



Contact: Karen Francis, *Government Relations Officer*
Office of the Chief Justice

JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE NAVAJO NATION

Office: 928-871-6920

E-mail: karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov

<http://www.navajocourts.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUDGES TAKE OATHS OF OFFICE

Two judges were confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council during the fall session. They each took the oath of office delivered by Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate on October 18, 2017, at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

Tina Tsinigine was confirmed as a probationary district court judge on October 17, 2017.

Malcolm P. Begay was confirmed as a permanent district court judge on October 18, 2017.

Tsinigine is Tł'ízi Lání born for Kinyaa'áanii. Her maternal grandfather is Bįh Bitoo'nii and her paternal grandfather is Tsé Deeshgiizhnii. She is originally from Coppermine, Ariz. Tsinigine received 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 has worked for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch for nine years as a staff attorney at the Tuba City Judicial District and is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and Arizona State Bar Association. She also taught mathematics at Tuba City High School, Haskell Indian Nations University and Diné College – Tuba City campus.

Tsinigine was appointed a district court judge by President Russell Begay on June 19, 2017. Legislation to confirm her probationary appointment was sponsored by Law and Order Committee members Edmund Yazzie and Otto Tso.

Tsinigine would like to thank President Begay and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for giving her the opportunity to serve the Navajo people as a district court judge. She also gives special thanks to former Chief Justice Allen Sloan, who was a mentor for her and taught her to uphold the laws of the Navajo Nation while at the same time resolving disputes in a respectful and fair manner.

Begay's clans are Tsinaajinii, born for Kinyaa'áanii; his maternal grandfather is Tsénijikini and his paternal grandfather is Tsé Deeshgiizhnii. He is originally from Steamboat, Ariz., and is

currently the presiding judge at Kayenta Judicial District.

Begay graduated from Holbrook High School and obtained his bachelor of science degree from Western International University and juris doctor degree from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College.

Begay was appointed a probationary judge on July 23, 2014. Before becoming a judge, Begay was a staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, worked with the Office of the Prosecutor and was honorably discharged from the United States Marines Corps.

Legislation to confirm Begay's permanent appointment was sponsored by Law and Order Committee members Yazzie, Tso, Raymond Smith Jr., Herman Daniels, and Kee Allen Begay.

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