighting ongoing funding considerations.

TÓ'HAIILEE DISTRICT AND FAMILY COURTS



58

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

88%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, To'hajiilee Judicial District Court received a total of 25 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 22 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 88%.

Aneth Judicial District

Honorable Irene Black

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

New Court Building Project Underway

The Aneth Court's new facility project has officially begun. A contractor has been selected, and contracts are currently being drafted and finalized. The project will proceed through the 164-review process in preparation for construction.

Case Backlog Reduction Efforts

The Aneth District Court continues to address its case backlog under the guidance of its assigned Judge. Although the presiding Judge has been serving the Shiprock District Court under an administrative order, she dedicates time to Aneth cases on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Despite this limited schedule, the court is making steady progress in moving cases forward and improving timeliness.

Staff Development and Operational Efficiency

The Aneth District Court is pleased to recognize Alethea Lee, who successfully completed her 90-day probationary period and was recommended for permanent employment as a Document Technician. She has been instrumental in organizing and logging closed case files to ensure accuracy prior to archiving, and in developing an efficient storage and filing system to strengthen court operations.

Objectives for the Next Quarter

Prudent Financial Management

The Aneth Court will continue collaborating with the Judicial Branch Finance Department to ensure the careful and responsible expenditure of its general fund allocation.

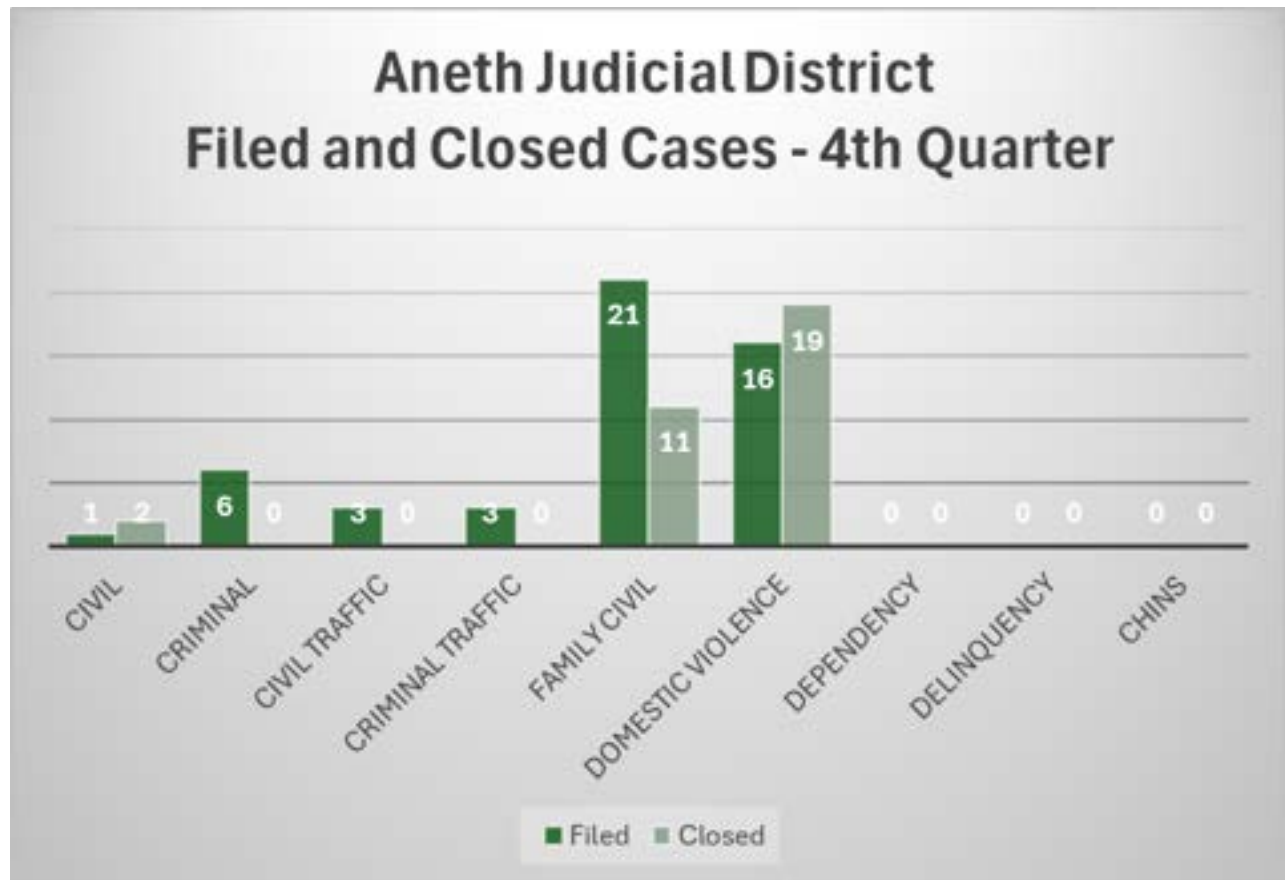
Advancing the Court Building Project

In coordination with the selected contractor, the court will move into the programming and construction document development phase for the new Aneth Court facility.

Improving Case Management Accuracy

To enhance case management and data reliability, court staff will review physical case files and verify consistency with entries in the JustWare system. Staff will continue to assist the presiding Judge with all related docket matters to support timely case resolution.

ANETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



329

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

64%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Aneth Judicial Court received a total of 50 new cases across civil, criminal, traffic, family, and domestic violence matters. The court closed 32 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 64%.

Chinle Judicial District

Honorable Cynthia Thompson

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Court Clerk Training and Professional Development

The long-anticipated three-day Court Clerk Training was successfully completed by staff, providing comprehensive instruction to strengthen judicial clerk knowledge and skills. The sessions covered case file management, docketing, hearing scheduling, and court processes, with emphasis on the critical role clerks play in supporting judicial operations. Participants found the training highly beneficial, gaining valuable knowledge and appreciation for the opportunity to enhance their professional growth.

JustWare System Training

A second component of the training focused on the court's data management system, JustWare. Clerks received hands-on instruction in docketing cases, entering data accurately, and generating reports to support effective case management. This training reinforced the importance of maintaining precise and complete records to ensure efficient court operations.

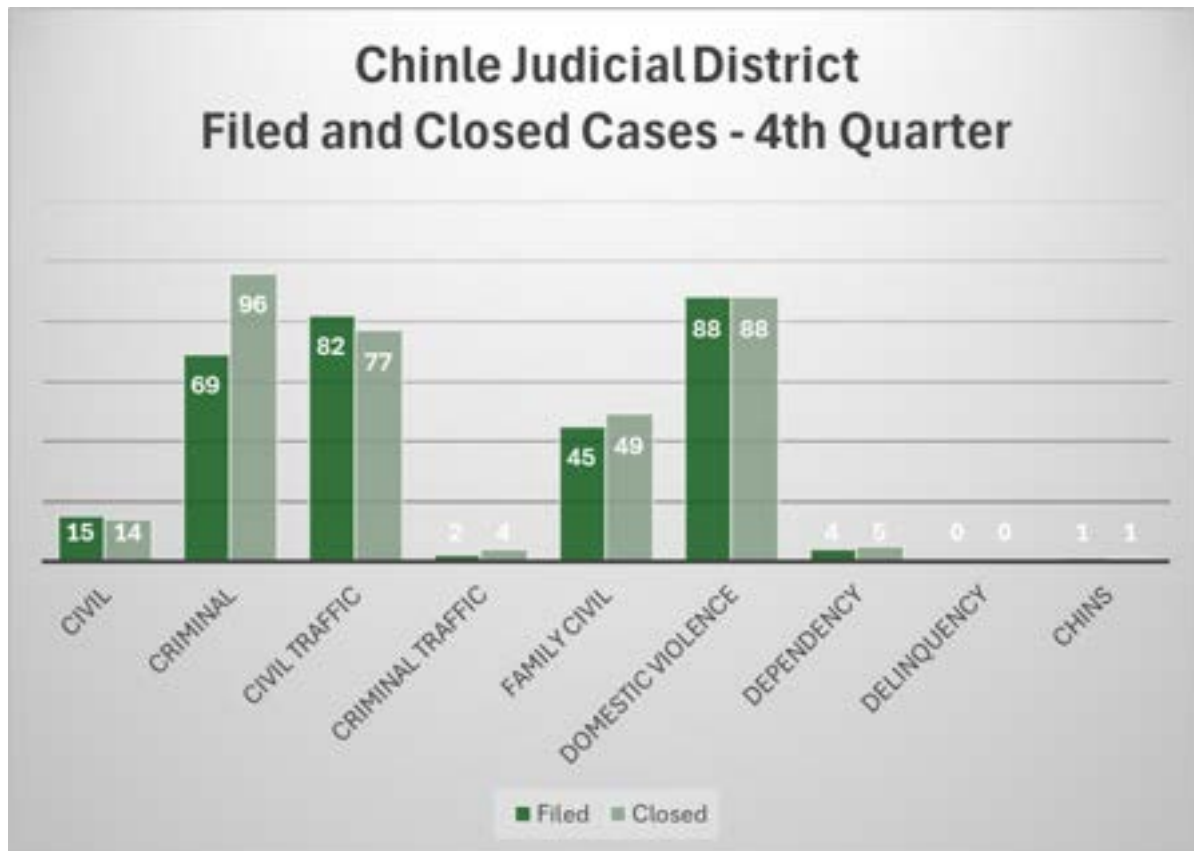
Community Engagement

The Court Administrator and Judge participated in a community meeting organized by Chinle Law Enforcement in partnership with the Chinle Chapter. Discussions centered on community concerns such as homelessness, unauthorized businesses, the sale of exotic animals at the flea market, and illegal dumping. The meeting fostered collaboration among local agencies to improve community safety and services.

Save Our Schools Initiative

The Chinle District Court continued its active role in the Save Our Schools (SOS) initiative, with plans underway to host a fall conference for parents and students. Key priorities include addressing school bullying and supporting mental health awareness and resources.

CHINLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT



791

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

109%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Chinle District Court received a total of 306 new cases across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 334 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 109%.

Crownpoint Judicial District

Honorable Leonard Livingston

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Achievements

During the fourth quarter of FY2025, the Crownpoint Judicial District and Family Court closed 328 cases, reflecting steady progress in case management. The Judicial Hearing Officer conducted in-person Domestic Violence and Shelter Care hearings, closing 123 additional cases. Two new District Court Clerks achieved permanency, strengthening operations and administrative support.

Transparency and Engagement

Court staff participated in meetings and training focused on court development, self-help services, and public education. Several attended the 2025 Family Violence Awareness Conference at Navajo Technical University, which emphasized domestic violence prevention and community outreach.

Facility and Infrastructure

The court coordinated with BIA Facility Maintenance to complete safety upgrades, including bollard and security camera installations. The planned demolition of the old courthouse and Judicial Housing Complex remains a top priority for safety and future development.

Challenges

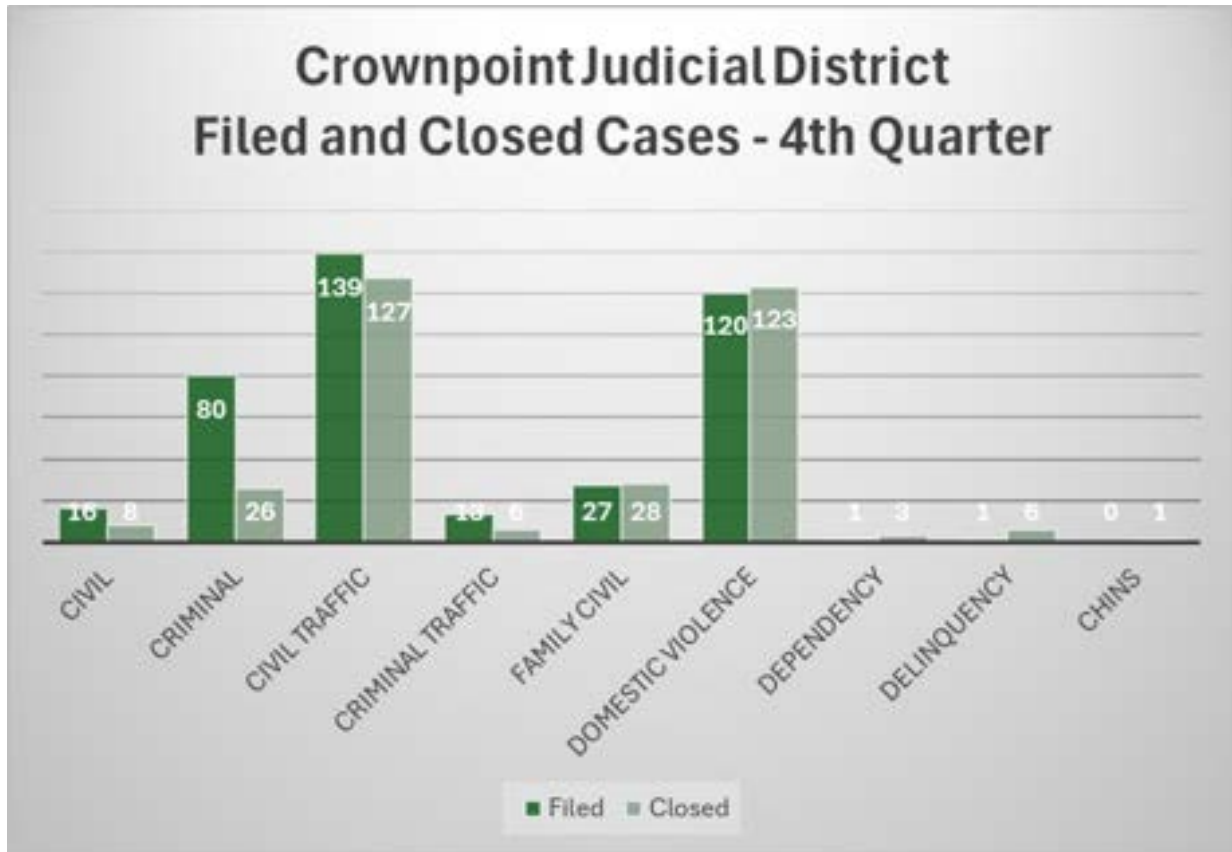
Ongoing internet connectivity issues continue to affect operations, and upgraded courtroom audio equipment is needed to improve communication and accessibility.

Future Priorities

The court will continue collaborating with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to advance:

- Major facility improvements;
- Staff hiring and retention;
- Increased case closures; and
- Stronger coordination with justice system partners.

CROWNPOINT JUDICIAL DISTRICT



943

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

83%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Crownpoint District Court received a total of 397 new cases across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 328 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 83%.

Dilkon Judicial District

Honorable Victor Clyde

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Case Backlog Reduction

The Dilkon District Court continues to make steady progress in reducing its case backlog through proactive case management, closing more cases than were filed this quarter.

Staff Development and Training

Professional development was a priority this quarter, with staff completing JustWare training and participating in the Judicial Branch Court Clerk Training/Conference (Parts I & II). The Judge also attended the Judicial Conference and administered Oaths of Office for a Private Process Server and a School Board member.

Staffing Progress

Staffing needs are being addressed: the vacant custodian position was filled, interviews are underway for a court clerk, and final steps are being completed to hire a new bailiff.

Internal Collaboration

Court staff participated in valuable branch-wide discussions and planning sessions, including the transition from Frontier to Sunstate phone services, budget planning, and a Dayforce presentation.

Challenges

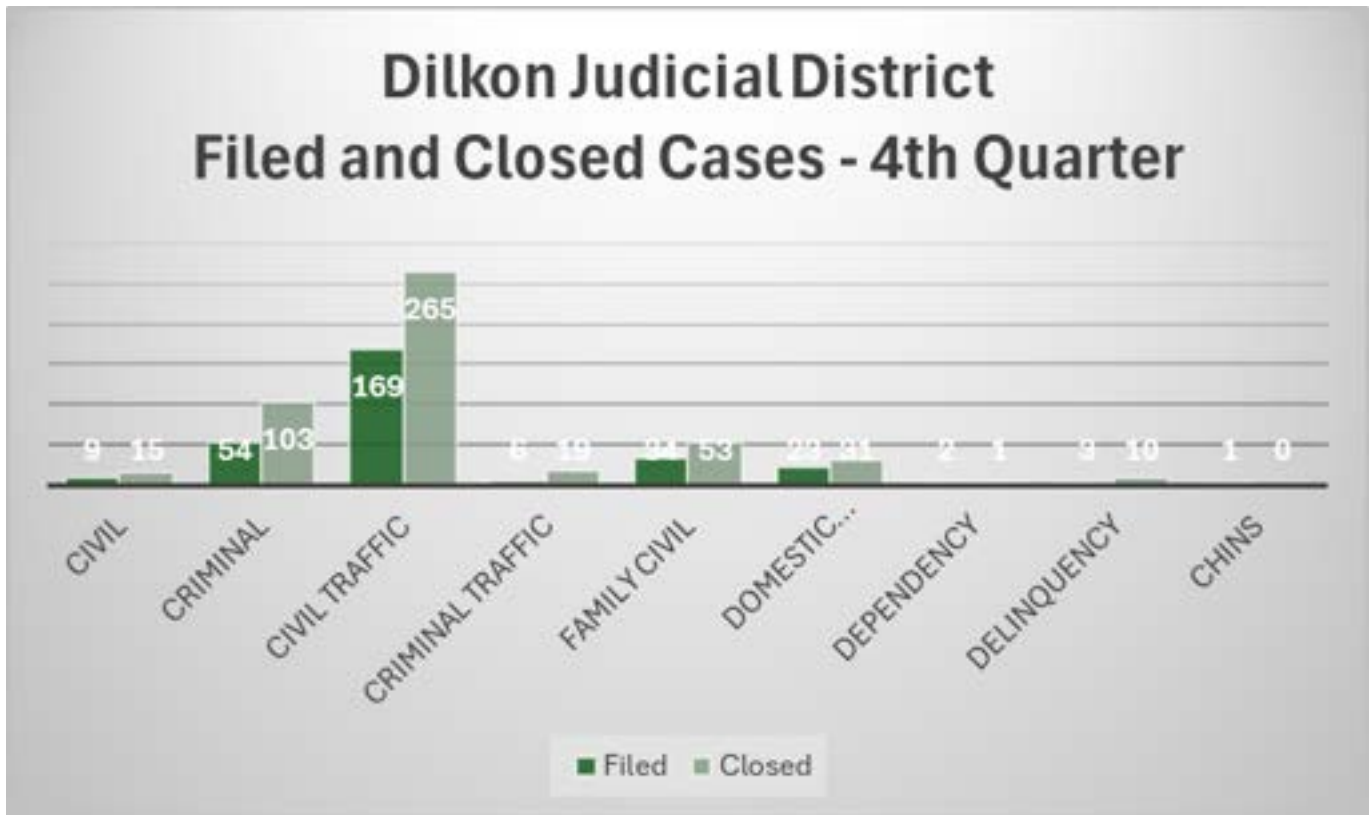
Fiscal and Administrative Improvements

The court recognizes that fiscal and administrative processes can be time-intensive, especially with contracts and purchasing procedures. With the appointment of a new Financial Director, the Court is optimistic that these changes will streamline operations and bring greater efficiency moving into FY2026.

Facility Concerns

Ongoing roof leaks and HVAC failures continue to impact climate control in parts of the building. A roof repair project is currently underway.

DILKON JUDICIAL DISTRICT



2,594

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

165%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Dilkon Judicial District Court received a total of 301 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 497 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 165%.

Dził Yíjín Judicial District

Honorable Cynthia Thompson

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Performance and Service Delivery

The Dził Yíjín Judicial District continues to provide comprehensive court services across a wide range of case types. To enhance access and efficiency, the Presiding Judge conducts hearings in person, virtually, and by telephone, while also overseeing two district courts and handling additional case assignments from the Chief Justice. A Judicial Hearing Officer manages DAPO hearings to ensure focused and timely case management.

Staff Development and Training

From August 4–6, 2025, district court staff successfully completed the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Tribal Court Clerk Certification Course. This three-day training strengthened staff expertise in due process, ethics, record and case flow management, performance measurement, and customer service—demonstrating the district’s ongoing commitment to professional excellence and high standards in public service.

Community Outreach and Access to Justice

On September 30, 2025, the Court collaborated with DNA People’s Legal Services, Inc. to host a mobile Pro Se Clinic for community members. This outreach effort provided critical legal guidance and assistance with family and domestic pleadings, expanding access to justice for residents in this remote district. The event was well-attended and highly successful.

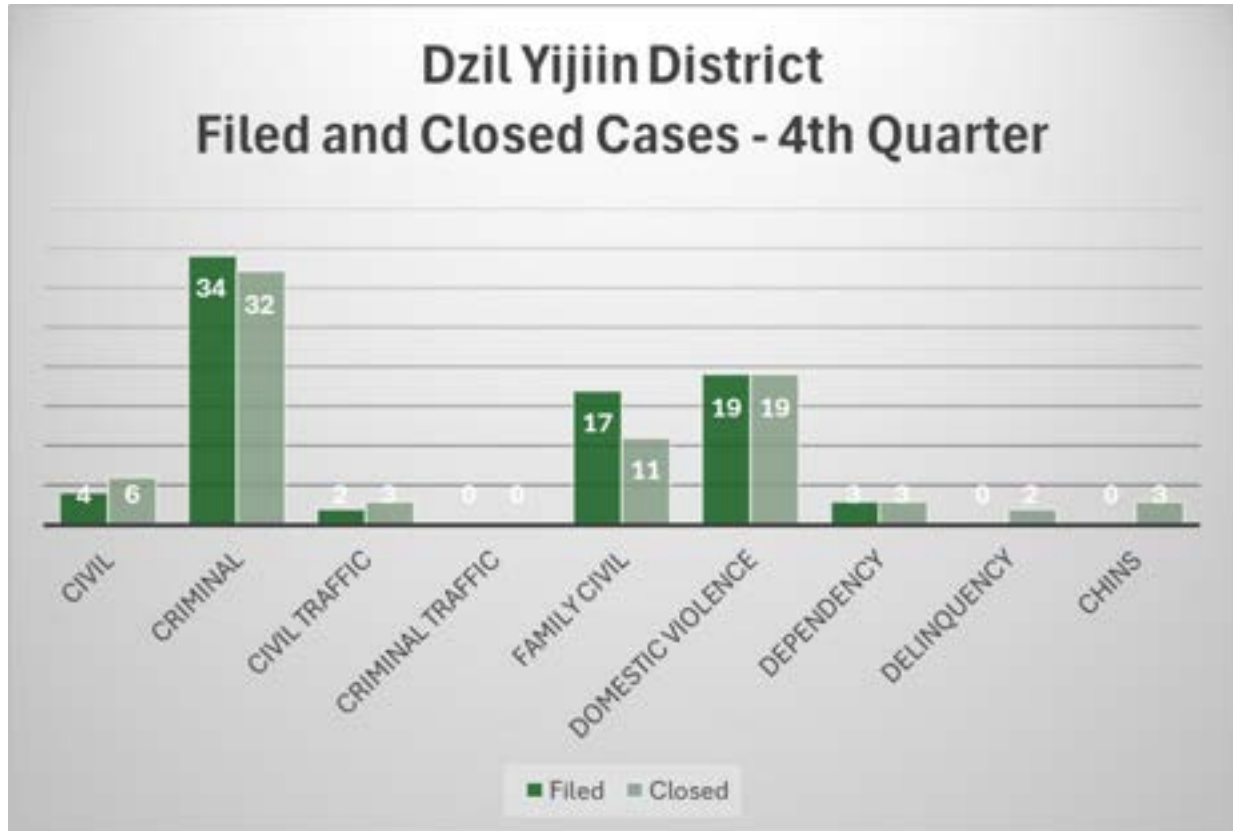
Administrative Management

The Court Administrator ensured efficient daily operations, including case management, financial reporting, and staff coordination. She actively participated in managers’ meetings and submitted the FY2026 budget, aligning district operations with strategic goals and resource priorities.

Challenges and Priorities

A key challenge remains the lack of fencing around the facility, a necessary security measure to protect staff, visitors, and property. The Chief Justice has tasked Facility staff with addressing this matter.

DZIL YÍJÍÍN JUDICIAL DISTRICT



242

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

100%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Dzil Yijiin Judicial District Court received a total of 79 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 79 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 100%.

Kayenta Judicial District

Honorable Letitia Stover

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Court Clerk Certification and Staff Training

In 2023, Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie proposed using Hashkééjį Nahat'á Béeso Bá Hooghan Funds to develop a two-phase Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Tribal Court Clerk Certification Course. The training, held August 4–6, 2025, prepared court clerks and administrators to meet position requirements, adapt to modern court trends, and serve the public effectively. Topics included foundational clerk concepts, records and case management, auditing, docket management, customer service, and distinguishing legal advice from legal information. Staff applied Navajo statutes, rules, and administrative orders, and 68 participants passed the required test to receive a two-year certification.

Additional trainings on the JustWare Case Management

System and the Navajo Nation Privacy & Access to Information Act were held August 26–29, 2025.

Kayenta Judicial Complex Construction

Construction of the new Kayenta Judicial Complex continues with monthly updates and on-site walkthroughs. Completion is scheduled for July 2026.

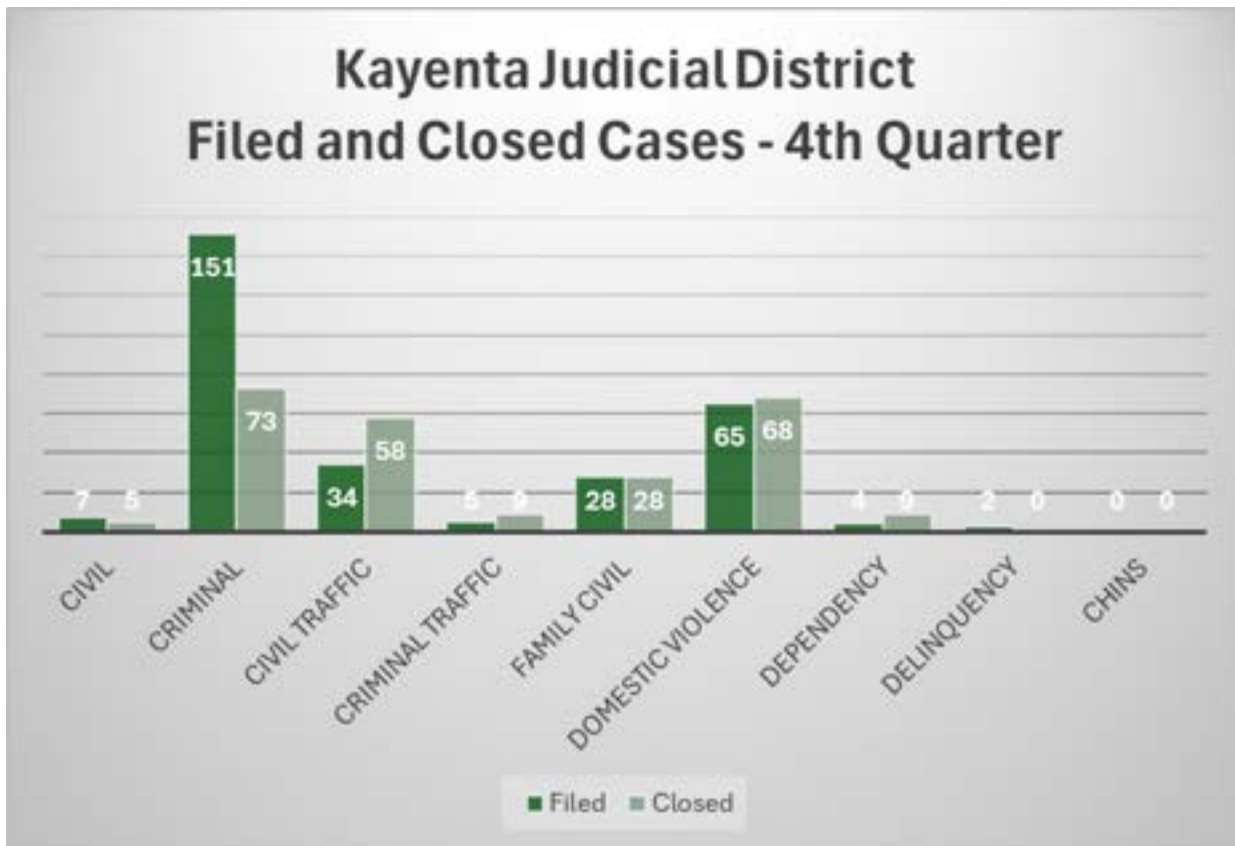
Records Management for Relocation

In preparation for the 2026 move, the district safely shredded 200 boxes of archived court and administrative files on-site in Kayenta, Arizona.

Judicial Participation and Updates

Judge Letitia Stover attended the Quarterly Judicial Conference on September 26, 2025, in Aneth, Utah, where Justices and Judges received updates on Judicial Branch policy initiatives and developments.

KAYENTA JUDICIAL DISTRICT



1,311

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

84%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Kayenta Judicial District Court received a total of 296 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 250 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 84%.

Ramah Judicial District

Honorable Malcolm Laughing

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Staff Development & Training

This quarter, Ramah District Court staff strengthened their skills through several important training opportunities. Court Clerks and the Court Administrator attended the Judicial Branch Court Clerk Certification Course on August 4–6, 2025, at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, the Court Administrator, Court Clerk, Office Technician, and Document Technician participated in the JustWare Case Management System Overview Training held on August 26–27, 2025, at the Chinle District Court.

Judicial Hearings & Case Management

Honorable Judge Malcolm Laughing presided over essential court hearings, utilizing alternative methods to ensure that District and Family Court cases moved forward, including petitions for Domestic Violence Protection Orders. Judge Laughing emphasized the importance of enhancing court efficiency while continuing to prioritize in-person hearings, case reviews, and arraignments.

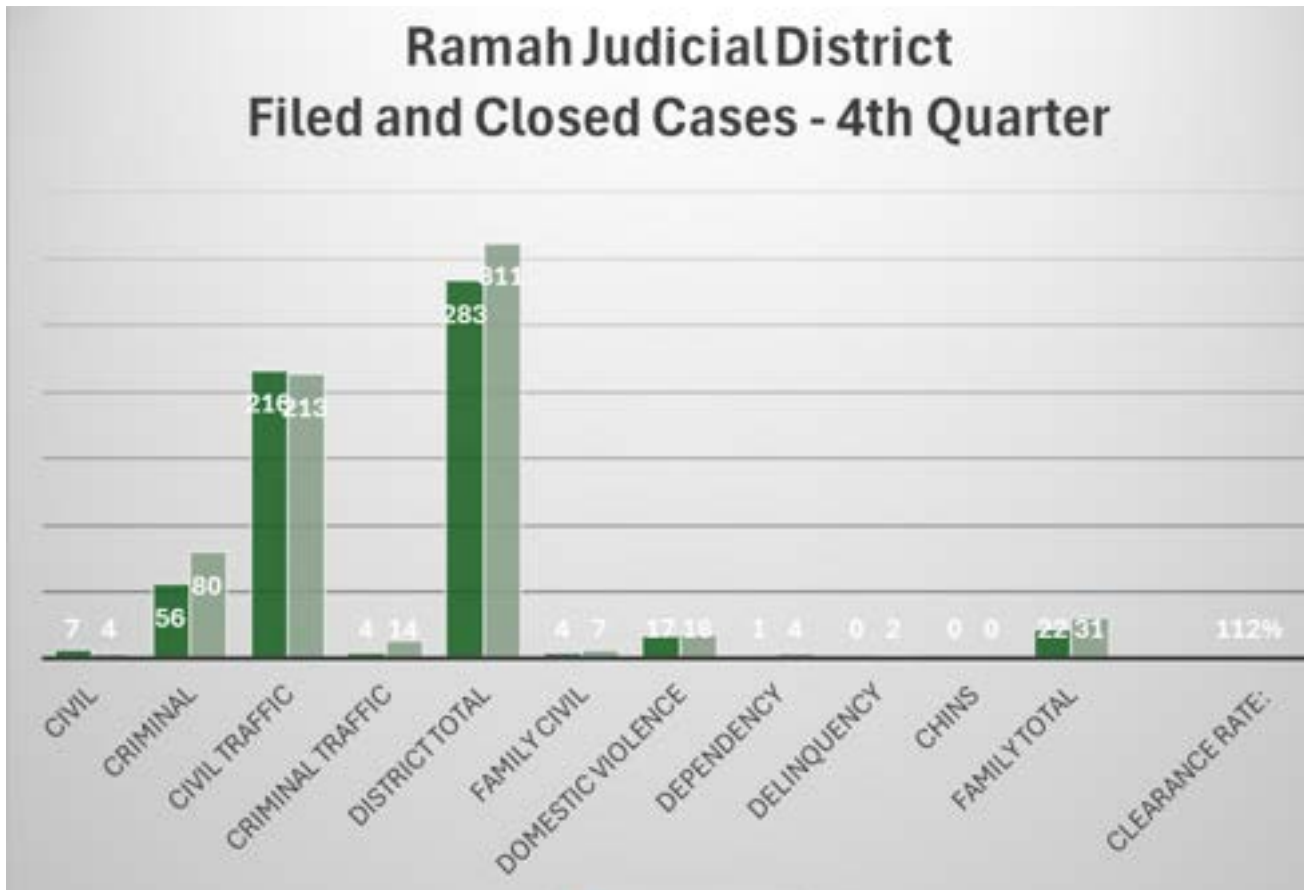
Essential Services to the Community

Throughout the quarter, Ramah District Court staff served as essential workers, ensuring uninterrupted daily operations. Staff remained in regular contact with service populations and local service providers, continuing to provide professional and courteous services to the community.

Participation in Judicial Conference

Judge Malcolm Laughing also participated in the quarterly Judicial Conference, where he engaged in discussions on Judicial Branch updates and new developments, contributing to the overall progress of the court system.

RAMAH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



438

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

112%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Ramah Judicial District received a total of 305 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 342 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 112%.

Shiprock Judicial District

Honorable Genevieve Woody

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Service Delivery

Services to the Northern Agency communities were delivered through multiple channels, including in-person assistance, phone and fax service, postal and drop box submissions, online payments, family and district filings, and visitor interactions, resulting in a total of 8,539 service transactions, demonstrating strong community engagement and accessibility.

Staff Wellness and Appreciation

On August 1, 2025, district personnel participated in a one-day Staff Appreciation Day. Activities focused on the 8 Dimensions of Wellness: physical, emotional, social, intellectual, occupational, financial, spiritual, and environmental, and included team-building exercises and recognition of individual and team strengths.

Professional Development

The Court Clerks and Court Administrator completed specialized Court Clerks Training from August 4–6, 2025. Training topics included Court Clerk and Due Process; Roles as Officers of the Court; Responsibilities and Ethics; Case and Records Management; Case Readiness; Auditing and Evaluating Cases; Case Flow Management; Case Backlog and Productivity; Docket/Calendar Management; Customer Service Skills; and Legal Advice vs. Legal Information.

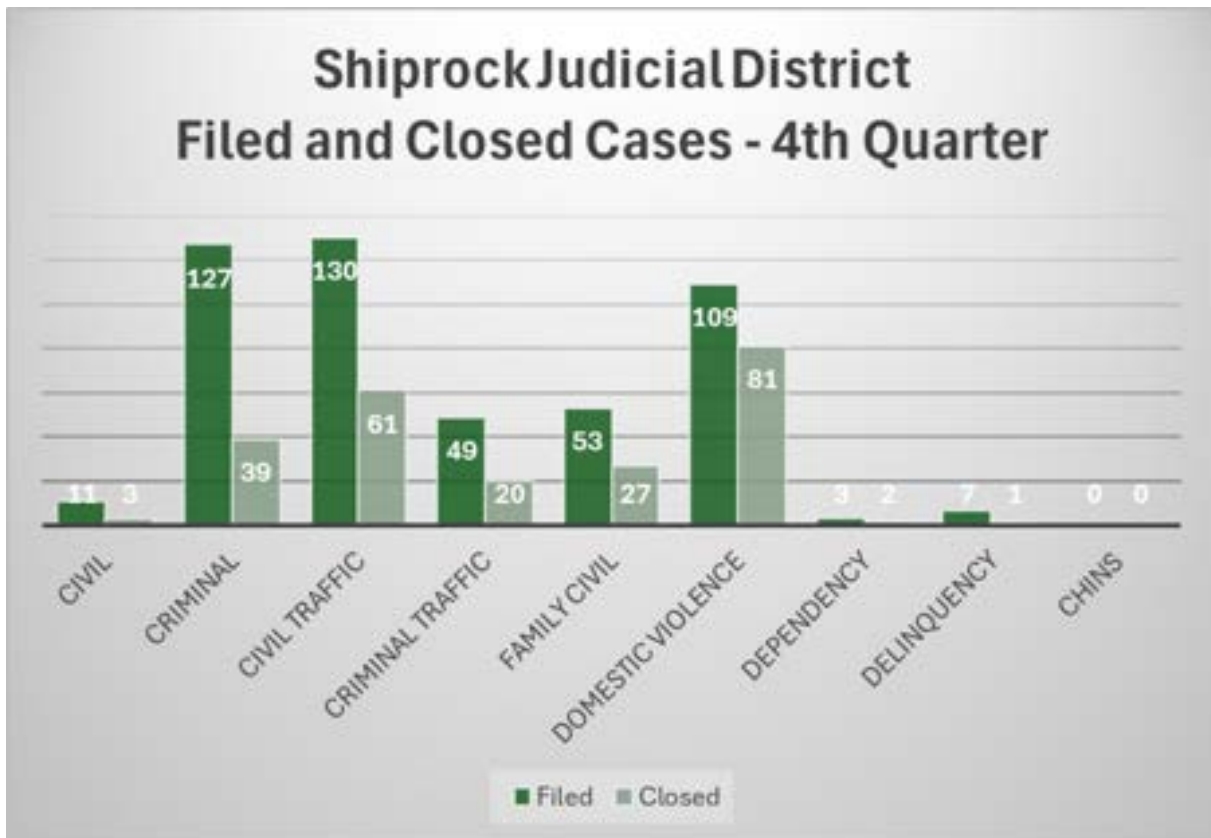
Advanced Training

Part II of the training focused on the Case Management System and the Navajo Nation Privacy & Access to Information Act, provided by Judicial Branch Information Technology and the Judicial Staff Attorney.

Financial and Community Impact

For this quarter, the district collected \$5,682.50 in court fines and fees, with \$100 in bonds posted, no cash bond forfeitures, \$2,527 in community service hours performed in lieu of fines, and \$600 in direct restitution payments, resulting in a total of \$8,909.50.

SHIPROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT



833

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

48%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Shiprock Judicial District Court received a total of 489 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 234 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 48%. This is largely due to judge coverage matters.