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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CHIEF JUSTICE ISSUES TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR JUDICIAL BRANCH**

A travel advisory was issued today by Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne for all Judicial Branch employees. All Judicial Branch employees are advised to limit travel on and off the Navajo Nation to essential travel due to concerns with the spread of covid-19. All travel requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Chief Justice further recommended meeting by teleconference and/or video conference when possible. She asked for the branch's information technology office to conduct an inventory of each judicial district's capabilities to do so. Many of the districts have video conferencing equipment but some do not have adequate internet capabilities, for example.

Jayne also advised employees to clean and sanitize work spaces routinely, to stay home if they have symptoms consistent with covid-19, and to try to avoid sick people.

"As the Chief Justice, I remain updated and on standby on this global issue," Chief Justice said.

The Chief Justice appointed four staff members from her office and the Administrative Office of the Courts to monitor the developments regarding covid-19 and to plan and prepare the Branch's response in the event of an emergency.

"It is our duty and priority to prevent the spread of this disease as much as possible for the safety of our employees and our Diné people," Chief Justice Jayne said.

Judicial Branch program managers are currently meeting to discuss procedures for the courts and programs in the event of an emergency. The Branch consists of 13 courts, the Peacemaking Program and the Office of Probation and Parole Services.

Chief Justice had canceled the Branch's annual Justice Day celebrations earlier this month in response to concerns with covid-19.

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