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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASSOCIATE JUSTICE CONFIRMED TO NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT

The Navajo Nation Council unanimously confirmed the Honorable Tina Tsinigine as probationary Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne administered the oath of office to the new justice following the confirmation vote.

Tsinigine was appointed by President Jonathan Nez on January 9, 2020. In the appointment letter, President Nez stated, “Your time as a District Court judge gives you the experience of knowing the issues brought by our People and the court’s process and procedures that will help you in deciding cases that will guide the Nation in the future.”

Tsinigine is Tł’ízi Łání born for Kinyaa’áanii. Her maternal grandfather is Bį́h Bitoo’nii and her paternal grandfather is Tsé Deeshgiizhnii. She is originally from Coppermine, Ariz. Tsinigine earned her bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from Arizona State University, master of arts degree in Indigenous Nations Studies from the University of Kansas, and juris doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Tsinigine was a staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch at the Tuba City Judicial District for nine years before becoming a district court judge in October 2017. She is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and Arizona State Bar Association.

Justice Tsinigine fills a position that has been vacant since October 2010. She joins Chief Justice Jayne and Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley on the Supreme Court.

The process of appointing a Navajo Nation judge or justice is one that involves all three branches of the Navajo Nation government. The Judicial Branch receives the applications. The Judicial Conduct Commission screens the applicants and forwards those who are deemed to be qualified to the Navajo Nation President for consideration of appointment. The Navajo Nation Council confirms the appointments for a two-year probationary period. Following the probationary period, the judge or justice is evaluated and considered for permanent appointment.

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