

No. SC-SP-01-20

NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT

In the Matter of the Petition of:

Dinita L. James

OPINION

Before JAYNE, J., Chief Justice, SHIRLEY, E., Associate Justice, and TSINIGINE, T., Associate Justice.

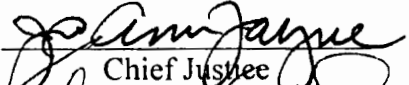
This matter comes before the Supreme on a letter that this Court accepted as a petition for exemption from pro bono service and appointment. Dinita L. James (“Petitioner”) is an active member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association (“NNBA”).

On January 13, 2020, Petitioner accepted a position as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Arizona. Petitioner is assigned to the Child and Family Protection Division, and the Criminal and Civil Litigation and Advice section of the Attorney General’s Office. Petitioner informed the Court she is prohibited from representing private clients in pro bono matters that involve a criminal matter or family court matter pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-191. Also, as an employee of another sovereign which prohibits pro bono representation by law, Petitioner states she is exempt from pro bono appointments pursuant to NNBA Pro Bono Rule II.C.2.

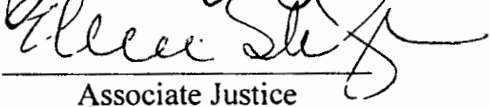
Petitioner is aware she is not exempt from pro bono service under the Navajo Nation Pro Bono Rules and she made a request for a list of areas of potential pro bono services so that she may submit a plan, as required by NNBA Pro Bono Rule VI.B. At this time the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation has not developed a list of the areas in which pro bono service can be performed, as required under NNBA Pro Bono Rule I.B.1

The Court hereby concludes that the Petitioner has shown she is exempt from pro bono appointment and because a list of areas of pro bono service has not yet been developed at this time, the Petitioner is exempt from pro bono service for the calendar year 2020 only.

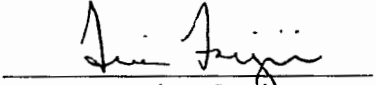
Dated this 2nd day of March, 2020.



Chief Justice



Associate Justice



Associate Justice