# THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0223-24\_\_ SPONSOR: <u>Eugenia Charles-Newton</u>

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee; Recommending to the Navajo Nation President the Permanent Appointment of the Honorable Letitia Stover as a Navajo Nation District Court Judge

Date posted: October 02, 2024 at 5:32PM

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET Tracking No. <u>0773-29</u>

DATE: October 1, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE; RECOMMENDING TO THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE LETITIA STOVER AS A NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, recommends to the President of the Navajo Nation the permanent appointment of Honorable Letitia Stover as a Navajo Nation District Court Judge.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.

Final Authority: Law and Order Committee

Vote Required: Simple Majority

	HOLD PERIOD AM MIKELLE Law & Order Comm	ittee
	osting Time/Date	
Posting End Eligible for		
1	PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION	
2	25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Second Year, 2024	
3	INTRODUCED BY	
4		
5		
6	Primary Sponsor	
7		
8	TRACKING NO. <u>0223-24</u>	
9		
10	AN ACTION	
11	RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE; RECOMMENDING TO	
12	THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF	
13	THE HONORABLE LETITA STOVER	
14	AS A NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	
15		
16	BE IT ENACTED:	
17		
18	SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY	
19	A. The Navajo Nation established the Law and Order Committee ("LOC") as a Navajo	
20	Nation standing committee with the authority to recommend to the Navajo Nation	
21	President the permanent appointment of probationary judges. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9),	
22	600 (A) and 601 (B)(10) (2012); see also CO-45-12.	
23	<b>!</b>	
24	SECTION TWO. FINDINGS	
25	A. Judge Letita Stover has completed a two-year probationary period and is therefore now	
26	eligible for permanent appointment as a Navajo Nation District Court Judge.	
27	B. The Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne has recommended to the LOC that Judge	
28	Letita Stover be permanently appointed as a Navajo Nation District Court Judge. Exhibit	
29	A.	
30		

- C. On Thursday, August 29, 2024, the Law and Order Committee held a public hearing to evaluate Letitia Stover as a permanent Navajo Nation District Court Judge. 2 N.N.C. §601(B)(3), see also LOCJY-08-13.
- D. The LOC, having reviewed the record, Judge Stover's qualifications, and after holding a public hearing on the matter, has unanimously determined that Judge Letitia Stover meets the qualifications for appointment as a permanent Navajo Nation District Court Judge pursuant to 7 N.N.C §354.

#### SECTION THREE: RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMANENT APPOINTMENT

The Law and Order Committee recommends to the Navajo Nation President that Judge Letitia Stover be permanent appointed as a District Court Judge, subject to the Navajo Nation Council's confirmation.

#### SECTION FOUR: RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDITIONAL STEP INCREASE

- A. The Law and Order Committee recommends that Judge Letitia Stover be provided an additional salary step increase, in addition to the two step increase provided after confirmation as provided in Resolution No. LOCO-08-14, "Amending The Navajo Nation Justices and Judges Salary Schedule."
- B. The LOC recognizes that Judge Letitia Stover was eligible to be evaluated and considered for permanent appointment once she fulfilled the mandatory two year probationary period. However, due to delays from the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge Letitia Stover's public hearing and probationary evaluations were delayed.
- C. In 2023, the Navajo Nation began reopened after the COVID-19 crises, and the Navajo Nation government implemented measures to resume in person functions. Included in the reopening measures was prioritizing evaluations for the Judges.
- D. In evaluating Navajo Nation Justices and Judges for possible step increases, Judge Letitia Stover could not be considered for an additional step increase in 2023, due to her probationary status.
- E. Therefore, the LOC recommends that the additional step increase be provided as Judge Letitia Stover.

### SECTION FIVE: DIRECTIVE

The Law and Order Committee directs the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Office of Human Resources to immediately submit to the Navajo Nation President all documents provided in the evaluation to recommended Judge Letitia Stover for permanent appointment. Confidential information included in the documents shall remain protected except upon authorized disclosure by the applicant. 2 N.N.C. § 81 et seq.