

# JOINT PRESS RELEASE



NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

NAVAJO NATION  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 4, 2025**

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## **President Nygren, Speaker Curley and Law and Order Chair Issue Letter Recognizing Eleanor Shirley as Navajo Nation Interim Chief Justice**



**Left to right: Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton, President Buu Nygren, Interim Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley, and Speaker Crystalyne Curley.**

**WINDOW ROCK** - Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley and Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton signed a joint letter on Thursday, July 3, 2025, recognizing Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley as the Interim Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation.

President Nygren received a letter from the Legislative Branch regarding former Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, informing him that the Law and Order Committee ("LOC") unanimously adopted a resolution to not recommend Jayne for permanent appointment to serve as the Chief Justice, in accordance with the committee's authority under Navajo Nation law.

After consideration, President Nygren did not appoint Chief Justice Jayne for the permanent Chief Justice position. Associate Justice Shirley assumes the role of Interim Chief Justice.

The Nation's leaders thank former Chief Justice Jayne for her service and the time she spent as a Probationary Chief Justice for the Navajo Nation. Since her two-year probationary period has expired, effective immediately, she is no longer a Justice for the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

The Judiciary is accepting applications for a Chief Justice and Associate Justice position of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. We encourage all eligible and qualified individuals to apply. A stable judiciary is the foundation of justice, accountability, and good governance for our people. These roles require the highest levels of integrity, fairness, and commitment to Diné values and laws.

How to Apply:

- Applications must be submitted directly to the Judicial Branch Human Resources Director.
- Position: Chief Justice and Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court
- Location: Window Rock, AZ
- Status: Open Until Filled
- For questions or application materials, contact: Judicial Branch Human Resources (928) 797-1493 | [www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov](http://www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov)

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