

# Diné Justice

A Newsletter of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

JUNE 2017



## Aneth Court working with federal court to serve clients



**JUSTICE DAY  
PHOTOS  
INSIDE**

*Federal Probation Officer Cordell Wilson listens to Judge Dustin Peade via teleconference during a Tribal and Community Reentry Court hearing at the Aneth Judicial District court room on April 7, 2017.*

The Tribal and Community Reentry Court Program held a hearing at the Aneth Judicial District Court during Justice Day on April 7, 2017. The offender reentry program is part of the U.S. District Court in the District of Utah and meets monthly at the Aneth Judicial District. Every other month the program meets via teleconference through technology used by the Navajo Nation court system and the District of Utah U.S. District Court.

Cordell Wilson, federal probation officer for the District of Utah, comes out to the Aneth Court every month for the TCRC Program hearings making stops along the way to visit clients. He works with the courts to help his clients who are on probation with the federal courts. He typically has about 10 to 15 clients who are on the Navajo Nation.

The specialty court is one attempt to stop the revolving door of criminal activity.

“The whole point is to have them be successful,” Wilson said about the program.

To do so, Magistrate Judge Dustin Peade himself makes the trip to Aneth every other month.

When individuals get released back to their communities, there are usually conditions, such as getting treatment or finding a job. Not having support in meeting those conditions often sets them up for failure, Wilson said. “Specialty court is to lift them up so they don’t get overwhelmed,” he said.

The clients within the program are identified by the judge to be good candidates for the program. The judge also has the authority to recommend that probation be terminated for clients who successfully complete the program.

According to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services website for District of Utah, “Successful reentry programs provide a way for offenders to return into the community and allow victims to feel safe and secure.”

The program usually celebrates when one of their clients graduates, which is accomplished by earning

# 2017 Justice Day photos



Administrative Offices of the Courts staff Sandra Dalgai, Marquerita Lincoln and Raquel Chee educate the public about the history of the courts, job vacancies, the appeals process, and the Diné Action Plan during the Dził Yijiin Justice Day at Pinon Chapter house on April 4, 2017.



Judge Rudy Bedonie, presiding judge for Dził Yijiin Judicial District and Chinle Judicial District, addresses the audience at Dził Yijiin Justice Day on April 4, 2017.

Judge Cynthia Thompson, and Chief Justice Allen Sloan with Dził Yijiin court staff at Justice Day. The theme was, “Jé’ahónáago Ahił Na’anish.”



ABOVE: Chief Justice Allen Sloan speaks to the audience during Dził Yijiin’s Justice Day. Other speakers included Judge Cynthia Thompson, Pinon Chapter President Bessie Allen, and Percy Deal. Elizabeth Bryant provided entertainment with songs. Dził Yijiin is the newest judicial district, established in 2012. It serves the chapters of Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Low Mountain, Pinon, Tachee-Blue Gap and Whippoorwill. RIGHT: The Peacemaking Program’s Traditional Program Specialist Harry Begay serves lunch to the public at Dził Yijiin Justice Day on April 4, 2017.



District Court Judge Leonard Livingston welcomes participants to the Crownpoint Judicial District's Justice Day on April 4, 2017. Court staff were also part of the agenda including Jacqueline Cambridge-Belen, court clerk, who was the mistress of ceremonies, Darlene Desiderio, traditional program specialist, who gave the invocation and Eric Benally, court clerk, who gave closing remarks.



Service providers take the opportunity to provide information to the public in the court room lobby during Justice Day at Crownpoint Judicial District on April 4, 2017. The Crownpoint Judicial District service area includes Bááhááli, Baca-Prewitt, Bahastl'ah, Becenti, Casamero Lake, Chichiltah, Churchrock, Counselor, Coyote Canyon, Crownpoint, part of Huerfano, Iyanbito, Lake Valley, Littlewater, Mariano Lake, Mexican Springs, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Ojo Encino, Pinedale, Pueblo Pintado, Red Rock, Smith Lake, Standing Rock, Thoreau, Tohatchi, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake and Whiterock.



Law and Order Committee Chairman Edmund Yazzie was the guest speaker at the Crownpoint Judicial District's Justice Day on April 4, 2017. The Law and Order Committee is the legislative oversight for the Judicial Branch. Chairman Yazzie represents Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake and Thoreau on the Navajo Nation Council.



LEFT: Staff of the Aneth Judicial District in front of the court house on April 7, 2017, during Justice Day. Justice Day at Aneth included a resource fair with service providers at the chapter house, a legal pro se clinic by staff attorney Glen Renner and a free luncheon provided by the Aneth Judicial District. Aneth Judicial District serves Aneth, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, Sweetwater and part of Teec Nos Pos chapter.



LEFT: Aneth Judicial District Court on April 7, 2017. BOTTOM RIGHT: Navajo Nation Law Enforcement ready to greet the public at Aneth Justice Day on April 7, 2017. Other service providers gave public education on drunk driving and health care.





Some of the presenters at Dilkon Justice Day in front of the court house during Justice Day on April 5, 2017, including Judge Cynthia Thompson, Navajo County Sheriff K.C. Clark, Navajo County Supervisor Jesse Thompson, Chief Justice Allen Sloan and Justice of the Peace B.J. Little. The court house opened in 2009 and features Diné concepts incorporated within its rooms.



Navajo Nation Council Delegate and Navajo County Supervisor Lee Jack Sr. addresses the audience at Dilkon Judicial District's Justice Day on April 5, 2017.

Judge Cynthia Thompson hands out lunch plates of Navajo tacos to the public during Dilkon Judicial District's Justice Day on April 5, 2017. The theme for Justice Day was, "Taking Initiative to Enhance Community Justice." Dilkon Judicial District serves the communities of Birdsprings, Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Jeddito, Leupp, Teesto, Tolani Lake and Whitecone.



Dilkon staff attorney Jordan Hale, Supreme Court Law Clerk LaVerne Garnenez and Peacemaking Program's Dawnell Begay educate the public about the Judicial Branch during Dilkon's Justice Day on April 5, 2017. Mr. Hale was also a featured speaker as part of the Dilkon Justice Day agenda.



Students visit service providers during Dilkon Judicial District's Justice Day. Many local organizations and law enforcement entities gave out public education to participants of Justice Day. In addition to service providers, Dilkon Justice Day also featured breakout sessions on Diné Family Violence, Probation, and Capacity Builders.





LEFT: Tohneesdizi Shelter Home was one of the many service providers set up at Kayenta Justice Day on April 7, 2017. RIGHT: Chief Probation Officer Lucinda Yellowhair hands out cake during Kayenta Justice Day luncheon.



Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley speaks to the audience at Kayenta Justice Day on April 7, 2017. Other presenters included Judge Malcolm Begay, staff attorney Letitia Stover, and staff from the Office of Probation and Parole Services.



Kayenta Judicial District staff get ready to serve the public lunch during their Justice Day activities April 7, 2017. Kayenta Judicial District serves Chilchimbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Shonto and Tsaah Bii Kin.



Staff of Kayenta Judicial District and the Judicial Branch in the court room on Kayenta's Justice Day on April 7, 2017. The Kayenta court room is notable because of the historic photos of past judges and Chief Justices on its walls, as well as a timeline of the history of the Navajo courts.





District Court Judge Victoria Yazzie speaks to students during the Tuba City Judicial District Justice Day on April 7, 2017. The theme for Tuba City Justice Day was, “Hashkééjí dóó Hózhóji bee Ahił Na’anish”



Court administrator Alice Huskie leads a group of students for the court tour at Tuba City Justice Day. Local service providers also provided information for participants. Tuba City has one of the newer justice centers on the Navajo Nation. The judicial district serves Bodaway-Gap, Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Coppermine, Kaibeto, Lechee, Toh Nanees Dizi, and Tonalea.



Tuba City Judicial District staff attorney Tina Tsinigine and Navajo Nation Prosecutors provide a presentation to participants of the Tuba City Justice Day on April 7, 2017. The Tuba City court staff provided information on the staffing of the Judicial Branch.



Miss Central Navajo Jerrylin John visited the Chinle Judicial District Court for Justice Day on April 21, 2017. Chinle court staff drew the Judicial Branch seal on the board at the entrance to the court room to welcome visitors to the court.



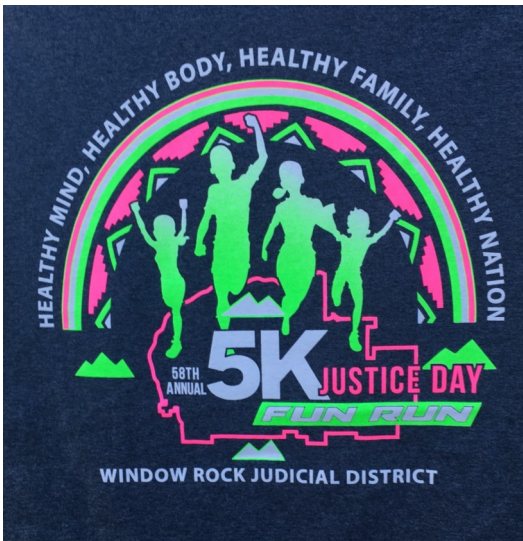
LEFT: Chinle Probation and Parole Services staff providing public information at Chinle Justice Day. RIGHT: Chinle court staff preparing fry bread for Navajo tacos to feed the public.



LEFT: Miss Headstart Bich'eeke' yazhí Tishawna Williams stopped by the Chinle Justice Day on April 21, 2017. RIGHT: A participant with her new Judicial Branch mug at Chinle Justice Day. She inquired about the history of the courts and the historic photos on display.



Chinle staff attorney Chris P. Benally (on the left), Judge Rudy Bedonie (center) and court administrator Vanessa Mescal (on the right) speak to fourth grade students at Chinle Justice Day about the justice system. Chinle Judicial District serves Chinle, Lukachukai, Many Farms, Nazlini, Rock Point, Rough Rock, Round Rock, Tsaile-Wheatfields and Tselani-Cottonwood Chapters.



ABOVE: Window Rock Judicial District’s Justice Day began with a 5K fun run on May 2, 2017. Runners and walkers earned a Justice Day t-shirt that reflected the theme of “Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Family, Healthy Nation.” Approximately 50 individuals took part in the fun run. RIGHT TOP: Service providers, including the Navajo Nation Department for Self-Reliance, gave out public information at the Window Rock Justice Day in front of the Window Rock court’s new location. At least 15 service providers set up outside the court to provide public education. RIGHT MIDDLE: Darwin Mitchell of the Special Diabetes Project encouraged the audience to lead a healthy lifestyle during his presentation on the topics of wellness and nutrition as part of the agenda for Window Rock’s Justice Day. RIGHT BOTTOM: Window Rock court personnel serve a lunch of sandwiches, chips and watermelon to the public. BELOW: A free noon Zumba class for the public was part of the healthy activities for Window Rock Justice Day.



Participants of Window Rock Justice Day listen to presentations inside the new court location. Window Rock Judicial District Court and Office of Probation and Parole Services have moved operations to the modular building behind Navajo Arts and Crafts.



Shiprock High School Marine Corps JROTC posts colors at the Shiprock Public Safety Day activities as Miss Northern Navajo Alexandria Holiday sings the National Anthem on May 5, 2017. Public Safety Day combined the court's Justice Day and law enforcement's Law Day to bring together the many components involved in public safety for the community.



Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Service staff pose for a photo at Shiprock Public Safety Day on May 5, 2017. Many other local and neighboring public safety providers set up displays and information booths during the Public Safety Day.





TOP RIGHT: Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez speaks to the audience at Shiprock Public Safety Day on May 5, 2017. TOP LEFT: The Peacemaking Program’s Traditional Program Specialist Sara Whitehorse (center) with the Martin Sisters. The Martin Sisters provided entertainment with songs and jokes during Shiprock Public Safety Day on May 5, 2017. The Bad Country Band also provided music during the luncheon. MIDDLE: Devin Charlie tries on camouflage gear at the Navajo Nation Police Department’s display during Shiprock Public Safety Day on May 5, 2017. BOTTOM RIGHT: Shiprock Judicial District Court staff prepare lunch for participants of Public Safety Day. BOTTOM LEFT: Students visit resource booths.





McKinley County DWI Program provided public education to participants of Ramah Justice Day on May 5, 2017.



Service providers set up at Ramah Justice Day included Ramah Navajo Dispatch.



Law and Order Committee Vice Chairman Raymond Smith addresses the audience at Ramah Justice Day on May 5, 2017. Vice Chairman Smith represents Klage-toh, Wide Ruins, Houck, Lupton and Nahata Dzil on the Navajo Nation Council.





Kenneth Joe, traditional counselor from Department of Behavioral Health Services, was the special speaker for Ramah Justice Day on May 5, 2017. The theme for Justice Day was “Promoting and Empowering Diné Fundamental Laws through Justice.” Other speakers included Judicial Branch staff members Dan Moquin, Esther Jose and Ruby Frank.



Judicial Branch staff Roberta Sam, Glenda Begay, Linda Williams and Teresa Chee gave out information on the Administrative Offices of the Courts, Peacemaking Program, Probation & Parole Services and Supreme Court at Ramah’s Justice Day on May 5, 2017.



Phoebe Hardy of Crownpoint Department of Behavioral Health Services presents on Suicide Prevention and Youth Awareness at Alamo Justice Day on May 8, 2017. Justice Day began with a sobriety walk at 8:30 a.m. sponsored by Alamo Behavioral Health and the Judicial Branch. The theme was, “Everyday Clean and Sober.”



Participants take part in team building activities during Alamo Court’s Justice Day. The Alamo Justice Day program also included a keynote address by Harold Peralto, peacemaker, on the Gathering of Native Americans Prevention Plan and closing remarks by community member Bill Herrera of Hóózhó Náásgo Hwíindzín, Hope for the Future Generations.



To’hajiilee Traditional Program Specialist Jamie Mike at Alamo Justice Day on May 8, 2017. To’hajiilee and Alamo Courts are part of the Alamo-To’hajiilee Judicial District.



Alamo-To’hajiilee Judicial District Court Judge William J.J. Platero delivers the keynote address to the audience at the To’hajiilee Court Justice Day on May 9, 2017. Justice Day also featured presentation on Suicide Prevention by Phoebe Hardy of Department of Behavioral Health and on Truancy Prevention by Lauren Billy, Alamo and To’hajiilee Office of Probation and Parole Services. The theme for the activities was, “Celebrate Community Wellness.”



Staff from CBN Health Center, To’hajiilee Chapter, Administrative Offices of the Courts and Peacemaking Program at To’hajiilee Court’s Justice Day on May 9, 2017.



To’hajiilee Court feeds the public lunch during Justice Day. The Justice Day in To’hajiilee concluded the 58th Justice Day activities by the judicial district courts for 2017.

*Thank you for attending the 2017 Justice Days of the Navajo Nation Judicial Districts!*

# Announcements



Window Rock Judicial District Court and Office of Probation and Parole Services are now located in the modular building north of the Navajo Arts and Crafts building and south of the Ace Hardware store. The court can be reached at (928) 871-6626.

Window Rock Judicial District serves the chapters of Cornfields, Crystal, Fort Defiance, Ganado, Houck, Kinlichee, Klagetoh, Lupton, Manuelito, Nahata Dzil, Oak Springs, Red Lake, Rock Springs, Sawmill, St. Michaels, Steamboat, Tsayatoh, and Wide Ruins. ●

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 23, 2017**

Pro Se Clinic, Aneth Judicial District Court at 2 p.m.

Pro Se Clinic, Tuba City Judicial District at 8:30 a.m.

Topics include name change, correction of record, and declaration of a name.

**June 28, 2017**

Ramah Resource Meeting, Ramah Judicial District Court, at 10 a.m.

**July 11, 2017**

One Day Central Family Workshop & Conference, Chinle Community Center, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**July 14, 2017**

Pro Se Clinic, Tuba City Judicial District Court at 8:30 a.m.

## Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council established

By Raquel Chee, Grants Administrator

The Judicial Branch would like to offer its congratulations to the newly established Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council.

The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council was formally established with the passage of Legislation 0019-17. The legislation was adopted by the Navajo Nation Council during the spring session with a vote of 15-2.

The Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council was represented at the Navajo Nation Council Spring Session by Christian Brown, Western Agency Representative; Virlicencia Begay, Fort Defiance Agency Representative and Cali Chee, Central Agency Representative. The Ad Hoc Committee members were supported by the legislation's sponsor Honorable Amber K. Crotty and lifelong youth advocate Yvonne Kee-Billison who advised that "each Branch of the Navajo Nation Government appoint one person to offer support and guidance to the Youth Advisory Council." Christian Brown, in his opening statement, offered the innovation and ingenuity of Navajo youth to help solve some of today's challenges. "Thank you for the support from the Navajo Nation Council and for the seat at the table to help make the best decisions for our people", said Cali Chee after witnessing the overwhelming support and vote of the Legislature.

The Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council was first established on August 21, 2016, when the three branch chiefs appointed 10 youth from each agency and one urban representative to develop and implement the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council. The legislation that passed was the culmination of months of work by the Ad Hoc Committee and advisors from the three branches of the Navajo Nation Government. Executive Branch advisors included Yvonne Kee-Billison, Theresa Galvan, Ron Duncan and Al Tsedah. Honorable

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