LEGISLATION NO: _0009-20__

SPONSOR: Edmund Yazzie

TITLE: An Action Relating NAABIK’IYATI And The Navajo Nation Council; Confirming The Probationary Appointment Of Hon. Tina Tsinigine As Associate Justice Of The Navajo Nation Supreme Court

Date posted: January 13, 2020 at 3:30 PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 et. seq.
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 2009-20

DATE: January 9, 2020

TITLE OF RESOLUTION - AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF HON. TINA TSINIGINE AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will confirm the probationary appointment of Hon. Tina Tsinigine as Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.
PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2020

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0009-20

AN ACTION

RELATING TO, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF HON. TINA TSINIGINE
AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Authority

A. The Navajo Nation established the Law and Order Committee as a Navajo Nation
standing committee and as such gave the Law and Order Committee authority to
recommend to the Navajo Nation President the probationary appointment of an
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 600 (A), 601
(B)(7)(a).

B. The Law and Order Committee delegated its responsibility and authority to the
Judicial Conduct Commission to screen applicants and to recommend the
probationary appointment of judges and justices. LOCS-19-18.

C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
2 N.N.C. § 700(A). Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(9), a proposed resolution that
requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council must be assigned to the
Naabik'íyáti' Committee before it is considered by the Navajo Nation Council.
D. The Judicial Conduct Commission made its recommendation to the Navajo Nation President for Tina Tsinigine to be appointed as a probationary Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. JCC-05-19.

E. The President of the Navajo Nation shall appoint the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and District Court Judges with confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council from among those applicants recommended by the Law and Order [Judiciary] Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The Navajo Nation Council shall confirm judicial appointments. 2 N.N.C. § 601 (B)(7)(b), 7 N.N.C. § 355(A).

Section Two. Findings

A. The Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation shall consist of the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation and two Associate Justices of the Supreme Court. 7 N.N.C. § 301(A).

B. The Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and all District Court Judges shall be appointed for a probationary period of two years and upon permanent appointment shall serve thereafter during good behavior. 7 N.N.C. § 355(B).

C. Hon. Tina Tsinigine, currently a Navajo Nation District Court judge, is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is an applicant for appointment as Associate Justice. Judge Tsinigine’s application and qualifications have been reviewed by Judicial Conduct Commission, and she has been interviewed by Judicial Conduct Commission. See JCC-05-19, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

D. The Judicial Conduct Commission has determined that Judge Tsinigine meets the qualifications for appointment as Navajo Nation Associate Justice and has recommended her for probationary appointment to the Navajo Nation President. Id.

E. The Navajo Nation President, after an interview of the applicant, has appointed Judge Tsinigine as Navajo Nation Associate Justice, subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. See Appointment Letter and Qualification Documents attached hereto as Exhibits B and C, respectively.
Section Three. Confirming Probationary Appointment

The Navajo Nation confirms the Honorable Tina Tsinigine as a probationary Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court for a period of two years from the date of this confirmation. 7 N.N.C. § 356(A).

Section Four. Navajo Nation Privacy Act

Confidential information within the application documents shall remain protected except upon its authorized disclosure by the appointee. 2 N.N.C. § 81 et seq.