



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Law and Order Committee begins performance evaluation for Probationary Judge Honorable Tina Tsinigine

KAYENTA, Ariz. – Dec. 4, 2019 – The Law and Order Committee (LOC) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council began the evaluation of performance for Kayenta Judicial District Probationary Judge Honorable Tina Tsinigine on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2019 at the Kayenta Township.

Hon. Tsinigine has completed two years following her appointment to the Kayenta Judicial District, which is the probationary period required for permanent appointment for judges to the Navajo Nation.

LOC Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton presided over the public hearing for Hon. Tsinigine on Tuesday at the Kayenta Township Conference Room. LOC

Council Delegates Eugene Tso and Otto Tso were also present to hear from Hon. Tsinigine regarding her background and history as a Navajo Nation judge.

The Committee heard from Navajo Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, who spoke in support of Hon. Tsinigine's permanent appointment.

Following their statements was Judy Apache from the Navajo Nation Bar Association. Apache delivered one year of performance commentary from the association for the Committee's consideration. Apache stated that the second year's commentary was not available from the association because of the holiday season.

The Law and Order Committee accepted a motion to adjourn in the interest of maintaining a fair process in accordance with the Navajo Nation Code and the Hearing Rules on the Evaluation of the Performance of Probationary Judges and Justices (LOCJY-08-13).

Council Delegates Eugene Tso and Otto Tso each ex-



PHOTO: Kayenta Judicial District Probationary Judge Hon. Tina Tsinigine delivers an opening statement at the performance evaluation conducted by the Law and Order Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council at the Kayenta Township on Nov. 3, 2019.

pressed dissatisfaction with the incomplete report provided by the bar association, citing concerns that the evaluation process must be put on hold. Public announcements of the hearing were disseminated through both the Legislative and Judicial Branches as required by the hearing rules.

The Committee will reconvene after 60 days to allow the association to complete their evaluation packet. The public hearing will continue on Feb. 3, 2020 at the Kayenta Township.

The Law and Order Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council is charged with recommending the permanent appointment or the removal of probationary judges after 2-years of serving in the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch. The Committee is Chaired by Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton and its members include Honorable Vince James, Eugene Tso, Otto Tso, and Edmund Yazzie.

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