

Hashkééjí Nahat'á Bahane'

ATSÁBIYÁÁZH
2020



Associate Justice, judges confirmed



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Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley, Associate Justice Tina Tsinigine and Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne after Justice Tsinigine's confirmation and swearing in on January 28, 2020.

Three district court judges were confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council in December 2019 and an associate justice of the Supreme Court was confirmed in January 2020. These confirmations fill long-standing vacancies to the Navajo Nation Courts.

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'aanii. Her ma-

ternal grandfather is Bįh Bitoo'nii and her paternal grandfather is Tsé Deeshgiizhni. 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.

Three probationary district court judges were confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council on Thursday, December 19, 2019. Neomi Gilmore, Letitia Stover and

Quarterly message of the Chief Justice



Yá'át'ééh, Shí Díné, Dóó Shíghéí; Ado Aláájí Nahat'ajíí Nataani 24th Honorable Navajo Nation Council Delegates; Dóó Aláájí Hózhóojí Nahat'ajíí Nataani Jonathan Nez; Doo Myron Lizer Akádó Dájizdahyígí, Dóó distinguished guests. I respectfully present you the Hashkééjí Nahat'ajíí (Judicial Branch) First Quarterly Report for Fiscal Year 2020: Ghaájí, Separation of Seasons; Nilch'its'ósí, Small Wind; Nilch'itsoh, Big Wind.

A HIGHLIGHT IN THIS QUARTER: 3 NEW NAVAJO NATION PROBATIONARY JUDGES: The Hashkééjí Nahat'á Branch extends a heartfelt appreciation to the Hashkééjí Nahat'á Branch employees, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee, Navajo Nation Naa'bik'iyati' Committee, and the 24th Navajo Nation Council - Nahat'ajíí Na'hataa Branch for the confirmation of three (3) new Navajo Nation probationary judges on December 19, 2019.

The addition of 3 new judges will expand the ability of the Navajo Nation courts to adjudicate more cases in a shorter time frame. It has always been the vision and requirement of the Judicial Branch to attend to cases in the most efficient and effective means possible. The addition of 3 new judges increases the ability to fully pursue Diné bi beenahaz' áanii which allows the Judicial Branch to embody the traditional values and processes of the Navajo People.

The achievement of recruiting 3 new district court judges is monumental. The work, however, is not done since there exists seven (7) district court judge vacancies in the Navajo Nation.

THE NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT IS CLOSE TO ACQUIRING A FULL PANEL: The Navajo Nation Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice and two (2) associate justices. There has been a gap of nearly ten (10) years since a full panel of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court has existed. Currently, JoAnn B. Jayne is the Chief Justice and one of the Associate Justices is Justice Eleanor Shirley. Without a second associate justice, district court judges had been called upon to sit as an associate justice by designation as allowable in the Navajo Nation Code. This designation created a decade of district court judges spending time be-

tween their district court cases and some supreme court cases. During this first quarter of 2020, two (2) Associate justice applicants were under consideration by the Judicial Conduct Commission who sent both applicants to President Jonathan Nez for his consideration. The Hashkééjí Nahat'ajíí (Judicial Branch) has worked extremely hard to recruit candidates to fill the second associate justice position.

JUDGES' TRAINING AND DINÉ COLLEGE OF LAW: The National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada has been the "go to" training arena for the Navajo Nation judges for many years. My observation, in 2018, was that we spent thousands of dollars off the Navajo Nation for legal training. My thought and vision has been that we need to stay local for training since we have our own Navajo legal experts to call upon. To that end, all of the 2018 training requirements (14 hours of legal training per year) for Navajo Nation judges was fulfilled within the Navajo Nation and taught by Navajo legal experts. Based on this accomplishment, and to remain on the Nation in the future, I presented the idea of staying local with Diné College (not aware that efforts had begun for the establishment of a Dine' College of Law). Thus, we reached out to Dine' College to assist us with training resources and personnel for training for judges and staff. During these rounds of conversations about training, Diné College President reached out to the Judicial Branch for input for their development of a College of Law.

2021 and 2022 NAVAJO NATION GENERAL FUND BUDGETS: The Hashkééjí Nahat'á Branch received a \$1,550,659 Million increase in General Funds in the last 2 budget cycles for 2019 and 2020. We received Navajo Nation General Funds of \$14,924,653 for the current Fiscal Year 2020. The submission of the 2021 budget is now underway. And it is not too soon to look at 2022. There are 193 employees funded by general funds and 28 employees funded by Public Law 93-638 funds. The Hashkééjí Nahat'á Branch has done its fair share of efforts to secure approximately \$4,782,641 external funds, including Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Department of Justice funds.

FACILITY NEEDS CONTINUES TO BE A PRIORITY: The proposed Shiprock Judicial Complex includes a court building and remains on priority setting due to inadequate room and unsafe building conditions. The current court caseload cannot be sustained in the present quarters. Likewise, the Kayenta Judicial District building cannot continue to sustain caseloads. The Window Rock District Court moved its operation within the Administration of Courts building in 2018 due to an unsafe building. The staff continues to operation under these conditions until other buildings are secured. With assistance and support from the Law and Order Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, we continue to look for court space and funding.

The Hashkééjí Nahat'á branch highlights its accomplishments in the 1st Quarterly 2020 report to the Legislative and Executive branches and to the Diné. ●

Associate Justice, Judges confirmed

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Malcolm Laughing each took the oath of office administered by Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne immediately following the respective votes on the confirmation.

The legislation to confirm Tsinigine was sponsored by Navajo Nation Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie. Each of the legislation to confirm the district court judges was sponsored by Delegate Otto Tso.

Judge Gilmore is originally from Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes), N.M. She attended University of Idaho Law School where she earned a juris doctor degree. After law school, Ms. Gilmore served as Attorney Candidate of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice Chapters Unit serving 110 Chapters and the Administrative Service Centers.

Judge Stover is originally from Naatsis'áán (Navajo Mountain). She attended University of South Dakota School of Law earning a juris doctor and received her Masters of Law (LLM) from the University of Arizona. Before she went back to law school, Stover was a teacher. She was the staff attorney for Kayenta Judicial District Court for the past five years.

Judge Laughing is from Crystal, N.M. He has an associate of arts degree in pre-business administration and associate of applied science in tribal court advocate. He has over 17 years tribal advocate legal experience including employment with Navajo Housing Authority, Navajo Nation Credit Services, Navajo Nation Public Defender's Office and private practice.

Judge Gilmore is assigned to the Dilkon Judicial District; Judge Stover is assigned to the Kayenta Judicial District; and Judge Laughing is assigned to the Tuba City Judicial District.

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 and confirmation.

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation continues to recruit for applicants for judge as there remains vacancies for eight district court judges. For more information on qualifications and how to apply, visit www.navajocourts.org/vacancies.htm. ●



Judge Neomi Gilmore takes the oath of office.



Judge Letitia Stover takes the oath of office.



Judge Malcolm Laughter takes the oath of office.

Judicial Branch news

Court administrator earns masters degree



Congratulations to To'hajiilee/Alamo Court Administrator Regina Begay-Roanhorse for completing her Masters in Legal Studies degree. Her expected graduation ceremony will be held at the College of Law, University of Oklahoma Norman Campus on May 9, 2020. Her weighted GPA is 5.2, receiving As in all of her classes. She started her law program in the Fall of 2018 and her Masters in Legal Studies degree was conferred on her in the second week of January 2020. The program offered courses on the health care industry including compliance, advocacy, negotiating contracts, review of federal healthcare laws including the Affordable Care Act, Anti Kickback statute, Fraud and Abuse laws, and confidentiality laws. It provided Ms. Begay-Roanhorse with practical legal knowledge of the industry. It also strengthened her legal knowledge of civil litigation and contracts. The MLS program was a rigorous program that involved weekly legal analysis and writing for all the classes on different topics arguing and advocating for different stances on the law both as an initial post and then as a final paper. This occurred on a weekly basis for over a year and a half and required extensive reading assignments and legal research. The faculty were practicing attorneys who focus on health care laws and their expertise in that area. ●

Judicial Hearing Officers hear domestic violence cases

By Victor Clyde, Judicial Hearing Officer

The Navajo Nation Council adopted the Domestic Abuse Protection Act on July 23, 1993, pursuant to CJY-53-93. The Act was adopted to address the many forms of abuse within the family and clan setting. Children, elderly citizens, and family units were subjected to an increase of domestic abuse.

The Navajo Nation was plagued with domestic abuse within the family structure, caused by the changing environment from problems of alcohol and substance abuse, lack of employment, lack of adequate laws to address domestic abuse and the lack of service available to the citizens of the Navajo Nation. The Nation understood that all persons have the right to live free from violence, abuse and harassment. Hence, the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation responded by creating the Navajo Rules for Domestic Violence Proceedings and seeking grant funding for permanent Judicial Hearing Officers for District Courts of the Navajo Nation.

The vision that domestic abuse can be prevented, reduced and deterred through the intervention of law is coming to fruition. This has happened in the past two years. During the past two years, the newly created positions of Judicial Hearing Officers, have heard many cases. Approximately, 1009 cases have been heard by the Hearing Officers. Hearing Officers are Victor Clyde and Dorothea Denetsosie.

The numbers of domestic abuse cases have slightly decreased within the last year. There are still some challenges to be addressed such as the lack of service of process on respondents. With the assistance of the Judicial Hearing Officers, the cases are moving swiftly to provide protection for the vulnerable victims of abuse and addressing the abusers to seek necessary counseling to restore harmony for all parties. ●

Judicial Districts



Tuba City Judicial District Court Staff with Judge Malcolm Laughlin.

TUBA CITY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Three (3) general staff meetings were held during this reporting period. Court Administrator Alice Huskie provided updates on court operations and shared information on planned activities for the upcoming months with the staff. Staff shared their program planned activities for the month.

Staff Attorney Michael Bennett provided six (6) pro se trainings for the public. The pro se training included the following topics: validation of common law marriage, recognition of traditional marriage, dissolution of marriage, paternity, child support, custody, visitation, name change, corrections of records, declaration of a name, probate, guardianship of a minor, modifications and how to answer a petition. The training is for individuals that wish to file pro se packets with the court. The individuals who want to represent themselves are required to attend pro se training so they are aware of what the law requires and their duties and responsibilities in court. The total attendance for the Pro Se training during this reporting period is 63 participants.

Court Administrator Alice Huskie and Staff Attorney Michael Bennett held clerks' trainings on a regular basis on court procedures and processes on the District and Family cases. Individual meetings were held to provide clarification on specific issues relating to court cases.

The Navajo Nation Child Support Enforcement held three administrative hearings on October 14, 2019, November 18, 2019, and December 16, 2019 for their clients. The CSE requested to have their administrative hearings at the court where it provides a more structured and secured place for their clients. The Court and CSE are collaborating infor-

mation in hopes of locating and serving absent parents. There were 64 cases scheduled; 36 administrative cases were held, 17 cases were continued and 11 cases dismissed.

On October 24-25, 2019, Court Clerks Geraldine Sakiestewa and Jannie Nelson attended the archiving training in Chinle, Ariz. Automation & Technology Manager Ben Mariano, Jr. and Information Data Technician Teresa Chee provided the training. The group addressed new procedures for indexing, scanning and archiving policies to be uniform at all the Court Districts.

On October 30, 2019, Office Technician Orlando Sam attended the fines and fees training in Chinle, Ariz. The training covered fines and fees coverage/shortages, desk audit model reconciliation, financial management procedures and monitoring. Ms. Roberta Holyan from Office of Controller provided the training.

On November 4, 2019, Court Administrator Alice Huskie, Bailiff Vinton Yazzie, Office Technician Orlando Sam and Court Clerk Jannie Nelson attended the refresher Financial Management Information System training at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino & Resort. Office of the Controller staff Rachel Williams and Marcie Desteau provided the training on FMIS 6B rollout. The training continued on November 5, 2019, Office Technician Orlando Sam and Court Clerk Jannie Nelson attended the second day of FMIS 6B training.

On October 1, 2019, the LOC held a public hearing for probationary Judge Victoria Yazzie. The members of the public were invited to provide testimonies. The hearing was

Judicial District quarterly highlights

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very lengthy which concluded at 7:00 p.m. On October 11, 2019, the LOC provided its decision on the status of the probationary judge status.

On October 18, 2019, Staff Attorney Micheal Bennett and Court Administrator Alice Huskie facilitated Judicial Branch's quarterly conference in Tuba City, Ariz. The conference shared information on the employee safety manual, strategic plans, FMIS 6B process and a report from the Human Resources Office. In addition, Navajo Nation Chief of Police Phillip Francisco provided information on public safety citations. The Tuba City Judicial staff sponsored the conference and provided luncheon. On December 20, 2019, Court Administrator Alice Huskie attended the Judicial Branch's quarterly conference in Dilkon, Ariz. The conference shared information on uniform time for response to motions, pro bono service and financial updates. The Chief Justice called for an executive session with judges to discuss placement of judges with the three newly hired Judges Letitia Stover, Malcom Laughing and Naomi Gilmore.

On October 29, 2019, Staff Attorney Michael Bennet provided a one-on-one private process server training to Sam Mercado. The training covered Rule 4 of the Navajo Rule of Civil procedures and highlighted some Navajo case law on the duty of incumbent for the Navajo Nation's process servers. Mr. Mercado was given the opportunity to practice scenarios he could encounter while serving documents. The primary objective was to emphasize the importance of providing the court with documentation immediately following successful, or even unsuccessful, attempts at serving documents on parties.

On October 25, 2019, Staff Attorney Michael Bennett attended the ASU Navajo Continuing Legal Education Training (CLE) training in Tempe, Ariz. Topics included criminal law, business law, and more nuanced areas such as recovering attorney's fees on the Navajo Nation. Mr.

Bennett interacted with practitioners on the Navajo Nation to learn a small extent the breadth of experience and specialty knowledge possessed by those who litigate. Most importantly, Mr. Bennett earned a total of eight hours of continuing legal education credit, which is applicable for both the State of Arizona and the Navajo Nation Bar Associations.

On October 11, 2019, Court Administrator Alice Huskie went before the Law & Order Committee and provided a report on the operational needs of the Tuba City Judicial District. The LOC had many questions, which Ms. Huskie provided responses.

On October 22-24, 2019, Court Administrator Alice Huskie attended the court security training in Las Vegas, Nevada. The training topics included preparation for court setting with an active shooter, high profile cases, juror preparation, escape inmates and evaluation of court buildings. The conference also shared videos on real life attacks in the courtrooms throughout the United States. The training is very useful and applicable to court environments. ●

KAYENTA JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie actively participated in a Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Employee Personnel Policy revision work session on October 16-17, 2019, in Churchrock, N.M.

The Kayenta Judicial District hosted a Kayenta District Criminal Justice Summit on October 31, 2019, in Kayenta, Ariz. The meeting brought together core public safety entities to collaborate on strategies to ensure safety and protection for Navajo families and communities.

Judge Tina Tsinigine completed and passed a mandatory Navajo Nation Financial Management Information System (FMIS) 6B Agency Rollout work session. The work session provided an opportunity to process financial docu-

Tuba City Daily Visitor Report

MONTH	Court Hearing	Protection Order	Pay Fine/Cash Bond	Filing Documents	Obtain Information	Check Mail	Attend Training	Background Check	Oath of Office	Building	Attend Meeting	Other Hearings	Other	Total Clients Served	Reading
Oct - 2019	258	35	24	121	329	88	34	1	0	2	76	113	66	1147	1490
Nov - 2019	303	35	29	119	250	71	19	3	0	3	0	42	59	933	1557
Dec - 2019	333	37	34	114	289	77	20	0	0	0	1	17	54	976	1204
Total:	894	107	87	354	868	236	73	4	0	5	77	172	179	3056	4251



Kayenta Judicial District Court staff at Antelope Canyon.

ments and identified segregation of duties for initiating, approving, receiving and/or voucher matching on-line purchase requisitions. The goal of the project is to eliminate duplication of services, time and travel costs by using technology in the Nation's procurement process.

The Kayenta Judicial District court clerks commenced bi-annual clerk rotation on November 12, 2019. The rotation promotes cross-training in different aspects of district and family court proceedings and case management.

Judge Tina Tsinigine, Staff Attorney Letitia Stover and Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie received Judicial Branch updates and learned new developments from the quarterly judicial conference on October 18, 2019 in Tuba City, Ariz., and December 20, 2019, in Dilkon, Ariz.

Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie and Office Technician Regina Jones participated in a Judicial Branch Financial Desk Audit Module work session October 30, 2019 in Chinle, Ariz. The work session provided updates on the court financial reporting format.

Staff Attorney Letitia Stover participated in the Kayenta Township Community Stakeholders meeting on November 14, 2019, in Kayenta, Ariz. The meeting of public safety agencies, tribal/state/federal community programs, local schools, merchants, churches, and community members focused on concerns regarding public safety, impact of crime, capacity building and housing. Quarterly work

plan development updates were established to address concerns by examining current public safety measures and identifying improvements.

The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council conducted a public hearing on the permanency hearing for probationary Judge Tina Tsinigine on December 3, 2019, in Kayenta, Ariz. Despite receiving positive testimony and judicial evaluation, the hearing was rescheduled to afford a uniform report from the Navajo Nation Bar Association.

By invitation, Judge Tina Tsinigine rendered the Oath of Office to the new selected Kayenta Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Jonah A. Burns and Kayenta Farm Board member Phil Yazzie on December 10, 2019 in Kayenta, Ariz.

In addition to facilitating two service provider meetings, Staff Attorney Letitia Stover conducted three district Pro Se Legal Clinics for 72 individuals. The clinics were held for individuals who wished to represent themselves and file Pro Se packets with the court. In addition to its own district clientele, the district was delighted to receive participation from Forest Lake, Tuba City, Tonalea, Rough Rock, LeChee, and Kaibeto chapter members.

The Navajo Nation Council confirmed the probationary appointment of Letitia Stover as a Navajo Nation Judge

Judicial District quarterly highlights

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on December 19, 2019. Judge Stover worked for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch as the Kayenta District staff attorney for the past five years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Arizona, a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of South Dakota and earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of South Dakota School of Law. She is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association. The district is proud of her accomplishments.

In efforts to seek funding for the project-ready Kayenta Judicial District Judicial Complex, Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie and Staff Attorney Letitia Stover attended the following meetings to garner support to acquire building funding:

1. Attended the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council meeting on December 02, 2019 in Kayenta, Ariz. and garnered its support for Navajo Nation Council Legislation No. 0308-19 seeking a \$12,000,000 appropriation from the Navajo Nation Síhasin Funds needed to complete the design and construction of the Kayenta Judicial Complex. The proposed 17,000 square foot building will provide for safe and adequate offices for the Courts, Probation Services, Peacemaking Program, Office of the Prosecutor and Office of Public Defender.

2. Attended the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council meeting on December 04, 2019, in Le Chee, Ariz. The district was very pleased with the overwhelming support of the committee in its approval of our funding legislation.

3. Attended a building programming and schematics update meeting with Vanir Construction Management on December 11, 2019, in Albuquerque, N.M.

4. Attended the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council meeting on December 17, 2019, in Window Rock, Ariz. The committee gave its overwhelming support of our proposed legislation.

5. Attended the Naa'í'k'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council meeting on December 19, 2019. Despite a positive outlook, the committee tabled our legislation and added the district to a work session on January 10, 2020 to review the current status of the judicial and public safety need for facilities. ●

ANETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Two court staff received training on archiving court records in Chinle, Ariz. for a total of 4 hours. The training was completed by Administrative Offices of the Courts staff Teresa Chee and Ben Mariano. Judge Black completed 20+ hours of training at the annual Indian Child Welfare conference in Minneapolis St. Paul, Minnesota. Judge Black, Court Administrator and Office Technician completed 10 hours of training with Office of the Controller and Judicial Office of Fiscal Services on 6B procurement and inputting purchase requisitions.

Aneth Judicial District held one resource meeting. These meetings help foster communication between the communities in the district and service providers working in the

district. Lack of public safety presence in Aneth and Montezuma Creek, Utah communities has been an ongoing issue and we have attempted to address this gap in service with communication to these providers. Aneth Chapter has allocated funding for two police officer housing to assist with public safety officer coverage to the Utah strip of the Navajo Nation.

The district court Emergency Plan is established. All staff are OSHA certified in General Industry and General Safety from the Navajo Nation Risk Management office. All staff are First Aid and CPR certified.

Judge Irene S. Black continues to be temporarily assigned to Shiprock Judicial District and to the Judicial Grievance Board. The first assignment began on December 1, 2014 by then Chief Justice Herb Yazzie who assigned Judge Black by Administrative Order 68-2014. Judge Black conducts hearings for Shiprock Judicial Districts on Mondays via tele-hearings and travels to Shiprock, N.M., on Thursdays and Fridays. Aneth Judicial District is left to pack all Aneth cases into Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Judge Black was also assigned to chair the Judicial Employee Grievance Board two years ago and has been traveling to conduct grievance board business within the Judicial Branch. Judge Black travels over 260+ miles between Shiprock Judicial District, Aneth District and Window Rock, Ariz. to complete her assignments. This has taken a toll and as a result, Judge Black is fatigued.

Aneth Judicial District held its second mobile court at Tolakin (Sweetwater) Chapter on December 11, 2019. Navajo Nation Prosecutor's office coordinated with Aneth District Court to make court accessible to the local residence in and around Tolakin Chapter. All the chapter members appreciated the day and requested for more hearings to be held locally.

Judge Black rendered an orientation and oath of office to one new Navajo Nation process server for the Aneth District. Mr. Herman Bigman was sworn in on November 25, 2019 in Aneth, Utah, at the District Court.

The United States District Court, District of Utah, Tribal Reentry Court (TCRC) held a hearing on November 7, 2019 utilizing the Aneth Judicial District court facilities. TCRC conducts quarterly review hearings for their participants, who are released from federal incarceration or are waiting to be sentenced in federal courts. The program helps individuals with re-entry services back into the community and/or from reoffending while released.

This quarter Aneth District Court held two staff meetings to update on the current budget, AOC updates, upcoming trainings, in-service trainings and events in the districts.

On December 20, 2019, Judge Black and Court Administrator attended the Judicial Conference in Dilkon, Ariz. The conference provided valuable budget information and program updates from the different departments. Three new judges were introduced and each will be assigned to the district with the most need. ●



Chinle Judicial District's Save Our Students resource meeting on November 14, 2019.

CHINLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Chinle Judicial District is continuing to work on the handbook and procedural book for the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court. The district is continuing to meet with the Save Our Students group, which is in the planning stages of developing a "listening session" with the various communities within Chinle Agency. However, grant funds remain on hold by U.S. Department of Justice

The Judicial Hearing Officer continued to assist the Chinle Judicial District with domestic violence cases. He conducts domestic violence hearings on Monday mornings. He also assisted with drafting proposed orders for the presiding judge to review and sign. His services have been valuable to meet the needs of the people.

The quarterly judicial conference was held in Dilkon, Ariz. Judge and Court Administrator attended the meeting on behalf of the Chinle Judicial District. The Judicial Branch received three new judges who were introduced to the group. The judges discussed placement of the new judges and change of assignments. Other discussions included pro bono service areas, judges training, judicial operations and financial updates.

The Chinle Judicial District has two vacant positions: staff attorney and district court clerk. Upon receipt of the court clerk applications from the Human Resources Department, the interview process will be scheduled for further processing. The staff attorney position is advertised until filled. Thus far, we have not received any applicants.

Judge Bedonie met with staff from Department of Corrections. Discussions were on processing inmates from jail to the courts and back, bench warrants and pro-

cessing of judgment and mitimus documents. Law Enforcement had scheduled a meeting with Judge Bedonie but the meeting has not happened yet. ●

DZİŁ YIJIIN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Dził Yijiin Judicial District continued to deliver services and coordinate meetings with the various chapters and local service providers within the Dził Yijiin region.

Dził Yijiin Judicial District personnel hosted the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council regular meeting on October 7, 2019. Judge Rudy Bedonie and Court Administrator reported to the committee on the daily Dził Yijiin Court operations.

On October 3 and November 5, 2019, Pro Se Clinics were hosted by DNA People' Legal Services, Inc. The workshop provided legal advice and assistance for individuals seeking legal aide in the following; Family Civil Domestic proceedings: Divorce, Name Change, Correction of Record, Paternity/Child Support, and Guardianship. The workshops are successful as evident by parties filing their pro se packets immediately with the court for further processing.

On October 1 and 2, 2019, Marjorie Francis, court clerk attend the 10th Annual Tribal Leadership Conference Transitions at Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel, Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M.

On October 24 and 25, 2019, court clerks and Court Administrator attended Archiving Training development of policy & procedures. A demonstration training on new scanner equipment was conducted by Teresa Chee and Ben Mariano at the Chinle District Court.

On October 30, 2019 at Chinle Judicial District, Shelly

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Judicial District quarterly highlights

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Law and Order Committee member Eugene Tso, LOC Chairwoman Eugenia Charles-Newton, Navajo Nation Council Delegate Jimmy Yellowhair and LOC Vice Chairman Otto Tso at the Law and Order Committee meeting at Dził Yijiin Judicial District Court

Lee, office technician, and Court Administrator attended a work session on Fines and Fees overview that was facilitated by Yvonne Arviso-Gorman, Financial Manager, and Roberta Holyan from the Navajo Nation Cashiers Office.

On November 3 and 4, 2019, Shelley Lee, office technician; Marita Lee, court clerk; and Court Administrator attended FMIS Training: Common Foundations; Inquiry; 6B Procurement & Accounts Payable at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort. Training was facilitated by Yvonne P. Arviso-Gorman, Fiscal Service Manager, along with personnel from Office of the Controller.

During the first quarter, Court Administrator Arlene Lee participated in various meetings and work sessions representing Dził Yijiin Judicial District; attended Court Administrator and Managers meeting, attended the Judicial Conference held at Tuba City Judicial District on October 17-18, 2019; attended Dził Yijiin Regional Council meeting at Forest Lake Chapter on Saturday October 5, 2019; on November 8, 2019 assisted Alice Huskie, court administrator, with interviews for vacant court clerk position at Tuba City Judicial District; and on November 13, 2019, was invited by Bessie Allen, Chapter President, to attend the Public Safety/Judicial complex-planning meeting at Pinon Chapter.

Judge Bedonie and Court Administrator attended Judicial Conference on December 20, 2019 at Dilkon Judicial District. ●

DILKON JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dilkon Court conducted its resource meeting each month on every third Friday. Meetings are improving with participation from all resources/departments, with updates and discussions of interoffice concerns; however, this quarter our meetings have been slow with not much participation. Next meeting is on January 17, 2020.

This quarter two staff in-service trainings were presented. On October 8, 2019, Statistics vs. JustWare Data in all clerks workstations was presented by Judge Malcolm Begay and Court Administrator D. LaFrance. On December 23, 2019, Harry Begay, Traditional Program Specialist with Peacemaking Program, presented a talking circle with staff on various topics of traditional teaching of clanships, faith-based insights, life values and respect at the workplace.

The Dilkon Court will not conduct pro se classes for public education until further notice; however, our staff attorney, when on staff, assists with questions when necessary. DNA-legal office only assists with domestic violence relat-



Dilkon Judicial District Court staff greeted the public in costume for Halloween.

ed cases for pro se clinic.

On October 7, 2019, Judge Begay and Ms. LaFrance, court administrator, attended the Leadership, Team Building and Coaching Skills for Managers and Supervisors Conference at Flagstaff, Ariz.

Judge Begay assisted other judicial districts and Supreme Court with cases such as arraignments, hearings, oral arguments, writs etc.

On October 1-3, 2019 court clerks and Judge Begay attended the 10th Annual Tribal Leadership Conference, "Transitions," at Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M.

Staff Attorney Jordan Hale resigned on November 29, 2019.

Dilkon Court hosted the Quarterly Judicial Conference on December 20, 2019.

Court celebrated both holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas) with staff in-service trainings. ●

WINDOW ROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Cynthia Thompson continues to assist and preside on cases within the Dilkon Judicial District and the Chinle Judicial District. Judge Thompson needs additional assistance with hearing cases; WRJD has a high volume of cases.

Judge William Platero presided on Criminal and Domestic Violence cases in Window Judicial District in Window Rock, Ariz.

Judge Malcolm Begay presided on district civil and complex civil cases in Window Judicial District in Window Rock, Ariz.

Victor Clyde, Judicial Hearing Office, handled all domestic violence cases and he assisted other districts as assigned.

The WRJD held a monthly staff meeting in October and all staff participated.

Judge Victor Clyde was a keynote speaker for the Navajo Nation Division of Social Services in Chinle, Ariz.

Pro Se Clinics included topics such as Adult Guardianship by Brenda Anderson with DNA Legal Services (five families attended for this month).

Court Administrators meeting were attended by the Acting Court Administrator Ms. Kendra Dale and Court Administrator Verlena Hale.

Judge Cynthia Thompson, Judicial Hearing Officer Victor Clyde, Staff Attorney Lorenzo Curley and acting Court Administrator Kendra Dale participated and attended the Quarterly Judicial Conference meeting in Tuba City, Ariz. In December, the meeting was attended in Dilkon.

Judge Cynthia Thompson assisted and presided on civil cases with Alamo Court.

Judge Cynthia Thompson assisted the Supreme Court by meeting with Dartmouth College students.

Mariah Tsosie, office technician, and Kendra Dale attended a meeting on Fines & Fees at Chinle District Court in Chinle, Ariz.

The Window Rock Court is very thankful for hiring temporary personnel to assist with the day to day operation—Kevin Cody, Bailiff. Funding was used from the personnel lapse.

Judicial District quarterly highlights

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Judicial Hearing Officer Victor Clyde presenting at Ganado High School students on December 16, 2020.

Kendra Dale attended and participated in an archiving work session at Chinle Judicial District at Chinle, Ariz.

Staff Attorney Lorenzo Curley and Court Administrator Verlena Hale assisted staff and the public regarding ongoing legal issues and questions.

The WRJD staff continue to be housed in the Administrative Office of Court conference rooms due to extensive search and inquiry; the WRJD is still displaced.

Judge Cynthia Thompson conducted Oath of Office to four security personnel with the Office of the President and Vice President in Window Rock, Ariz.

Judge Cynthia Thompson continues to work on the Juvenile Justice Grant on developing and implementing the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court in Chinle Judicial District once a month.

Judge Cynthia Thompson conducted Oath of Office to Criminal Investigation section at Chinle, Ariz.

Mr. Lorenzo Curley, staff attorney, attended and participated in Law and Order Committee meeting at Twin Arrows resort, Flagstaff, Ariz.

Judicial Hearing Officer Victor Clyde, Corina Begay, Lorenzo Curley and Kendra Dale attended and participated in the FMIS 6B & Common Foundation training at Twin Arrows resort, Flagstaff, Ariz

The WRJD hired a permanent Court Clerk Reba Francis-

co and she will oversee the Criminal Section. Welcome aboard!

A total of 2667 people registered with the Court. This number represents Court hearings and services. Additional services were provided to individuals calling the Court; however, no log is kept regarding this public service.

There were a total of 402 Family Court hearings and a total of 861 District Court hearings for the months October through December 2019.

For this quarter there were 241 document requests made and 74 of these requests were completed. It should be noted that while the completed requests were limited, it can be attributed to the fact that most records are archived and need to be researched. This process is time consuming and a challenge due to the limited number of court staff assigned to our District.

Peacemaking Program's Traditional Program Specialist, Jimmie Burbank provided a Life Value Workshop for all Defendants. A total of 33 Defendants were served this quarter.

Judicial Hearing Officer Victor Clyde conducted a presentation to Crownpoint High School students and the topic was Positive Self Image. Judicial Hearing Officer Clyde also presented to Ganado High School students on December 16, 2019, on the Navajo Nation Court system.

The Window Rock Judicial District hosted a Staff Christmas Luncheon at El Rancho Restaurant in Gallup, N.M. Mr. Jimmie Burbank provided a presentation on winter and Coyote Story telling. ●

SHIPROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Tse'bit'a'i Justice Center Project: On October 15, 2019 – Acting Court Administrator Lucia Barton-Jensen attended the Furniture & Fixtures and Equipment Consultant Interviews at the Navajo Nation Police Department. Four consultants submitted a proposal.

On November 15, 2019, Conceptual Design Meeting held at North Diné College Conference Room; group reviewed design models and received updates on progress.

On December 10, 2019, programming meeting held with Indigenous Design Studio + Architecture, LLC, project manager Tom Bielecki and group; revised concept plans reviewed; budget and site concerns shared with group.

On December 12, 2019, Court Administrator Ethel S. Laughing attended the Naa'bik'iyáti' Committee meeting at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in support of legislation 0182-19, seeking Sihasin Fund Expenditure Plan for the Shiprock Judicial and Public Safety Center. Legislation was tabled, and work session is scheduled on January 10, 2020 for presentation of projects before the Naa'bik'iyáti' Committee. Total cost to the Navajo Nation will be approximately \$58,792,000 million; total funds required is \$61,942,000 million; State of New Mexico will reimburse the Navajo Nation \$3.5 million upon approval of consultant invoices. Escalation will increase the cost to the Navajo Nation due to future unknown materials and labor cost.

Other Significant Accomplishments

October 18, 2019, Ms. Lucia Barton-Jensen, acting court administrator, attended the judicial conference in Tuba City Judicial District.

Judge Genevieve Woody has assisted the Tuba City Judicial District during this quarter where she was required to travel on site on the following dates November 14, 2019 and November 21, 2019; and assist via telephonic arrangements on other dates.

On November 4 - 5, 2019, district court clerk Caroline Barber and Judge Genevieve Woody attended the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) and 6B rollout process orientation. Ms. Barber received orientation on the 6B rollout process as she is the requisitioner and reconciler in the 6B rollout process for the Shiprock District. Honorable Woody is the approver.

On December 4, 2019, Judicial district Staff Attorney Derrick Burbank attended the National Business Institute's Seminar on Workplace Disputes: From Administrative Review to Trial which was provided by the State Bar of New Mexico Office in Albuquerque, N.M. Mr. Burbank attended presentations and received materials on the following topics: processes, procedures and laws; How to Handle Top Employment Claims; Tips from the Experts; Upholding Ethical Standards; Conducting Internal Investigations and Handling Formal Complaints; and Handling Administrative Charges and EEOC Complaints: Plaintiff and Defense Perspectives.

On December 11, 2019, court Bailiff Myron Begay assisted the Aneth Judicial District by providing security at scheduled mobile court at Sweetwater Chapter.

Judge Genevieve Woody attended the judicial conference on December 20, 2019, in Dilkon Judicial District.

The Navajo Nation Council's Law & Order Committee held a special meeting at the Shiprock Diné College South Campus – ITV Classroom on December 20, 2019. Court Administrator Ethel S. Laughing provided a report regarding concerns and related matters pertaining to the court and court data including caseload information; fees/fines collection; daily visitor's data and types of filing of court documents.

The Shiprock daily visitor registry for this quarter is 3,362.

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CROWNPOINT JUDICIAL DISTRICT

There were three in-service topics held for the staff during staff meetings. **Exclusion & Jurisdiction over non-member Navajo v. non-Indian.** This presentation was provided by Staff Attorney Shawn Attakai. His presentation explains the definition and process of exclusion tying in with jurisdiction over non-member and non-Indian. **Fundamental Law.** This topic was presented by Staff Attorney Shawn Attakai including his explanation of what fundamental law is in connection with the status of the depleting numbers of Navajo Nation members who speak our language.

Court clerk staff were rotated to address cross training to be able to answer the public's questions. There was a minor rotation of responsibilities of the court clerk. Because of the shortage of staff, there are staff who have additional duties to their caseload.

The Honorable Judge Leonard Livingston continues to preside over Crownpoint and Pueblo Pintado court cases. He also assists Navajo Nation Supreme Court as an Associate Justice with cases on appeal. Judge Livingston makes bi-monthly travel to hear scheduled cases in the Pueblo Pintado circuit court. Judge conducted the oath of office to four chapter officials from White Rock, Torreon and Huerfano Chapters.

Judge Livingston, along with Court Administrator Rena Thompson, attended a one-day 6B rollout FMIS work session held at Twin Arrows, Ariz. The work session included updates on the FMIS system with purchase orders and other procurement.

There were four law intern students who worked with this court. They worked with Staff Attorney Shawn Attakai in case law, case practice, case analytical skills, applicable law, fundamental law and other pertinent topics relating to court responsibility. Mr. Attakai distributed assignments including writing requirement. Ms. Cornelia Begay, Ms. Rosanda Platero, Ms. Christiana Chischilly and Ms. Jamie Watchman were the four interns.

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SHIPROCK DISTRICT COURT VISITOR DAILY LOG FY 2020 1 st Quarter																	
MONTH	District Court Hearing	Questions	Citation/Pay Fine	Paperwork	Witness	Family Court Hearing	Questions	Pay Fine	Protection Order	Paperwork	Witness	DWI Class	VIP Class	Probation/Peacemaking	Others	TOTAL CLIENTS	METAL DETECTOR READINGS
OCTOBER	124	71	78	60	2	196	108	10	45	240	8	0	2	2	259	1205	3720
NOVEMBER	185	90	86	28	0	198	96	1	41	189	2	8	5	3	212	1144	2806
DECEMBER	137	67	66	36	3	175	61	5	40	158	7	5	7	4	242	1013	3204
TOTAL:	446	228	230	124	5	569	265	16	126	587	17	13	14	9	713	3362	9730

Judicial District quarterly highlights

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Staff Attorney Shawn Attakai presenting during the ASU CLE Conference.

Mr. Attakai made presentations to Arizona State University CLE Conference in Tempe, Ariz. and at Professor Trevor Reed' celebration dinner in honor of end of semester. Mr. Attakai was invited to present on the importance of preserving culture. He gave an extensive look into how Navajo tradition and outlook on those traditions have changed over time.

Staff Attorney Shawn Attakai attended the Judicial Conference held in Tuba City on October 18, 2019. The next judicial conference on December 20, 2019, to be held in Dilkon Judicial District will be attended by Judge Livingston, Staff Attorney Shawn Attakai and Court Administrator Rena Thompson.

Court Bailiffs Richelle Sandoval and Kelsey Begay attended three days of "Court Security-Critical Incident & Emergency Planning for Courts" training held in Rio Rancho, N.M. This training helps bailiffs in daily duties to always be ready and never complacent. Court Bailiff Darrin Clyde attended a two-day training in Las Vegas, Nev., titled, "Courtroom Security & Threat Assessment." Participants gain extensive knowledge on overall court security and threats in buildings in the United States.

Court staff enjoyed their Thanksgiving Dinner on November 15, 2019 along with Probation and Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court.

Crownpoint Court had two employees separate by retirement and resignation from the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. Ms. Jacqueline Cambridge-Belen retired on November 1, 2019 and Mr. Kevin Jeff resigned on December 18, 2019.

Interviews for two vacant district court clerks positions were held in December 2019. Ms. Jordan Craig began her employment on December 12, 2019. Ms. Coleen Francis will begin her employment on December 30, 2019. We appreciate the help as Crownpoint Judicial District is short staffed.

Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court continues to accept court cases and schedule accordingly. The building suffers water leaks and damage to the floor and wall.

RAMAH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

This quarter the court administrator and the court staff have been participating in the Ramah Navajo Law & Enforcement and Judicial Complex meeting.

This quarter the district reviewed cases for 2017-2018 annual case accounting.

During our daily operations, Court Staff continue their efforts in making contact with the service population, local service providers, prosecutor's office, attorneys, DNA legal services, social services, Law Enforcement Services, and community members, in general.

Approximately: 437 people signed in for services, 658 telephone calls logged in/out were received, and there were 2976 incoming/outgoing fax services.

Management by the Court Bailiff with his security report within this quarter: zero (0) people served, zero (0) pocket knives, zero (0) other deadly weapon., zero (0) bench warrant and zero (0) public intoxication.

The court clerks maintained the bench warrant list and regularly updated the Ramah Navajo Law Enforcement of all the listing on a monthly basis.

Court Administrator Esther Jose, aside from the regular duties, continued to attend Judicial Branch work sessions and Court Administrators meetings through this quarter, Ms. Jose also attended quarterly meetings and provided comments during the meetings.

Court Administrator Esther Jose and court staff hosted a resource meeting that provides an important mechanism for interagency planning and coordination at the service delivery level, as well as help to define a clear vision for strategies to coordinate future services, programs, and other resource services. The groups in attendance included Ramah



Ramah District Court Office Technician Maris Roe and Traditional Program Specialist Ruby Frank at the Diné College School of Law Symposium on December 12, 2019. The two staff are certified to transcribe the Navajo language.

Navajo Department of Law & Enforcement Services, Department of Ramah Navajo Correction Services, and the Courts. Other local service providers that have an interest in delivery of services by the justice system also attended. With collaborative efforts, the group hopes to continue identifying ways to share and streamline existing processes to better service the community. At the conclusion of the meeting, comments and questions were raised by the participants.

Appointments to other District Courts and Supreme Court Case: This 1st quarter Judge William Platero was appointed to handle other district court cases and assigned to pending cases of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court Cases. Judge Platero and the staff attorney worked on court orders and opinions in preparation. Staff attorney has been assigned to assist other district courts.

Construction of Ramah Navajo Law Enforcement and Judicial Complex: On October 22, 2019, a meeting was held at the Ramah District Courtroom. The Chapter of Ramah enacted a resolution supporting the establishment of a new judicial complex and Law Enforcement facility. During the meeting, the chapter president, Ramah Navajo superintendent, prosecutor and a few others attended. There was a lengthy discussion and chapter president will provide a copy of the amended chapter resolution to the court and superintendent.

On October 30, 2019, Court Administrator Esther Jose and Office Technician Maris Roe traveled to Chinle District Court to attend a work session that was scheduled for Court Administrators and Office Technicians regarding

collection, deposits of money received at the court and when to make a deposit of the fines & fees.

On November 4, 2019, Court Administrator Esther Jose, Office Technician Maris Roe, and Jennifer Jim-Cly, traveled to Twin Arrow Casino, Flagstaff, Ariz., to attend a mandatory Financial Management Information System FMIS 6B Procurement Rollout work session. The individuals will have various roles with segregation of duties of initiating, approving, receiving and or voucher matching on-line purchase requisitions.

On November 7, 2019, Court Administrator Esther Jose and Office Technician Maris Roe attended the Ramah Navajo Chapter planning meeting re: Amended land resolution to be put on next regular Chapter Meeting.

On November 14, 2019, the Ramah Judicial Court staff attended training on “Corrective Action and Sexual Harassment” by Elaine Henderson, Bi-Cultural Training Specialist. It was a good training for the court staff.

Ramah Navajo Chapter Meeting: On November 20, 2019, Court Administrator Esther Jose, and Office Technician Maris Roe attended the Chapter meeting. Chapter passed amended land resolution. During the chapter meeting the people approved withdrawing of additional five acres of Ramah Band Land to plan, design and construct Public Safety and Judicial Court Complex on this 20 acres of land.

On December 3, 2019, Court staff, Chapter Coordinator, Chief of Police, Corrections Staff, Grants & Contracts and

Judicial District quarterly highlights

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Kee Lee attended the meeting that was held at Ramah Navajo Chapter House. The discussion was on the coordinated effort to construct a Judicial Complex and a law enforcement facility. Meeting was mainly to start with planning to review and give clearance on architectural designs and estimated costs for construction manager. Efforts are in progress to secure funds for the site development and construction of the buildings.

On December 09, 2019, new Ramah Court Bailiff started employment, Interview panel selected Harvey Pino, Court Bailiff.

On December 12, 2019, Office Technician Maris Roe attended the Law School Symposium at Diné College to assist with transcribing the two day meeting.

On December 20, 2019, Staff Attorney Robyn Neswood, and Court Administrator Esther Jose participated in the quarterly judicial conference in Dilkon, Ariz., received information, and met the new judges. Other discussion took place and reports were made. ●

ALAMO/TO'HAIJILEE JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Judicial District's staff attorney attended the Navajo Nation Council's Law and Order Committee meeting at the Alamo, Court on October 28, 2019. Alisha Thompson, staff attorney, provided a report to the Law and Order Committee specifically for the need for more law enforcement to serve summons as well as more travel funds since Judge William J.J. Platero is working three different courts.

Court Administrator Regina Begay Roanhorse attended the Alamo Peacemaking Quarterly Meeting where the Peacemakers for Alamo community were given teachings and opportunities for sharing their cultural teachings with the Judicial Branch programs including the Alamo Peacemaking program. The event occurred on December 17, 2019 at the Alamo court house. All who attended were given an opportunity to learn songs and to understand the traditional shoe game. The stories and teachings strengthen resiliency in the Alamo community. Stories of the Alamo community and their history as Chiricahua Apaches were explained to all involved. This unique history of the Alamo Navajo needs to be incorporated into the Peacemaking training materials for all the judicial districts. There is a misunderstanding that the Alamo Navajo were somehow not able to make it back to the reservation after Bosque Redondo, which is not true according to their oral history.

Staff Attorney Alisha Thompson and Court Administrator Regina Begay Roanhorse attended the American Indian Justice Conference sponsored by the National American Indian Court Judges Association on December 5-6, 2019. Staff attorney learned about the prevalence of missing and murdered women from Indian Country, the impact of drugs and alcohol on the brain, development of juvenile wellness courts, and best practices for probation's participation in wellness courts. Court Administrator attended other sessions including the strategic planning for communities un-

der the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation process of the US.. Department of Justice, as well as Violence against Native Women programming. The purpose of the conference was to provide training to tribal communities to enhance their response to alcohol and drug abuse, enable them to recognize how trauma impacts drug and alcohol abuse in tribal communities and to identify current trends and best practices for tribal justice systems to strengthen multi-disciplinary approaches to healing and justice. There were five multi-disciplinary tracks offered at the conference: alcohol and substance abuse; courts and traditional justice; probation, reentry & policing; strategic planning and addressing violent crime in Native communities. The Court Administrator attended the drug identification training that was presented by the National Criminal Justice Training Center. All court personnel and community should attend one of these sessions and they do provide free training on site. The session taught Ms. Begay-Roanhorse about the realities of opioid drug addictions in tribal communities. Retrieved from: <https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/training/details/TR00000471/TRI0009778/drug-identification-and-recognition-for-tribal-probation>

Staff Attorney Alisha Thompson attended the National Institute for Trial Advocacy: Motion Skills for Navajo Tribal Courts training on October 1st through the 3rd, 2019. She learned new techniques of legal writing and oral advocacy. She gained 24.75 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for New Mexico and 4 hours of CLE credits for Navajo Nation.

Staff Attorney Alisha Thompson attended the 26th National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics on October 24-25, 2019. She learned about assessing appropriate sanctions for ethical violations, judges as citizens and reformers, investigating and prosecuting sexual misconduct charges against judges, how to teach judges about sexual harassment, and ethical judges on social media. She earned 8 CLE credit hours.

Lorenda Joe, Office Technician, and Lorena Ganadonegro, Custodian, attended the 10th Annual Tribal Leadership Conference in Santa Ana Pueblo on October 1-2, 2019. Ms. Joe attended sessions on updates on Indian Child Welfare Act, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Peace Circles, Judicial Clerkship Program and Tribal Court Clerk Training.

Staff Attorney Alisha Thompson attended the Tillie Black Bear Women Are Sacred Day: Call to Action to Be a Good Relative on October 30, 2019. She learned about the Violence Against Women Act and how women play an integral part in keeping each other safe from violence.

The Court Administrator Regina Begay Roanhorse convened the interview panel for November 8, 2019 and a new bailiff was hired on November 25, 2019: Kendall Apachito. He will undergo a 90 probationary period. The Alamo Court has been without a full time bailiff since its inception in 1987. The work of the court administrator and the Council delegates to fund this position was done during the 2019 budget meetings and hearings. ●

Peacemaking Program



Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley, Peacemaking Bi-Culture Training Manager and Peacemaker Richard Begay presented to officials from the Anishinabek Nation on November 19, 2019.

The Navajo Nation Peacemaking Program accomplishments consist of building and establishing several promising and solid relationships to promote a non-adversarial forum for resolving disputes, provide peacemaking counseling, support the work of community-based Peacemakers and educating on the Fundamental Laws of the Diné. The Peacemaking Program's goals and vision were ensured during the First Quarter by providing outreach and presentations to the Judicial Branch staff, Peacemakers, Traditional Program Specialists, the Navajo Nation Law and Order Committee and community members. The Peacemaking Program has provided ongoing technical assistance and support to the District Courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts. This includes providing Navajo language and Fundamental Law instruction, interpretation and translation for Judicial Branch staff and Justices. The Program encountered a number of requests for training during this quarter. Peacemaking continues to fulfill our responsibilities of providing specialized education for members of the legislative and executive government. Promising collaboration include the Diné Policy Institute and the Division of Community Development.

Use community-based Peacemakers

Our work on the Peacemaking Youth Education and Apprenticeship Program ("PYEAP") continues to be a high focus this quarter; the loss of grant funds has severely impeded this work and has caused a loss in momentum. Some peacemakers have invested in youth engagement since the begin-

ning of school year and feel any disengagement on their part should not be due to monetary shortfalls from the freeze on grant funds. The grant is used in part to pay for community-based Peacemakers' time and expenses. We rely on them to provide classroom education, adult mentoring, and youth and family services. Their engagement is critical because they create local connections and role-modeling from the youths' own community. Community-based Peacemakers are being engaged to handle Peacemaking sessions and counseling. The focus continues to be strengthening the family and maintaining family unity when possible

Focus on youth.

MOUs have been completed with over 51 schools, which exceeds the total goal for the new PYEAP grant. Still more schools are requesting to update their MOUs; our PYEAP initiatives continue to raise awareness among administrators and school boards to help build stronger collaborative relationships between Peacemaking and the schools. The most recent is Kinlani Dormitory School in Flagstaff with an expressed desire for more intervention work with dorm staff and youth. This brings peacemaking and recruitment efforts into border towns.

Maintain our professionalism.

Under the direction of Bi-Cultural Training Specialist a more progressive change has taken place with Office Tech-

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nician staff in reorganization and cross training of their duties and support to work closely with Traditional Program Specialists (TPS) who have little or no support of office staff. Four Office Technicians now will be direct support to three Judicial districts' TPS to insure more accuracy in all aspects of case accounting, archiving and maintain supplies. Four office technicians recently completed a two-day training by Judicial Branch and Office of Controller fiscal staff. We are continuing monthly conference call meetings for all TPS and many staff members to keep everyone well-informed about issues and to share resources. We will continue quarterly or semi-annual in-person meetings to deepen our sharing of skills, coordination around the goals of our strategic plan, and to solve problems.

Peacemaking Program provided technical assistance and support to the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Office of Human Resource regarding the Employee Policies and Procedures handbook. The assistance comprised of providing Navajo traditional perspective and guidance and overall cultural consultation. A draft is near completion to be forwarded to Chief Justice. Bi-Cultural Training Specialist assisted Office of Human Resources with presentations to judicial districts on the traditional perspectives of Sexual Harassment in the workplace; Hooghan Haz'áádóó Na'nitin'ígíí Bee Ádaa Áháyá.

Advance our mission.

We continue to use good teamwork to cover peaks in workload and share skills. Obstacles of funding for travel and meetings, physical facilities, lack of equipment in some Districts, and the temporary relocation of Judicial and Probation employees has created obstacles and, in some instances, conflict over availability of facilities and resources. The occurrence of conflict demonstrates stress and fatigue over these problems for Peacemaking staff and their colleagues in the Judicial Branch.

The Peacemaking Program prioritizes work based on the goals set by Council and the Judicial Branch. Details of activities in some districts are below.

Alamo - This Traditional Program Specialist is active with cases, community outreach, and youth engagement. In December, the Traditional Program Specialist presented the Keshjee shoe game story; this presentation was to teach what the shoe game is about and give visual demonstration of how the setup of a shoe game looks like with explanation on the names for the tools used. Those in attendance participated in the antelope and Giant songs. This presentation was very resourceful to the local community.

Aneth - This Traditional Program Specialist has been working with community-based Peacemakers for services and is presenting PYEAP curriculum in the San Juan School District. Stanley Nez has done a high volume of Life Value Engagements. The judge's assignment between this location and Shiprock has resulted in somewhat limited referrals.

Crownpoint - This Traditional Program Specialist is working with Chapters on community-wide issues including grazing leases and home site leases. She has been successful in working with the local chapter in recruitment and re-

placement of a peacemaker to continue local community based problem solving and educating.

Chinle - Ongoing Save Our Students (SOS) meetings take place with local school resources. In a recent SOS meeting, the District Prosecutor presented and clarified peacemaking referral processes for CHINS and Truancy cases. The presentation was a first from a Prosecutor's perspective of the adversarial western process and the healing aspects of traditional intervention services of Peacemaking. The Prosecutor showed a strong interest in working with the Peacemaking Program.

Dził Yijiin - The Peacemaking hogan built in 2010 in Chinle has been dismantled and transported to Pinon to be reconstructed as Dził Yijiin Peacemaking hogan. Two temporary hires from the local chapter assisted with cleaning hogan logs to be used in reconstruction. Work has been temporarily suspended due to inclement weather conditions. The Traditional Program Specialist has been assisting with closing out cases in Chinle and mentoring the new TPS staff with direct services.

Kayenta - Many long term inmates are housed at the new Kayenta Corrections facility. Inmates from other judicial districts are incarcerated with sentences to receive traditional counseling and Life Value Engagements. This has resulted in a significant increase in the workload for Traditional Program Specialists to provide direct services sometimes required to be completed with very short timelines. Adjustments in distribution of workload are being considered to support the staff.

Ramah - The Traditional Program Specialist was one of two judicial staff who attended a Diné Law School Symposium and provided Navajo language transcribing services throughout the duration of the two-day event. The complexity of this assignment is an indicator that this transcribing service needs more investment and support with ongoing specialized training and proper equipment. The essence of capturing entire discussions in Diné Bizaad is paramount in language preservation.

Tuba City - Tuba City is another district with a modified correctional facility managing long term inmates. This impacts the Traditional Program Specialist with managing a high caseload to provide services to incarcerated persons. Like Kayenta, there will need to be an assessment on the distribution of workload with other program staff. The TPS works to balance work load with providing direct services with families and youth services. The Peacemaking program seeks to define more work space with the proposed new building floor plans to accommodate future additional program staff.

Window Rock - The condition and capacity of the physical building continues to be a limitation in this District. The Peacemaking program office continues to share facilities with District Probation and Parole staff. This district along with Kayenta has experienced unfortunate incidences with forced entry. It is very unfortunate as both Window Rock and Kayenta TPS carry high caseloads. Program staff had to adjust to the loss of program computer equipment and damages to buildings and property. The replacement of computer and damaged equipment will have an impact on program operating funds. ●

Supreme Court



Newly admitted members of the Navajo Nation Bar Association take the oath of office on November 4, 2019, at the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

Oaths of Office.

One of the honoring functions of Justices and Judges is to recite oaths of office for various offices or duties. Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne and Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley conducted several oaths of office for the months of October, November, and December.

On October 7, 2019, Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley administered the oath of office to Ben Lee Gonnig, Chapter President for Low Mountain Chapter.

On October 10, 2019 Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne administered the oath of office to Carl Slater, District 11 Council Delegate. He represents the Tsaile/Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Round Rock, Tséché'izhí and Rock Point communities.

On October 17, 2019, Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley administered the oath of office for Ruby Benally, Prosecutor for Chinle District.

On November 4, 2019 Chief Justice and Justice Shirley administered the oath of office to 11 newly appointed members to the Navajo Nation Bar Association. Glenna B. Augborne, Erika Rose Pirotte, Matthew Joseph Strand, Michael Platero, Michelle Suzanne Garcia, William James MacDonald, Scott Joseph Hergenrother, Mark Andre Hanson, Joe

Wiley Keene, Rudy Alexander Anaya, and Denise Yanibah Hobson Ryan were all sworn in.

On November 6, 2019 Justice Shirley administered an Officer's oath of office to Arnold Silversmith, Police Officer for the Navajo Nation.

On November 18, 2019 Justice Shirley administered an oath of office for Curran Hannon, Vice President representing St. Michaels Chapter.

On December 2, 2019 Justice Shirley administered an oath of office for George John, Vice President representing Indian Wells Chapter.

On December 18, 2019 Justice Shirley administered an oath of office for 6 board members to the Navajo Nation Board of Education. These individuals were: Andrea Thomas, Spencer Willie, Dr. Henry Fowler, Dr. Pauletta White, Emerson John, and Joan Ann Gray.

Branch Meetings, Training, and Judicial Conferences

The Supreme Court meets on a regular basis to deliberate, discuss, and decide on Supreme Court cases. The Chief Justice, Associate Justice, Court Solicitor, and Law Clerk met on the following dates: October 1, 4, 8, 22; November 1, 15; December 19; October 7, 23, and November 16 with

Supreme Court

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Associate Justice Cynthia Thompson; and November 17 with Associate Justice Irene Black.

Chief Justice meets on a monthly basis with section leaders to discuss projects, goals, and progresses within the Judicial Branch. Present in the meetings are Administrative Office of Courts Director, Peacemaking Program Coordinator, and Supreme Court Solicitor. They met on October 14, and November 7, 2019,

Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley, and Judicial Staff Assistant attended two Judicial Conferences in the first quarter. The first was on October 17, 2019 in Tuba City, Ariz., and the second on December 20, 2019 in Dilkon, Ariz.. The Supreme Court Law Clerk, Court Solicitor and Government Relations Officer attended the first Judicial Conference via videoconference from Window Rock, Ariz. At the second Judicial conference, Court Solicitor William Morris and Law Clerk Laverne Garnenez attended and presented to the judges regarding pro bono services and uniform time for responses to motions in the Navajo Nation courts. Three newly appointed Judges, Judge Malcolm Laughing, Judge Letitia Stover, and Judge Neomi Gilmore, attended and were introduced at the Judicial Conference. They were welcomed with introductions from the Courts Administrators and Judges from all the Navajo Nation courts.

Chief Justice Jayne, Associate Justice Shirley and Government Relations Officer attended the Judicial Branch strategic planning work session on December 5, 2019. Chief Justice, Justice Shirley and the Administrative Director were able to give the work group direction on how to proceed with finalizing the draft of the Judicial Branch's strategic plan.

The Government Relations Officer and Court Solicitor attended the National Institute for Trial Advocacy Training at the Navajo Nation Museum on October 3, 2019, The training focused on editing legal writing and on oral presentations.

Legislative meetings

The Chief Justice and the Government Relations Officer, as well as other staff from the Judicial Branch, attend meetings of the Navajo Nation legislature to keep informed of issues affecting the Navajo Nation, Judicial Branch and our courts and justice system.

The Chief Justice, Associate Justice and Government Relations Officer attended the public hearing on the evaluation of Judge Victoria Yazzie held by the Law and Order Committee on October 1, 2019, at the Tuba City Judicial District Court and the continuation of the public hearing held on October 11, 2019. The public and Navajo Nation Bar Association were given the opportunity to separately present. The Committee voted to not recommend Judge Yazzie to the President of the Navajo Nation.

The Government Relations Officer attended the Law and Order Committee regular meeting at Dził Yijiin Judicial District Court in Pinon, Ariz., on October 7, 2019. Court Administrator Arlene Lee, Traditional Program Specialist

Robert Johnson, Probation Officer Arlene Begay, and Judicial Hearing Officer Dorothea Denetsosie each presented on the status of their respective programs/offices and on their needs at the judicial district.

The Government Relations Officer attended the Law and Order Committee meeting at Fort Defiance NTUA conference room on October 9, 2019, There were reports by Office of the Prosecutor and Kyoko Patterson of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Phoenix, Ariz. Delegate Vince James asked for information on the Navajo Nation's case management system and how the prosecutors, police department and courts can interface.

Chief Justice delivered a report to the Navajo Nation Council during its fall session on October 21, 2019. Her report was accepted with a vote of 14-0. Chief Justice and Government Relations Officer attended other days of the Fall Session. Chief Justice met the delegation from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and briefly spoke about their respective justice systems October 22, 2019 during the fall session.

Chief Justice and Government Relations Officer attended the Law and Order Committee meeting at the Alamo Court on October 28, 2019. The Committee heard a report from Alisha Thompson, Staff Attorney, on issues related to the Alamo and To'hajiilee Courts. Chief Justice delivered a report on the judicial/public safety fund priority list. The Committee requested a work session on the priority listing. Elaine Henderson of Peacemaking Program also delivered a report on peacemaking.

Government Relations Officer attended the Law and Order Committee meeting at Monument Valley on November 18, 2019. The Committee heard from members of the public on issues related to public safety and also heard a report from Kayenta Judicial District Staff Attorney Letitia Stover and the Prosecutor assigned to the judicial district.

Chief Justice, Associate Justice, and Government Relations Officer attended the public hearing on the evaluation of Judge Tina Tsinigine held by the Law and Order Committee at Kayenta, Ariz., on December 3, 2019. Judge Tsinigine gave a presentation on her time as a district court judge including statistics and information on training and community engagement. Chief Justice gave her recommendation for permanency. Ms. Judy Apachee delivered a report by the Navajo Nation Bar Association Evaluation Committee; however, the report did not include information for the full period of the probationary period and the Law and Order Committee recessed for 60 days for the full report to be provided.

The Navajo Nation Council confirmed three probationary district court judges – Neomi Gilmore, Letitia Stover and Malcolm Laughing - on December 19, 2019. Chief Justice presented with the sponsors and the then-judge candidates and administered the oath of office upon confirmation.

Intergovernmental meetings

Judge Michael Latham of Apache County met with Chief Justice and Government Relations Officer on October 9, 2019, to present on a juvenile diversion pilot project that the county has implemented. The area where the project serves has seen a 50% reduction in juvenile arrests. Judge Latham also presented on the Leadership Academy that the



Chief Justice Jayne, President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Technical University President Elmer Guy, Dr. Perphelia Fowler and Navajo Nation Council Delegates Mark Free-land, Wilson Stewart Jr., Amber Crotty, Daniel Tso and Jamie Henio with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on December 16, 2019 in Crownpoint, N.M.

county has worked with schools to implement where students are introduced to the field of justice and law. On recommendation of the Office of the Chief Justice, Judge Latham presented to the Chinle Save Our Students resource meeting on November 14, 2019, on the same subjects. One of the recommendations that the Judicial Branch hopes will come of this is a collaboration for students to attend a Court hearing and meet with justices and/or judges of the Navajo Nation to get them interested in serving as a judge or in the field of law in the future.

On October 14, 2019, the Government Relations Officer attended the inaugural Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, N.M. She met Representative Lente, who sponsored the bill to create Indigenous Peoples Day in New Mexico, and Dawn Begay of the City of Albuquerque Office of Native American Affairs.

Chief Justice participated and represented the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch at the quarterly New Mexico Tribal State Consortium meeting on December 13, 2019. Chief Justice was named as the Navajo Nation representative for the consortium. There has not been a representative for over three years. The Tribal State Consortium court matters to the Judicial Branch due to its effects on five Navajo Nation Courts in New Mexico: Shiprock, Crownpoint, Alamo, Ramah, and To'hajiilee. The consortium will be collaborating with the state and tribes on issues affecting the Navajo Nation.

Chief Justice and Government Relations Officer attended meetings during the visit to the Navajo Nation by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on December 16, 2019. Chief Justice spoke during the radio forum on economic development along with President Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate Ed-

mund Yazzie and Governor Grisham. Chief Justice was also present at the forums on education at Navajo Technical University and on public safety at the public safety facility in Crownpoint, N.M. The Navajo Nation delegation was able to educate the governor on the needs of the Navajo Nation and to relay where partnerships with the state may occur to help serve the Navajo people.

Navajo Nation Offices/Departments

Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne represented the Judicial Branch and the Retirement Plan Administration Committee (RPAC) at the Annual Navajo Nation Investment Meeting in New York, NY. Information was gathered on current and future investment projections on retirement, real estate, and large cap domestic equity. Reports were received on investment profiles, style benchmarks, reserved portfolio, risk management, results of investment, and

fixed income.

The Navajo Nation Retirement Plan Administration Committee (RPAC) held its annual meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz., on December 9 and 10, 2019. Chief Justice participated as a voting member of RPAC. She received data on the status of retirement investments, defined contribution plans, deferred compensation plans, experience study results, and actual valuation reports.

Chief Justice and Government Relations Officer attended Three Branch Leadership meeting at Twin Arrows, Ariz., on October 25, 2019. Chief Justice expressed the immediate need for judges and the need to get the Corrective Action Plan from the federal government cleared so that the Judicial Branch and other programs are able to drawdown on federal grant funds. A task force consisting of the Judicial Branch Administrative Director and the Chiefs of Staff from Executive and Legislative Branches was identified to work on the Corrective Action Plan issues. Each of the branches also presented their unmet needs.

An inter-branch meeting was held on the U.S. Department of Justice audit and the Corrective Action Plan pertaining to the findings on November 5, 2019. The group in attendance made recommendations on how to deal with this issue.

On November 8, 2019, Chief Justice, Administrative Director, and Government Relations Officer met with Council Delegates Kee Allen Begay and Jimmy Yellowhair on the Dził Yijiin justice center project. The delegates want to prioritize this project to seek funding from the state of Arizona and to work with the Judicial Branch to do so.

The Government Relations Officer and Supreme Court Law Clerk are the Judicial Branch appointees to the Em-

Supreme Court

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Dine College School of Law Symposium participants on December 12, 2019 in Tsaile, Ariz.

ployee Housing Committee. During this quarter, they attended meetings to make housing assignments and approve a rental rate increase for employee housing units.

Law School initiative

The Judicial Branch partnered with Diné College to plan the School of Law Symposium to determine if the Navajo Nation needs a law school and how such a law school would look. Meetings were held with Rex Lee Jim and other Diné College staff on October 23, October 29, November 12, November 26, and December 10, 2019, to plan and prepare for the symposium. Participants were identified and an agenda was developed by the planning team. Peacemaking Program and Administrative Office of the Courts also participated in preparation for the symposium.

On December 12-13, 2019, the School of Law Symposium was held at Diné College. Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley, Peacemaking Program Coordinator Elaine Henderson, Peacemaking Program Traditional Diné Researcher Joe Sandoval, Government Relations Officer Karen Francis and Traditional Program Specialist Robert Johnson attended the Symposium. Discussions included the need and vision for a law school, issues regarding accreditation, courses to be offered, curriculum to be developed, challenges anticipated and how to proceed. Recommendations were made from all participants, which included many legal scholars in American Indian law. More research will be conducted on the need for a

Navajo law school and on initially developing a program for undergraduate programs as well as curriculum. Much of the discussion was on the need to focus on Navajo Law. One of the recommendations that may be implemented quickly was to begin a law journal by the Diné College press. Further gatherings are to be expected as the Navajo Nation and the Diné College take on this endeavor.

Other organizations

The Casey Family Foundation visited with Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne on October 3, 2019, to discuss ways to improve safety and success for children and families on the Navajo Nation.

Chief Justice was invited to attend the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) court establishment in Albuquerque, N.M. on October 15, 2019. Training and tour of the groundwork of the launch with partners was conducted. The Judicial Branch New Mexico courts on the Navajo Nation may be affected by referrals from the ICWA court. Chief Justice met new partners from the ICWA court and saw the markings of the groundwork for the launch of the court.

Public events

Chief Justice was invited and honored to attend the United States Naval Ship (USNS) Navajo Keel Laying Ceremony in New Orleans, LA on October 29, 2019, alongside President Jonathan Nez, Speaker Seth Damon, Council Delegates Charlaine Tso, Vince James, Raymond Smith Jr.

FY2019 FIRST QUARTER OVERALL STATISTICS BY LOCATION

LOCATION	Brought Forward		Filed		Caseload		Closed Cases		Pending	
Supreme Court	90	0.4%	177	2.4%	267	1.0%	57	0.8%	210	1.0%
Alamo	129	0.6%	41	0.6%	170	0.6%	35	0.5%	135	0.6%
Aneth	439	2.1%	133	1.8%	572	2.0%	124	1.7%	448	2.1%
Chinle	833	4.0%	559	7.7%	1,392	5.0%	583	8.0%	809	3.8%
Crownpoint	2,426	11.6%	802	11.0%	3,228	11.5%	986	13.5%	2,242	10.4%
Dilkon	1,537	7.4%	473	6.5%	1,960	7.0%	1,122	15.3%	1,537	7.2%
Dził Yjiiin	543	2.6%	104	1.4%	647	2.3%	161	2.2%	486	2.3%
Kayenta	1,924	9.2%	490	6.7%	2,414	8.6%	526	7.2%	1,888	8.8%
Pueblo Pintado	215	1.0%	38	0.5%	253	0.9%	50	0.7%	203	0.9%
Ramah	1,512	7.3%	295	4.1%	1,807	6.4%	91	1.2%	1,716	8.0%
Shiprock	2,022	9.7%	899	12.4%	2,921	10.4%	777	10.6%	2,144	10.0%
To'hajilee	396	1.9%	71	1.0%	467	1.7%	50	0.7%	417	1.9%
Tuba City	1,973	9.5%	559	7.7%	2,532	9.0%	389	5.3%	2,143	10.0%
Window Rock	3,791	18.2%	697	9.6%	4,488	16.0%	698	9.5%	3,790	17.7%
Probation Services	2,817	13.5%	1,684	23.1%	4,501	16.0%	1,425	19.5%	3,076	14.3%
Peacemaking	200	1.0%	255	3.5%	455	1.6%	237	3.2%	218	1.0%
TOTAL	20,847	100.0%	7,277	100.0%	28,074	100.0%	7,311	100.0%	21,462	100.0%

FY2019 FIRST QUARTER OVERALL STATISTICS BY CASE TYPE

CASE TYPE	Brought Forward		Filed		Caseload		Closed Cases		Pending	
Civil	1,232	5.9%	253	3.2%	1,485	5.2%	224	2.8%	1,278	5.5%
Criminal	7,111	34.1%	1,559	20.0%	8,670	30.4%	1,895	23.5%	8,115	34.8%
Civil Traffic	4,318	20.7%	2,161	27.7%	6,479	22.7%	2,672	33.1%	4,996	21.4%
Criminal Traffic	1,200	5.8%	314	4.0%	1,514	5.3%	290	3.6%	1,388	6.0%
Family Civil	2,142	10.3%	497	6.4%	2,639	9.3%	494	6.1%	2,316	9.9%
Domestic Violence	992	4.8%	747	9.6%	1,607	5.6%	658	8.2%	949	4.1%
Dependency	471	2.3%	72	0.9%	543	1.9%	40	0.5%	482	2.1%
Delinquency	209	1.0%	69	0.9%	278	1.0%	58	0.7%	220	0.9%
CHINS	65	0.3%	13	0.2%	78	0.3%	13	0.2%	65	0.3%
Supreme Court	90	0.4%	177	2.3%	267	0.9%	57	0.7%	210	0.9%
Probation/Parole	2,817	13.5%	1,684	21.6%	4,501	15.8%	1,425	17.7%	3,076	13.2%
Peacemaking	200	1.0%	255	3.3%	455	1.6%	237	2.9%	218	0.9%
TOTAL	20,847	100.0%	7,801	100.0%	28,516	100.0%	8,063	100.0%	23,313	100.0%

and Kee Allen Begay, former Chairman Peter MacDonald, and former Miss Navajo Nation Jocelyn Billy Upshaw.

The Office of the Chief Justice hosted 16 students and chaperones from Dartmouth University the afternoon of October 24, 2019. Judge Cynthia Thompson and Peacemaking Program Acting Coordinator Elaine Henderson spoke to the students at length about Diné Fundamental Law and the district courts of the Navajo Nation. The students were interested in how the Judicial Branch works and how the Navajo Nation is dealing with criminal activity. Grants Administrator Raquel Chee, Chief Justice and Judicial Hearing Officer Victor Clyde also spoke to the students about their work within the branch.

The Administrative Office of the Courts, Peacemaking Program and Office of the Chief Justice conducted community outreach by handing out treats donated by staff during the Navajo Nation Risk Management's Halloween Trunk or Treat event on October 31, 2019.

On November 19, 2019, Government Relations Officer presented to the Anishinabek Nation on a general overview and the history of the Navajo Nation courts along with the Peacemaking Program. Associate Justice Shirley and Court Solicitor William Morris answered questions from the Anishinabek Nation delegation. The Anishinabek Nation is working on developing its government and wanted to learn from the Navajo Nation about how we have developed.

On December 16, 2019, a group from the Judicial Branch, including the Government Relations Officer, visited the Fort Defiance Senior Center to sing holiday songs to the senior citizens before their lunch. The senior citizens appreciated the visit and expressed thanks to the group. ●



Administrative Office of the Courts, Supreme Court and Peacemaking Program staff sang holiday songs to the Fort Defiance Senior Center on December 16, 2019.

Office of Probation & Parole Services

Chief Probation Officer scheduled a Probation Round Table meeting to meet with the Senior Probation Officers to provide an update on the events and activities that took place while on leave. She was brought up to date with all the information and is ready to continue the endeavors of Probation Services.

Chief Probation Officer traveled with Court Administrator LaVonne Yazzie on December 4, 2019 to LeChee Chapter to present building proposals for the newly designed Kayenta Judicial Complex in support of the building initiative including Probation Services offices in this new judicial complex. The presentation with the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) meeting was successful. The RDC returned their support of the new proposed judicial complex.

Senior Probation Officers Sheila Begishie and Harmon Mason and Chief Probation Officer collaborated to conduct an orientation session for three (3) newly hired probation officers. The orientation was scheduled on December 10, 2019 and centralized at the Chinle Probation Services Conference room. The all-day orientation included logistics of Judicial Branch/PPS history, administrative processes, procedures,

rules, policy, and the ins and outs of Navajo Nation Probation Services. This also included collaboration with other agencies, outside counter partners and local resources probation services works with on a daily basis to ensure clients are provided the direct services needed.

On December 12, 2019, Chief Probation Officer traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico with Court Administrator LaVonne Yazzie and Senior Probation Officer Sheila Begishie to meet with Construction Management team VANIR at the DMA facility. The construction management team provided schematics of the building, site options, floor plan review and surveys. The meeting was informative and questions of the floor plans were clarified with respect to probation services floor plan. Staff were able to make adjustments to ensure the floors plans were adequate.

On December 19, 2019, Probation Staff held a potluck holiday luncheon to meet and greet new staff. This gave an opportunity for all new staff to meet current staff. Lunch was provided and probation staff shared comments, stories and other activities. Probation and Parole Services wished the staff new ventures for probation services into 2020. ●

Judicial Conduct Commission

During this quarter, the Judicial Conduct Commission continued implementing the new process for screening and recommending applicants for judges and justices delegated by the Law and Order Committee through LOCS-19-18. The Commission held work sessions to interview an applicant for district court judge on October 5, 2019, and to interview applicants for associate justice on December 7, 2019. Meetings were held October 5, 2019, and December 8, 2019, to make decisions on recommending those applicants to the President of the Navajo Nation.

The Judicial Conduct Commission recommended three applicants for district court judge in Fiscal Year 2019 to the Navajo Nation President. The President appointed each of the three and the Navajo Nation Council confirmed the appointments on December 19, 2019. Judicial Conduct Commission Chairman Robert Yazzie attended the Navajo Nation Council special session when the confirmations were deliberated and approved.

The Judicial Conduct Commission held conference calls several times throughout this quarter to discuss Commission issues.

Judicial Conduct Commission members Rhonda Tuni and

Judy Apachee and staff attorney Alisha Thompson attended the 26th National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics held by the National Center for State Courts Center for Judicial Ethics on October 23-25, 2019. They attended sessions for sanctions for judicial misconduct and other breakout sessions specifically designed for members and staff of judicial conduct commissions.

On November 4, 2019, Government Relations Officer learned about the role of the approver as part of the Financial Management Information System 6B Rollout Training. The Government Relations Officer is the approver for the Judicial Conduct Commission budget.

On December 8, 2019, the Commission received training from Financial Technician Sandra Dalgai on Navajo Nation travel policies and the reimbursement process.

Judicial Conduct Commission members include Chairman Robert Yazzie, Vice Chairman Manley Begay, Judy Apachee, Rhonda Tuni and William Thorne. Judicial Branch staff who assisted the Commission this quarter included Government Relations Officer Karen Francis, Human Resources Director Cheron Watchman, Staff Attorney Alisha Thompson and Financial Technician Sandra Dalgai. ●