

# The Navajo Nation Judicial Branch

**FY 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report**



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# A Message from Chief Justice

**Yá'át'ééh.** As we gather this summer session, we are reminded of this season's symbolism—renewal, growth, and progress moving forward. It is a time to reflect on the Judicial Branch's progress in the past three quarters. Embarking on new ideas, incremental changes, and fresh perspectives being guided by the strength of our traditions and the teachings of our ancestors. The Judicial Branch continues to stay grounded in our goals and mission to deliver meaningful and culturally rooted justice to the Navajo people through our district courts, Peacemaking Program, and Probation and Parole Services.

We thank the Navajo Nation Council, Law and Order Committee, and Budget and Finance Committee for scheduling Budget hearings for the FY2026 budgets. Major budget priorities for FY2026 include restoring hours for critical vacant positions, facility maintenance and repairs, technology upgrades, staff development, and operational assessments. We also stress the urgent need to fill nine vacant judgeships and appoint a permanent third Supreme Court Justice to alleviate strain on the courts and ensure timely justice.

The third quarter saw 3,541 new filings and 3,801 closures—resulting in a 108% clearance rate, surpassing our goal and reflecting strong judicial performance and accountability.

Forward progress continues the Window Rock modular building, expected to be open to the public and operational by August 2025, despite the delays. Construction on the Kayenta Judicial Complex began in this quarter after the groundbreaking took place in March 2025. Additionally, more projects under the Hashkééjį Nahat'á Béeso Bá Hooghan Expenditure Plan have started their beginning stages. The new projects include the new Peacemaking Building, the Aneth Judicial Court Building, the design of the Ramah Judicial District facility, AOC centralized warehouse, and a mobile court unit—demonstrating our commitment to justice infrastructure across the Nation.

Staffing challenges persist with 61 vacancies, but recruitment progress is ongoing. Fifteen positions were filled, and three employees achieved permanent status in Q3. Recruitment remains difficult due to location and housing challenges. The Judicial Branch continues to advocate for the Senior Judges Program, which would bring experienced judges back to the bench while mentoring newer ones—helping reduce caseloads and strengthening the judicial quality. Another strategy that will soon be implemented is a remote policy. This quarter the Justices and Judges met at their quarterly Judicial Conference where they had discussions on how to better the justice system, and during this time passed the remote policy. This will also help attract interest in our vacant staff attorney positions.

This quarter the Judicial Branch is actively developing new policies for case management, court security, and employee wellness. We urge support for critical facility needs like the Shiprock District Court and commit to staying innovative while honoring Diné values.

reflects the continued dedication and hard work of our judges, court staff, and administrative teams as we strive to uphold the principles of justice, fairness, and accessibility across our courts.

*Ahéhee'*

**Eleanor Shirley**

*Interim Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation*

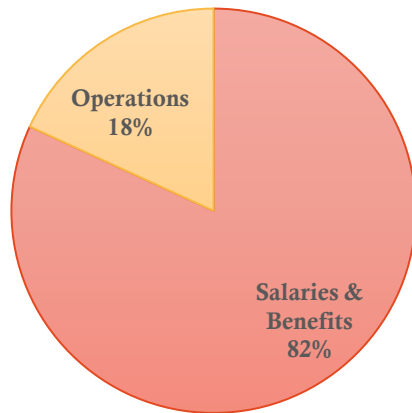
## Highlights of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 2025

- **Gratitude for Council Support:** The Judicial Branch extends sincere gratitude to the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council for continued efforts in working diligently on FY 2026 comprehensive budgets being scheduled for presentations to oversight committees. It is critical for the Judicial Branch to keep tribal courts operational, ensuring that justice continues to be served without any disruptions to the justice systems and facilities financially.
- **Judicial Independence:** The independence of the Judicial Branch remains immensely important not only to the Chief Justice but to the entire branch. It is necessary to ensure that the rule of law continues to be respected. Furthermore, it is essential for fair, impartial decision making based on Diné Fundamental Law, safeguarding Navajo sovereignty.
- **Judge Applicant:** In third quarter, the Judicial branch has not received any new applicants for Navajo Nation District Court probationary judge.
- **Case Management Success:** Navajo courts filed 3,541 cases and closed 3,801 cases, achieving a clearance rate (closed cases/ filed cases) of 108%, exceeding the target of 100%.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** The Hashkééjį Nahat'á Béeso Bá Hooghan has passed legislation, which has allowed OMB to create a budget account for 6 major projects for the Judicial Branch to continue to move forward. The Window Rock Judicial District modular building is estimated to be completed open to the public in August 2025.
- **Critical Staffing Milestones:** 15 new hires and 3 employees transitioned from probationary to permanent status; continued progress in filling judicial vacancies.

- **Judicial Facility Challenges:** AOC manages to respond to service requests from all 13 district courts and program facilities throughout the Navajo Nation despite only having one staff member, Ivan Cayedito, dedicated to maintenance facilities. To ensure we don't overload our one facilities and maintenance technician, he is accompanied by Construction project manager Andy Thomas, and AOC custodian Michael Teller who both assist in some work orders. The branch continues to seek council's support for resolving facility challenges that are ongoing, such as district court rooftop repairs, and HVAC units in older court buildings highlighting the importance of infrastructure maintenance.
  
- **Staffing Successes:** All thirteen Judicial districts, AOC, human resources, and programs, continue to work collaboratively, and identifying new strategies to help recruit for vacant positions within all districts and programs.
  
- **Staff Training Initiatives:** AOC units' human resources, fiscal unit, and the information technology units continue to provide essential staff training for all the Judicial Branch employees. These training courses are hosted in person and some take place virtually. Training topics include P-Card utilization, JustWare system/navigation, new hire orientation, Navajo reading & writing classes, finance and managing budgets within FMIS software. Together all AOC business unit managers collaborate and always accommodate the branch employees, providing learning tools and refreshers in certain areas to ensure that they are comfortable and understanding in the documents they are processing.
  
- **Collaborative Court Efforts:** In continued efforts to collaborate with local law enforcement, the Court Administrator participated in a joint meeting with the Socorro County Sheriff's Office and the Navajo Nation Police Department. Discussions focused on topics such as arrests, detainments, police report access, and cross-agency support. These meetings are essential for maintaining strong working relationships and improving public service delivery.

## Budget and Operations

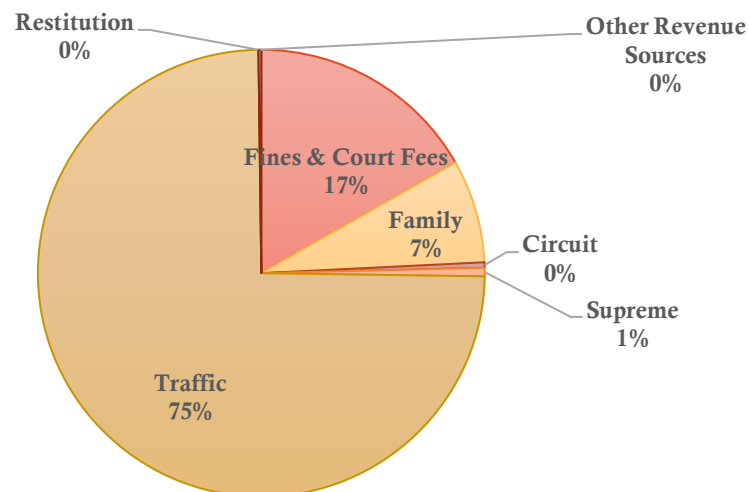
### FY2025 3RD QUARTER GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS NAVAJO JUDICIAL BRANCH



The FY 2025 General Fund Appropriation for the Navajo Judicial Branch consists of **82%** in Salaries and Benefits and **18%** in Operations.

**\$354,761.55** collected in Fines & Fees for FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. All funds are deposited into the Navajo Nation General Fund.

### MONIES COLLECTED BY COURTS FY2025 3RD QUARTER



# Navajo Justice Systems

## *The Original Justice System*

Peacemaking is a traditional justice system within the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation that can be used instead of or alongside the Navajo Nation court system. Its goal is to provide a non-adversarial forum for resolving disputes, promoting healing, and reestablishing harmony.

### **Hózhóji Naat'aah (Diné Traditional Peacemaking)**

Traditional Diné Peacemaking starts from a place of chaos, hóóchxq'/anáhóót'i', within an individual or between people. The Peacemaker guides individuals or groups to confront this chaos and move toward harmonious existence.

### **Áłchíní BáNdazhnit'á (Diné Family Group Conferencing)**

This extension of peacemaking addresses the requirements of the Áłchíní Bi Beehaz' áannii Act of 2011. It seeks culturally appropriate methods for family preservation and reunification, facilitating harmony consistent with Navajo Nation statutes and Diné principles.

### **Nábináhaazláago Áłch'j yáti' (Life Value Engagements)**

Life value engagements are traditional services where individuals or groups meet with a Peacemaker to learn how to address problems by opening to hózhó. These engagements focus on personal accountability and the willingness to confront and overcome chaos for the benefit of oneself, family, and community.

# Navajo Justice Systems Have 3 Roles

## **Roles of the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation**

- Appellate jurisdiction over trial court decisions.
- Original jurisdiction over petitions for extraordinary writs (mandamus, prohibition and habeas corpus and other writs).
- Final adjudication of decisions by administrative bodies such as the Tax Commission, Office of Hearings and Appeals and Labor Commission.
- Discretionary review of certified questions by trial courts and administrative agencies, and state/federal courts.
- Authority over the practice of law and bar membership on the Navajo Nation.
- Appellate jurisdiction over certain decisions of the Navajo Bar Association.
- Authority to approve all new and revised rules, pleadings, and forms of the Navajo Nation courts.

## **Roles of the District Courts**

- Original jurisdiction over crimes, civil causes and other matters under Navajo statutory law, Diné bi Beehaz'áannii, and Navajo Nation Treaties.
- Courts of general jurisdiction.
- Small claims division within each district court.
- Special Division of the Window Rock District Court.
  - Exclusive jurisdiction to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute ethics and corruption cases involving officials of the Navajo Nation government.

## **Roles of the Family Courts**

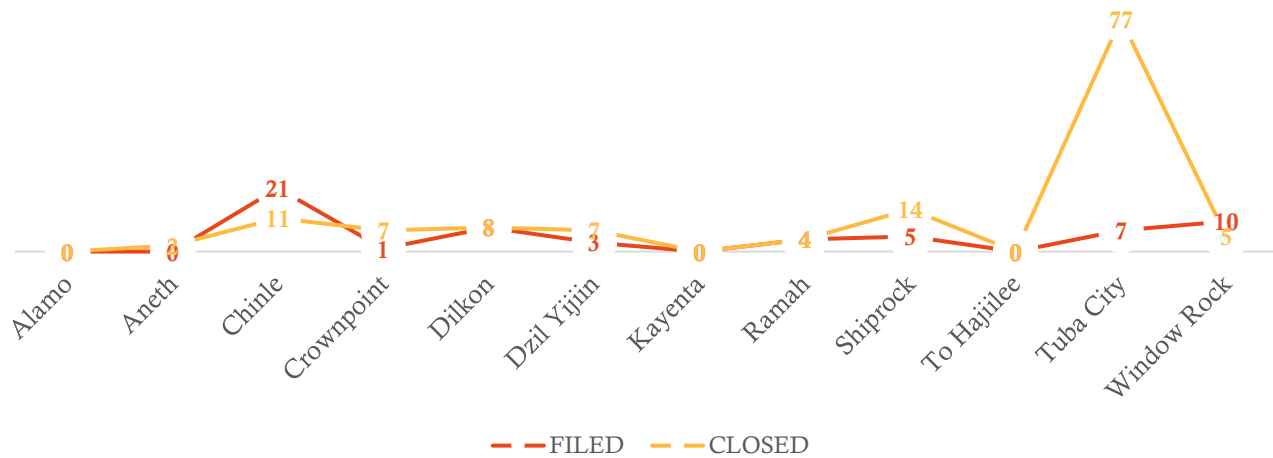
Original exclusive jurisdiction over:

- Cases arising under the Navajo Nation Áłchíní Bi Beehaz'áannii Act
- Domestic relations
- Probate
- Adoption
- Paternity
- Custody
- Child support
- Guardianship
- Mental health commitments
- Mental and/physical competency
- Name changes
- Elders



# Navajo Nation Peacemaking

## NAVAJO NATION PEACEMAKING FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



Navajo Peacemaking remains the original justice system of the Navajo Nation by providing a non-adversarial forum for resolving disputes, promoting healing, and reestablishing harmony.

During FY25 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, a total of **59** cases were filed with Navajo Peacemaking and **135** cases were closed which resulted in a **229% clearance rate**.

Peacemaking was able to hire a new Traditional Program Specialist with the Ramah office. Ms. Brenda Yazzie began her first day on June 23, 2025, starting her 90-day introductory period to the program.

The program's staff participated in the Justice Day festivities at all Judicial Districts, through providing information on the program, prayers, and Diné cultural teachings to the youth and adults.

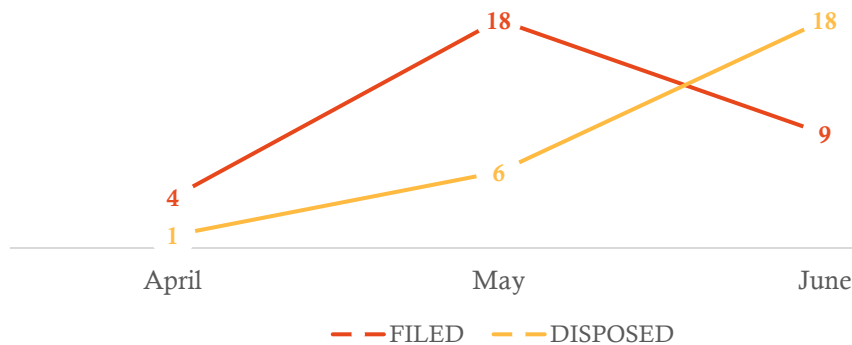
Seven staff members of the program successfully completed a four-day, Keyboarding Training, at the Shiprock Diné College campus. This collaborative effort was done for Diné College and the program to continue to assist one another in the future with western and traditional teachings.

Furthermore, the program completed the West Mountain mineral offering on June 20, 2025. The program and other Judicial staff, along with outside entities joined in this sacred event that was conducted by Mr. Nelvin Tohannie, who is a traditional practitioner. The main purpose of the offer was for continued use of the Diné Fundamental Law, Judicial Branch, Peacemaking program and the Navajo People.

Lastly, the 1st Annual Peacemaking Summer Youth Conference was successfully completed on June 25-26, 2025. Youth, mentors, and family members joined the two-day conference and learned about, reconnecting to their heritage. The peacemaking program staff participated and provided traditional teachings in breakout sessions during this conference.

## Navajo Nation Supreme Courts

SUPREME COURT  
APPELLATE JURISDICTION  
FILED & DISPOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER



**31 Appellate cases were filed with the Navajo Supreme Court during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, and**

**25 cases reached final disposition.**

As the sole appellate court for the Navajo Nation, the Supreme Court reviews lower court records, transcripts, and legal briefs as well as hold oral arguments.

The Navajo Supreme Court continues to serve as the Original Jurisdiction Court for bar members.

A total of 81 *Pro Bono* Appointments were made in FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. The Chinle, Dilkon, and Window Rock Judicial Districts have the highest need for *Pro Bono* appointments.

Former Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne swore in Hon. Letita Stover, Hon. Victor Clyde, and Hon. Malcolm Laughing as Permanent District Court Judges and Tyson Yazzie as Probationary Judge at the 2025 Spring Counsel Session.

Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley conducted the Oath of Office to 39 Navajo Nation Elected Officials from all five agencies.

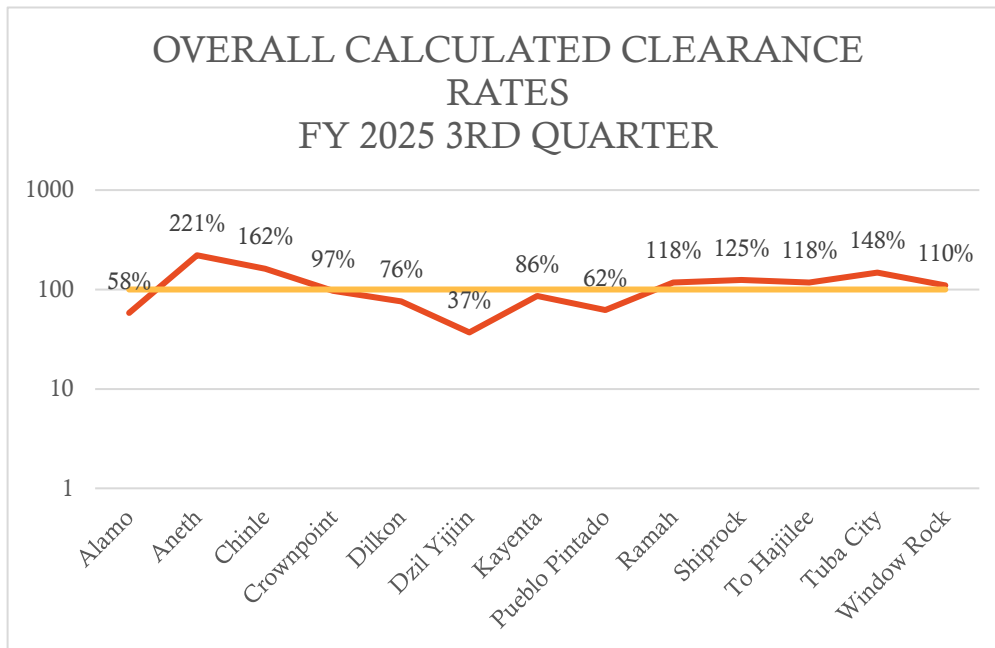
The Navajo Nation Supreme Court swore in and admitted 8 individuals to practice law on the Navajo Nation and admitted them to the Navajo Nation Bar Association Inc.

The Office of Chief Justice and the Administrative Office of the Courts drafted and presented the Judicial Branch Employee Policies and Procedures for Remote Work Policy and the Judicial Branch Employee Policies and Procedures for Bonus to the Judicial Conference at the 3rd Quarter Judicial Conference. The Judicial Conference passed resolution JB-JUNE-01-2025 and JB-JUNE-02-2025 in support of the policies with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

The former Chief Justice appointed Nyera Yazzie as the Acting Administrative Office of the Courts Director and appointed her to the Navajo Nation Insurance Committee.

# 13 Navajo Nation District Courts

## Judicial District (Trial Courts)



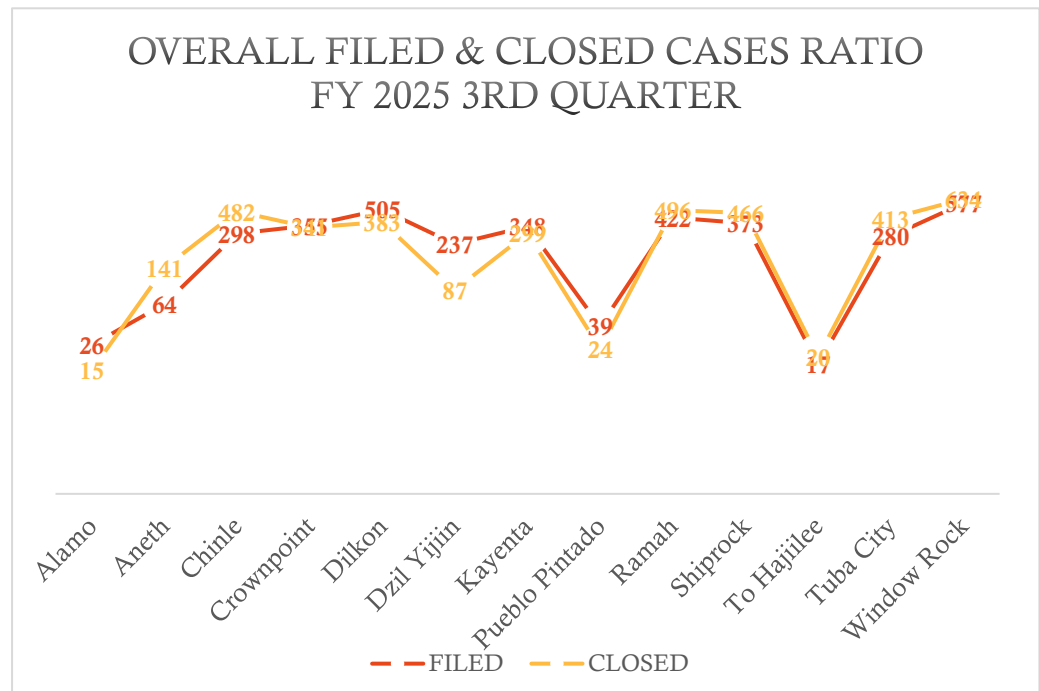
**Navajo Judicial District Courts (trial courts) are closing more cases than filed per quarter.**

Staying above 100% is crucial to address pending and backlog cases

**Judicial District Courts  
Overall, Clearance Rate is 108%.**

**The overall ratio of filed and closed cases for the trial courts identifies a positive trend.**

The closed cases protectory should at least mirror the filed cases to effectively manage caseloads.



# Alamo/Tó Hajiilee Judicial District

## Alamo District Court

### ALAMO DISTRICT COURT

FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



**26 cases were filed in both the Alamo District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**Clearance  
Rate is  
58%**

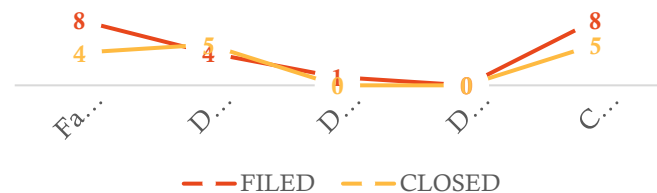
**15 cases were closed.**

The Alamo District Court successfully hosted its annual Justice Day event. The celebration included a fun walk/run, community resource booths, and participation from special guests. A luncheon was generously sponsored by the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc., with catering provided by Rudy's BBQ. The event promoted community engagement and awareness of the justice system.

The Court Administrator helped the Crownpoint District Court by serving on the interview panel for vacant Court Clerk positions. Following the interviews, hiring recommendations were made based on the panel's evaluations.

### ALAMO FAMILY COURT

FILED & CLOSED CASES:  
FY25 3RD QUARTER



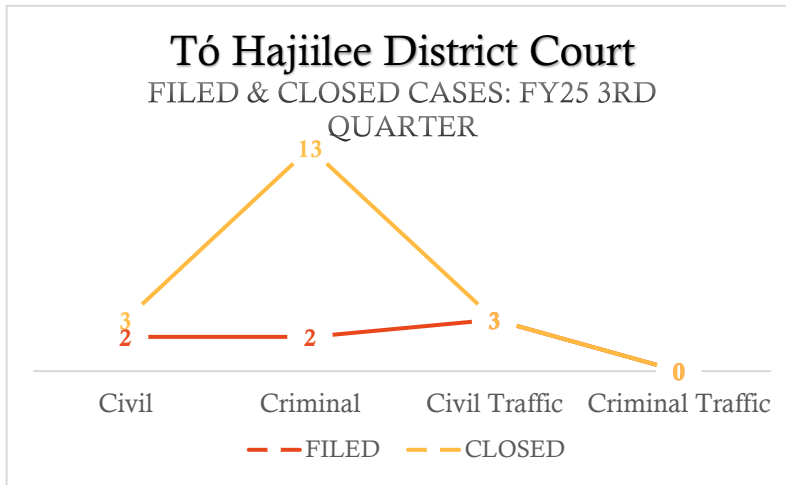
Court staff participated in a Staff Development session held at Route 66 Casino. The session focused on the "8 Dimensions of Wellness," offering valuable insights into personal and professional well-being. Staff members were engaged throughout the training and actively participated in group activities designed to enhance team cohesion and wellness.

Elementary students from the Alamo Navajo Community School visited the courthouse for an educational tour. Court staff explained the Navajo Nation Justice System, outlined the roles of court personnel, and provided students with promotional materials. This outreach effort helped educate youth about the functions of the judicial system and fostered early civic awareness.

In continued efforts to collaborate with local law enforcement, the Court Administrator participated in a joint meeting with the Socorro County Sheriff's Office and the Navajo Nation Police Department. Discussions focused on topics such as arrests, detainments, police report access, and cross-agency support. These meetings are essential for maintaining strong working relationships and improving public service delivery.



## Tó Hajiilee District Court

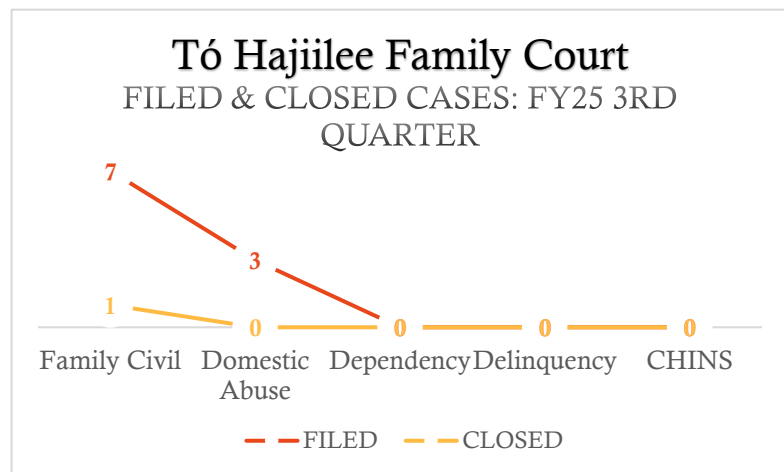


**20 cases were filed in both the Tó Hajiilee District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**17 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 118%**

The To'Hajiilee District Court hosted the Quarterly Judicial Conference. A suitable venue was secured, and a luncheon was held at Route 66 Casino. All Navajo Nation Judges and Justices were in attendance. To'Hajiilee Court staff were also invited to join the luncheon, contributing to a positive and inclusive atmosphere.



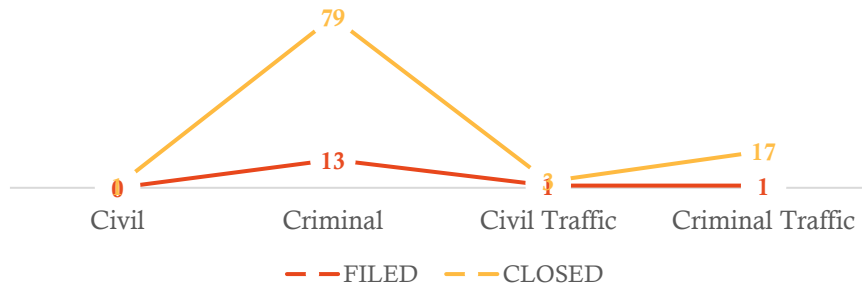
The Court Administrator continues to collaborate with DNA Legal Services by providing office space for their staff. This arrangement allows DNA Legal Services to assist community members with Pro Se legal forms, enhancing access to justice. This partnership strengthens relationships between the court, service providers, and the community.

As of June 27, 2025, the Court Clerk for Tó Hajiilee District Court resigned from her position to relocate closer to her home in Shiprock, New Mexico. The Court Administrator completed all required separation and exit documentation, retrieved all assigned equipment, and formally processed her release. The position will be advertised immediately to ensure continuity of court operations.

The Presiding Judge and Staff Attorney attended the Navajo Nation Bar Association (NNBA) Conference remotely. Additionally, the Presiding Judge and Staff Attorney participated in person at the Federal Indian Bar Conference in Albuquerque, NM. These professional development opportunities support legal education and strengthen the judiciary's capacity.

## Aneth Judicial District

Aneth District Court  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER

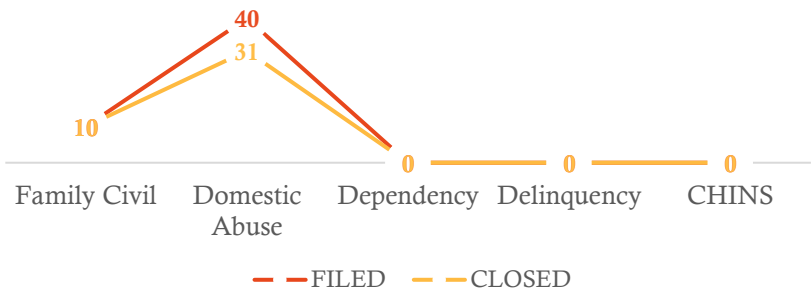


**141 cases were filed in both the Aneth District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**64 Cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 221%**

Aneth Family Court  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER



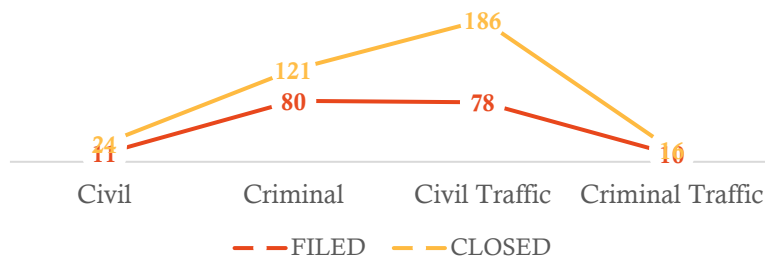
The Aneth Court's new building project is officially underway, with a Request for Proposals (RFP) having been advertised in the Gallup Independent. The deadline for bid proposals was June 25, 2025, and the bid opening is scheduled for July 2, 2025. However, there were no bidders, so the RFP was readvertised.

The Aneth District court is working diligently with its judge to bring down the existing case backlog. The court is utilizing Aneth Chapter's summer student workers to organize criminal case files and move them into the archiving room.

The Aneth District welcomes Alethea Lee as its new Document Technician. She's already hard at work, meticulously organizing and logging closed court case files to ensure their accuracy before archiving. A key part of her role involves creating an efficient storage and filing system for these closed cases.

## Chinle Judicial District

**Chinle District Court**  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25  
3RD QUARTER



**482 cases were filed in both the Chinle District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**298 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 162%**

The court administrator and Judge participated in a community meeting initiated by Chinle Law Enforcement and the Chinle Chapter. The meeting focused on public concerns and improving delivery service. Participants expressed appreciation for the open dialogue and agreed to continue the discussion in future meetings.

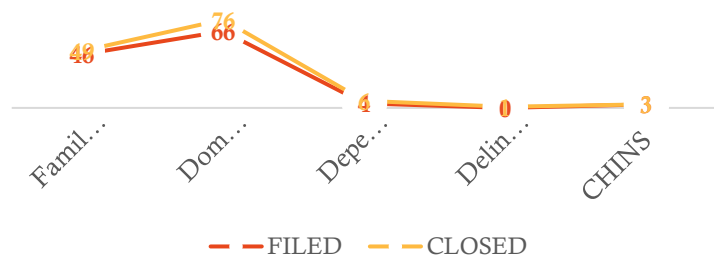
Additionally, the court hosted the U.S. Magistrate Court and U.S. Probation Services as part of the Northern Arizona Re-Entry Pilot Project. U.S. Magistrate Judge Camille D. Bibles held hearings on-site and has requested future courtroom use.

The court also facilitated a Save Our Schools (SOS) meeting with education and service providers to discuss implementing the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court. Partners expressed full support for the initiative.

Currently, two judge positions remain vacant. Judge Thompson is assigned to serve both Chinle and Dził Yíjiiin Districts and manages cases across both courts. The demanding schedule has a big impact on her workload and well-being, and administrators continue working together to provide the support needed.

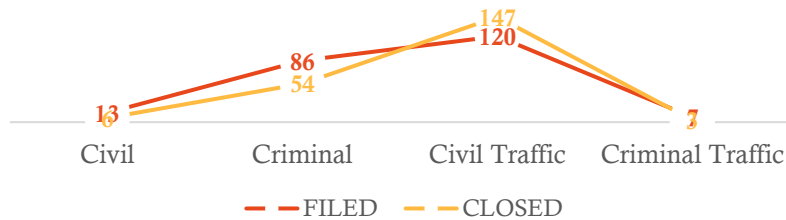
The Chinle Judicial District remains dedicated to advancing the mission and vision of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, with continued focus on service, accountability, and justice.

**Chinle Family Court**  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25  
3RD QUARTER



## Crownpoint Judicial District

### CROWNPOINT DISTRICT COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER

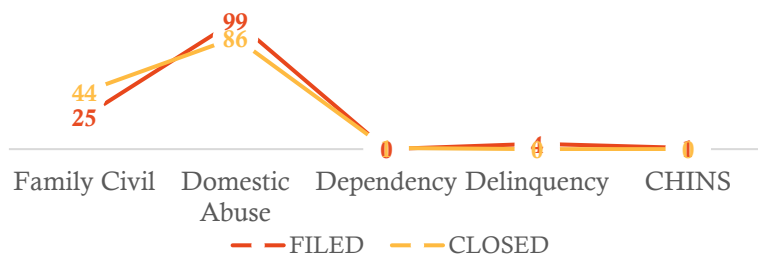


**341 cases were filed in both the Crownpoint District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**355 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 97%**

### CROWNPOINT FAMILY COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



The Judicial Hearing Officer conducted in-person hearings for Domestic Violence and Shelter Care cases, closing 86 cases. Additionally, two new District Court Clerks were hired, enhancing court operations and administrative support.

The Judicial District Court Judge administered the Oath of Office to Navajo Nation Chapter Officials representing To'Hajiilee, Casamero Lake, and Manuelito Chapters. The 2025 Justice and Law Day event was held successfully for the Crownpoint and Pueblo Pintado Judicial Districts, promoting public awareness, community engagement, and legal education.

Court staff participated in meetings and training focused on court development, public education, self-help, and improving court efficiency and access to justice.

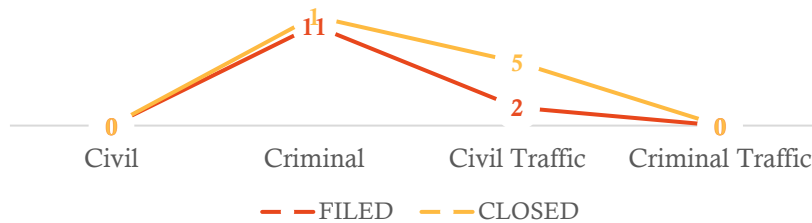
The Crownpoint Judicial District maintained ongoing communication with the BIA Facility Maintenance to address work orders and facility challenges. Critical upgrades are needed for security camera systems and landscaping to enhance court safety and functionality.



# Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court

## Of the Crownpoint Judicial District

### PUEBLO PINTADO DISTRICT COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER

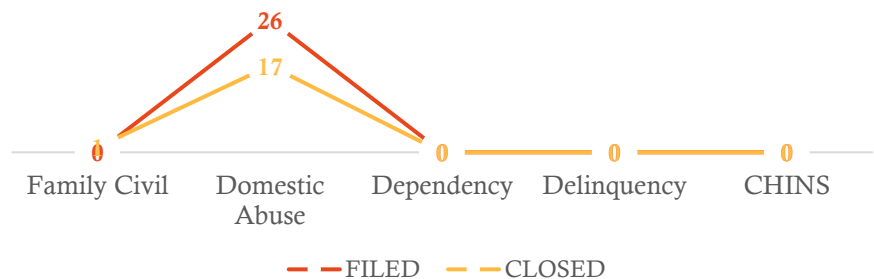


**39 cases were filed in both the Pueblo Pintado District Court and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**24 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 62%**

### PUEBLO PINTADO CIRCUIT FAMILY COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER

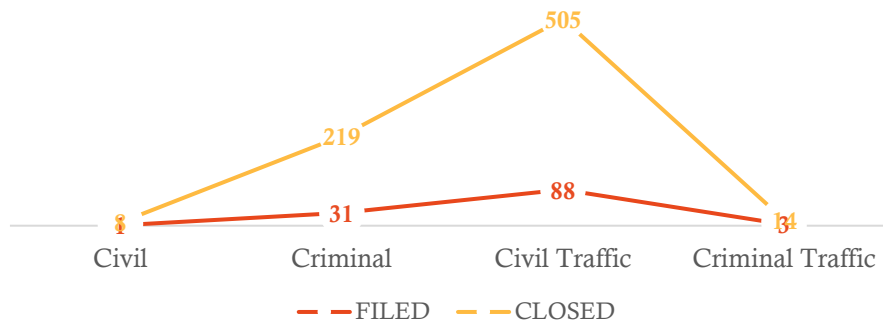


Despite the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court building being closed during the third quarter of FY 2025, 24 court cases were successfully closed, demonstrating continued progress in caseload management. The Judicial Hearing Officer held in-person hearings for Domestic Violence and Shelter Care cases at the Crownpoint District Court, resulting in the closure of 17 additional cases and contributing significantly to the court's overall performance.

The Judicial Branch Facilities Maintenance team completed critical repairs, including the replacement of a water meter and clearing of the grounds around the building. In support of transparency and accountability, the Crownpoint Judicial District Court administration continued active participation in meetings with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) regarding financial management, personnel hiring, and coordination with vendors for Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court operations. Preventive maintenance work orders are being addressed by the Judicial Branch maintenance team to support efforts toward the building's reopening.

## Dilkon Judicial District

DILKON DISTRICT COURT  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER

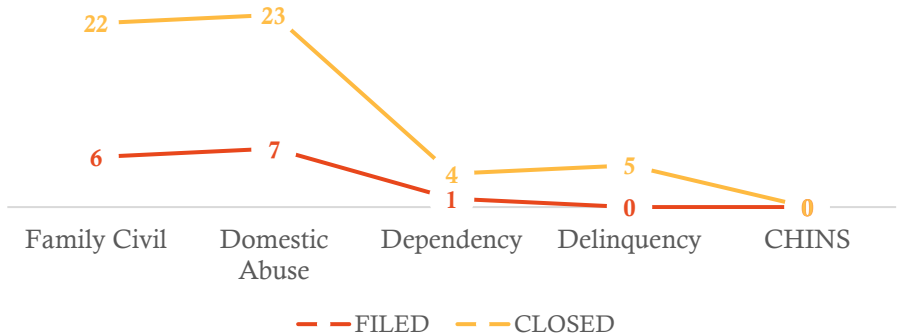


**505 cases were filed in both the Dilkon District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**383 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 76%**

DILKON FAMILY COURT  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER



The Dilkon District Court Staff continue to make progress on improving case backlog numbers as directed by the Chief Justice, through proactive case management. This is reflected in the numbers, with more cases closed than were filed. This is a continuous goal each quarter.

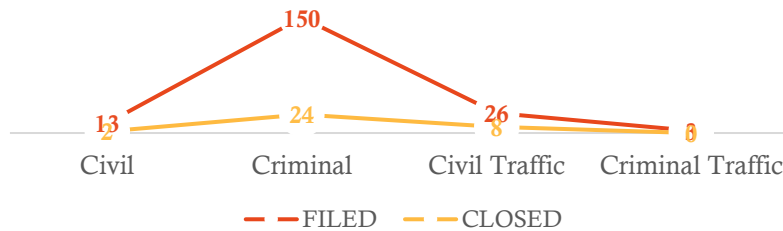
Also, this quarter several staff in-services were conducted. Staff attended a JustWare training session and Administrative Professional conference.

Judge Clyde attended AZ Judges Conference and the Judicial Conference for Judges in June.

This year the Dilkon Judicial District Justice Day was held on May 2, 2025.

## Dził Yijiin Judicial District

### DZIL YIJIIN DISTRICT COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER

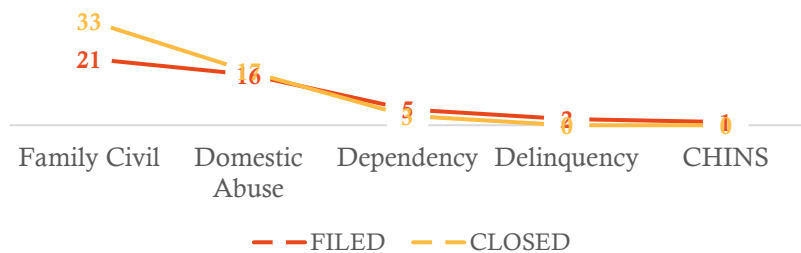


**237 cases were filed in both the Dził Yijiin District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**87 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 37%**

### DZIL YIJIIN FAMILY COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



To ensure accessibility and efficiency, the presiding judge conducts hearings in person, virtually, and by telephone. The judge is responsible for the oversight of two district courts and may be assigned to hear cases from other districts in the direction of the Chief Justice. A Judicial Hearing Officer presides over Domestic Abuse Protection Orders hearings, offering focused attention to these sensitive matters.

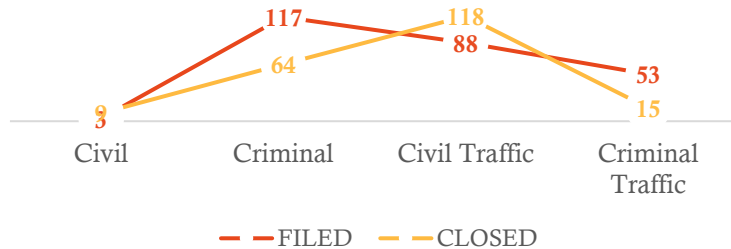
Dzil Yijiin Judicial District recently hired Shevanna Redmustache to the position of Document Technician. She has valuable experience in record management, digital documentation, and is proficient in the JustWare database system, contributing significantly to the district's efficiency in the court operations.

On April 9, 2025, Dził Yíjiiin District hosted its annual Justice Day celebration in recognition of the 66th Anniversary of the Navajo Courts. The event successfully brought together local schools, organizations, and community members for a day of education, engagement, and celebration of the Navajo justice system.

The Court Administrator plays a vital role in managing daily court operations, budget planning, case flow management, financial reporting, and staff coordination. The Administrator also supports community engagement through partnerships and outreach initiatives that strengthen the court's public service mission.

## Kayenta Justice District

### KAYENTA DISTRICT COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



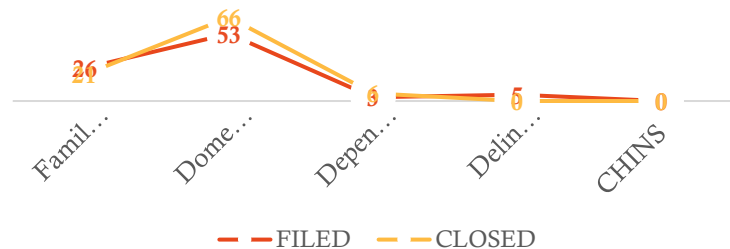
**348 cases were filed in both the Kayenta District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**299 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 86%**

The 25th Navajo Nation Council officially confirmed the permanent appointment of Judge Letitia M. Stover on April 22, 2025. The appointment was made in accordance with Title 7 of the Navajo Nation Code, which mandates that all judicial candidates undergo probationary service, performance evaluations, and formal Council confirmation. Holding both a Juris Doctor and a Master of Laws degree, Judge Stover served as a probationary judge since 2019 and previously worked as a staff attorney in the Kayenta Judicial District. Her permanent appointment reflects her academic successes and dedicated leadership during her time as a probationary judge.

### KAYENTA FAMILY COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



On April 14, 2025, the construction of the long-awaited Kayenta Judicial Complex in Kayenta, Arizona commenced. The 16,937 square foot facility was funded through the Navajo Nation Sihasin Funds, the State of Arizona and Kayenta Township Commission. Construction completion timeline is set for July 2026.

All Kayenta district court clerks and bailiffs participated in the 2025 Arizona Courts Association (ACA) Conference in Prescott, AZ. Conference training included promoting professionalism of court personnel, increasing awareness of and knowledge about court operations and foster cooperation, understanding, and exchange of information between court personnel involved with improving the operations of Arizona Courts.

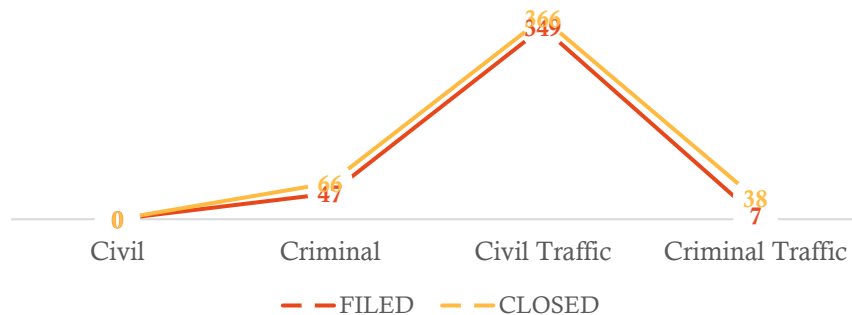
The Kayenta Judicial District participated in a successful 2025 Kayenta Public Safety and Justice Day on May 09, 2025, in Kayenta, Arizona. Court staff provided educational presentations to public visitors and in collaboration with area service providers.

Judge Letitia Stover participated in a Quarterly Judicial Conference meeting on June 27, 2025, in Tohajiilee, NM. Conference participants received Judicial Branch updates and new developments.



## Ramah Judicial District

RAMAH DISTRICT COURT  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER

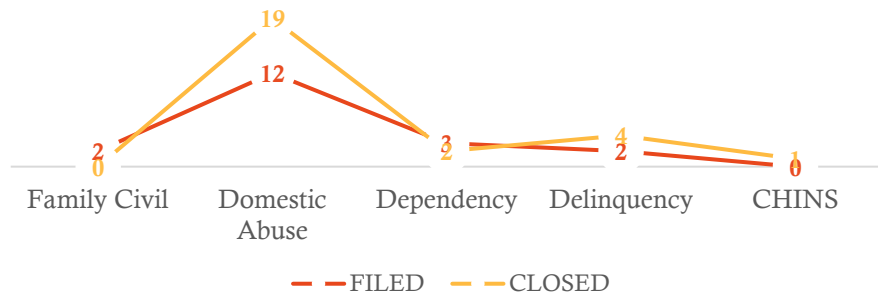


**422 cases were filed in both the Ramah District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**496 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 118%**

RAMAH FAMILY COURT  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER



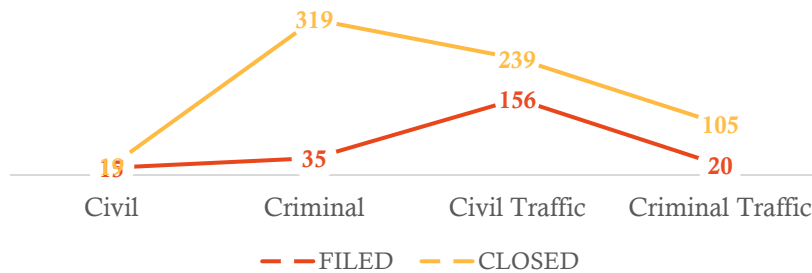
This quarter, the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch hosted their Justice Day event on April 2, 2025. This year's theme was, "Justice is Treated with Dignity and Respect." The event was for the community to celebrate the Diné Justice system, and to share information by the local resources and provide education of the Dine Justice System. Lunch was also served to the community.

The Hashkeeji Natat'a Beeso Ba Hooghan has passed legislation, allowing Ramah Court to move forward with its Architecture Firm Design Procurement. The initial planning phase for the new Ramah Judicial Court site has been completed.

The Ramah Judicial District Court remains dedicated to advancing the mission and vision of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, with our continued focus on court service and accountability.

## Shiprock Judicial District

SHIPROCK DISTRICT COURT  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD  
QUARTER



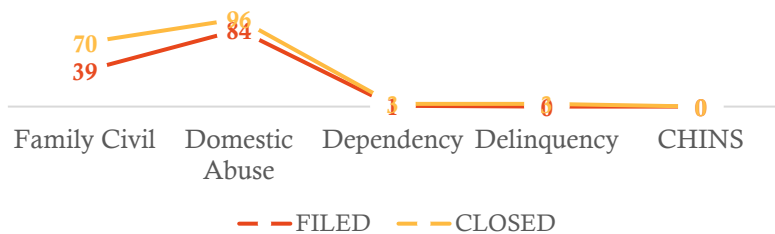
**373 cases were filed in both the Shiprock District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**466 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is  
125%**

The Shiprock Judicial District has provided continuous judicial services to the communities of the Shiprock Agency. A total of 3,340 individuals received in-person service, and the district quarter statistics show the district's operation and management of the court docket. The district caseload remains steady.

SHIPROCK FAMILY COURT  
FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25  
3RD QUARTER

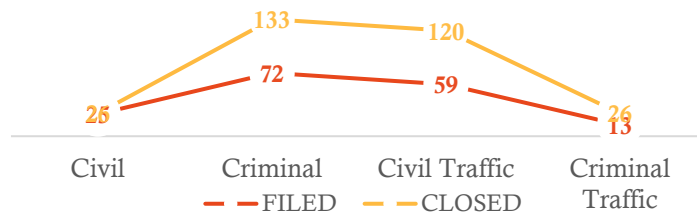


The Annual Justice & Law Day was held on May 16, 2025, with an open house invitation to the public. Many people attended the event, the attendees received valuable information.

Information included reading materials, incentives, and products from multiple programs such as: the Courts, Law Enforcement, Probation/Parole Services, Peacemaking Services, Corrections, Fire Department, Criminal Investigation, Northern Navajo Medical Center Women's Health, Community Uranium Journey to Healing and Alcohol & Substance Abuse, Center-Sexual Assault Prevention, Healing Circle Drop-In Center, Navajo Health Education Program, Division of Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Infection Disease and Prevention, Community Health Representative, Navajo Nation Veteran Administration-Northern Agency, Community Uranium Exposure, Northern Tree House Shelter, WIC Program, and the Shiprock Election Office. Refreshments and lunch were served.

## Tuba City Judicial District

### TUBA CITY DISTRICT COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER

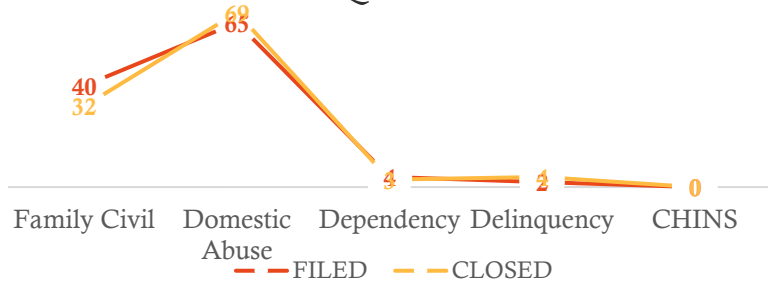


**280 cases were filed in both the Tuba City District and Family courts during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**413 cases were closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 148%**

### TUBA CITY FAMILY COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



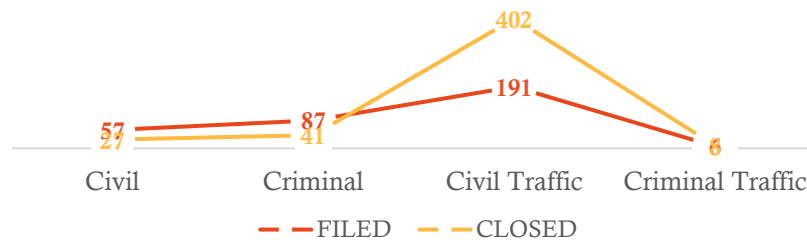
Tuba City District Court worked in collaboration with Navajo Nation Law Enforcement, Department of Correction, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Department in organizing and successfully carrying out the “Public Safety Day” event on May 9, 2025. The purpose of the event is to educate and promote public understanding of the criminal justice system and raise awareness on emergencies, prevention, and safety within our communities. The event consisted of educational booths, displays and presentations by the court, local and surrounding resources, service providers, and Public Safety Agencies. The court staff provided information to the public about the Judicial Branch, court processes and services. Honorable Cecelia Tallman was presented with a plaque in recognition of exemplary service to the community. Promotional items were distributed, and lunch was served to the public and vendor participants.

Tuba City Judicial District hosted the Budget and Finance Committee’s FY26 Budget Public Hearing on June 6, 2025. The committee utilized courtrooms 2 and 3 for the public hearing. The Court provided coffee and water to the committee members and the public. The committee had lunch catered to the public in attendance and invited the entire Judicial staff.

The Court Administrator is diligently working with the district court Judge and staff in decluttering and returning obsolete equipment to property and organizing office space within the court building for functionality. She implemented changes to court operations to improve workflows, processes and court services. Staff meetings are conducted monthly for transparency and sharing of information for continuous improvements. Moving forward, the court will initiate monthly service provider’s meetings to establish positive and effective working relationships with community public service organizations.

## Window Rock Judicial District

### WINDOW ROCK DISTRICT COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER

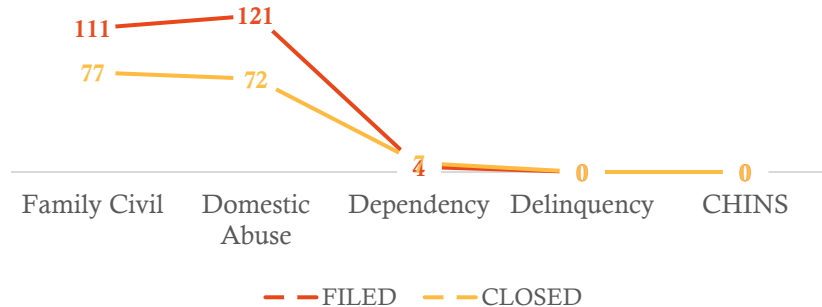


**577 cases were filed  
in both the Window  
Rock District and  
Family courts during  
the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**634 cases were  
closed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 110%**

### WINDOW ROCK FAMILY COURT FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



The Window Rock Judicial District continues addressing all cases on the Court's docket by conducting hearings telephonically with the exception of parties that request in-person hearings. The Honorable Judge Malcolm Begay presides over all court cases. Aside from hearings, Judge Begay continues to address the workloads of vacant positions that include two other Judges, the Staff Attorney duties, and the Judicial Hearing Officer. Window Rock Court is addressing mostly domestic violence cases, criminal cases, and dependency cases due to the amount of violence and child neglect on an almost daily basis which does delay family civil cases.

The Window Rock Judicial Modular building team continues to meet bi-weekly regarding the progress of the modular building that is located west of the United States Postal Office in Fort Defiance, Arizona. The modular building has been delivered and is on site as of January 14, 2025. The building is about 80% complete. The anticipated move in date is set for August 25, 2025, as well as the grand opening to be conducted on the same date.

The Window Rock Judicial District filled most of the positions and hired two new Court Clerks, and one Office Technician. The sensitive positions remain vacant.

There were 372 Family Court hearings held, and 693 District Court hearings held for this Quarter.



# Navajo Nation Probation & Parole Services

Probation and Parole Services of the Navajo Nation is committed to enhancing community wellness and fostering *hozho* restoration. We achieve this through community-based supervision aimed at rehabilitating client-offenders. We prioritize the involvement of families, communities, and relevant agencies.

Restoration of *hozho*, accountability, personal responsibility, and community wellness are fundamental principles of traditional restorative justice. In Navajo justice, "restorative justice" literally means restoring justice in accordance with these principles. It involves engaging client-offenders, victims, and affected communities in seeking solutions that promote restoration and rebuilding.

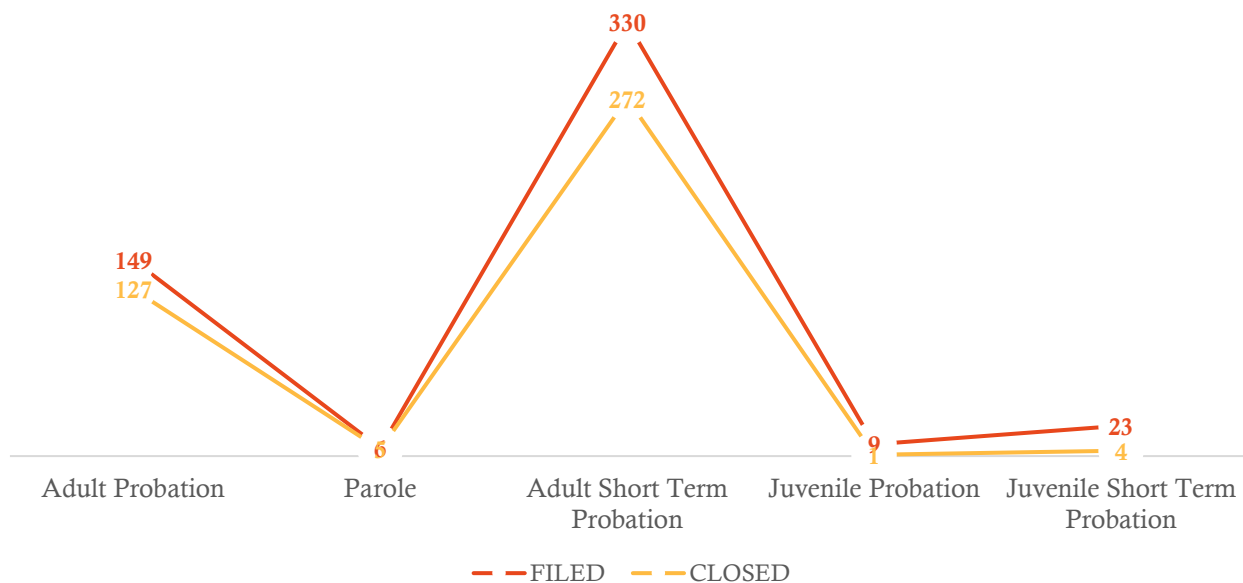
Our justice system holds the responsibility of restoring *hozho* by providing necessary resources to rehabilitate offenders and reintegrate them into their communities, following traditional principles. This includes active communication with victims and advocates.

Probation and Parole Services offers programs designed to help client-offenders, their traditional support structures, and communities achieve crime-free and successful reintegration. Our approach emphasizes accountability, personal responsibility, and supports competence, self-worth, and self-improvement. Through rigorous risk assessment and supervision, we ensure public safety and facilitate client-offenders' compliance with court-imposed conditions and obligations.

Chief Probation Officer with the PPS Management Team coordinated the 3rd quarter presentence/predisposition report training. A two-day refresher course for some and new training for new staff was successful.

The Probation and Parole Services Management team continues to identify new goals, implementing best practices and ensuring all requirements are met and satisfied ensuring quality assurance for direct services.

## NAVAJO PROBATION & PAROLE FILED & CLOSED CASES: FY25 3RD QUARTER



**Probation and Parole Services are long-term services based on court ordered services and not all cases should be cleared within one quarter.**

**517 cases were filed with Probation and Parole Services during the FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.**

**409 cases were closed or completed.**

**Clearance  
Rate is 80%**

The program developed an internal case audit check list to ensure probation officers' case management systems are managed properly to provide accuracy, accountability and efficiency.

Now that the fourth quarter has started the probation and parole services program has begun the procurement of allocated FY 2025 budget. The team identified needs for the remaining two quarters and will begin the expenditure process.

The Chief Probation Officer was summoned by the Law & Order Committee (LOC) and placed on the agenda to approve the updated and revised Plan of Operations.

# Administrative Office of the Courts

**The primary purpose of the Judicial Branch Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)** is to be able to provide administrative support for all Navajo Nation Courts, Supreme Court, Peacemaking system, and the Probation and Parole Services. AOC is the centralized support to ensure that the entire Judicial branch operates smoothly by providing support in managing budgets, human resources personnel, information technology, facilities maintenance, and construction/project management.

## **The Acting Administrative Director, Nyera Yazzie**

After the departure of the previous AOC director, Ms. Yazzie was reassigned as the acting AOC Director. The Acting AOC director continues to oversee six essential units within the Admirative Office of the Courts: fiscal, human resources, information technology, facilities, construction management, and probation and parole services.

Under her leadership:

1. There remains continued progress in restructuring within internal units to better meet the growing needs of the district courts, programs, and the public.
2. Continuing to emphasize the importance of filling vacant positions for business unit managers. Establishing strategies to find more interested applicants.
3. Ensuring that all necessary documents are reviewed, signed, and moved forward to ensure major projects continue to move forward in a timely manner.
4. Meeting weekly with the Chief Justice on day-to-day operations and updates.
5. Meet weekly with business unit managers within AOC to obtain updates on each section's progress, goals, deadlines, and new strategies on how we can better processes internally and to the districts.
6. Focusing on preparing FY26 Budgets to present in front of Law and Order, and the Budget and Finance Committee, with the help of all Judicial Branch support staff.

## **Construction Project Manager (PM), Andy Thomas**

Current projects under his leadership:

1. The Window Rock Judicial Modular building is in the final building set up to open the doors. NTUA will be connecting the 3-phase electrical and all infrastructure, water, sewer, telephone will be in operational status. The civil site work is ongoing for final grading requirements. The overall project is to be completed by July 25, 2025, and ready for occupancy.
2. The Kayenta Judicial complex center is ongoing with the foundation construction and all underground utilities are currently being installed, sewer, and water piping etc. The third monthly construction meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025, at the Kayenta Court construction site building meeting room.
3. The Window Rock Peacemaking building Judicial complex center will begin construction in March of 2026. The current floor design plans will be updated to current 2021 International Building Codes (IBC). The procurement process with the Architect Firm is under procurement and 164(B) reviews to revise the Construction Documents and project Manual and get ready for cost bids in the fall of 2025. Judicial branch PM will be coordinating the project with AOC and stakeholders for kick-off meetings.

4. The Aneth Judicial complex center is under procurement for the design-build project for Design-builder for their future design and construction of their court building. The design shall be completed by the end of the year and construction to begin in spring of 2026. Judicial branch PM will be coordinating with AOC and stakeholders for kick-off meetings.
5. The Ramah Judicial complex center is under procurement for their future design of their court building. Cost proposal opening will be held July 09, 2025. The design shall be completed by the end of the year and will be awaiting construction funds to begin in summer/fall of 2026. Judicial branch PM will be coordinating the project budget with AOC and Stakeholders for kick-off meetings.
6. The Administration Office of courts (AOC) central warehouse building has the Design-Build funding for their future design and construction of their warehouse building. Procurement will begin once the land development has been identified. The design shall be completed by the end of winter and construction to begin in spring/summer of 2026. Judicial branch PM will be coordinating the project budget with AOC stakeholders for project kick-off meetings.

#### **Human Resources Director, Cheron Damon and HR Staff**

The AOC HR staff support the judicial branch by managing personnel-related functions. This includes:

1. Recruiting and hiring court staff
2. Ensuring compliance with employment laws
3. Administering benefits and payroll
4. Handling employee relations
5. Developing policies
6. Providing training and development
7. HR helps maintain a fair, efficient, and professional work environment to support the Judicial staff and courts' mission of delivering justice.

#### **Acting Information Technology Manager, Larry Hoskie and IT Staff**

The AOC IT staff plays a crucial role in the district courts and all Judicial Branch entities by ensuring all equipment is up to par and maintaining the technological support for court operations. These tasks include:

1. Addressing 411 IT requests throughout the entire Judicial branch across the Navajo Nation this quarter. These requests consist of providing technical support in network communications and infrastructure, court digital recorders, conferencing equipment, printers, hardware and software.
2. Providing in-person training, when necessary, at districts courts, who requests further assistance in learning how to operate certain equipment and software.
3. The new Judicial Branch website is now online. Development and modification to the <https://courts.navajo-nsn.gov> website is complete. Training for website editing purposes is ongoing per Obsidian services contract.
4. AOC and Supreme Court damaged fiber optic connection to NNDIT was repaired and tested by Ward Systems, LLC. The point-to-point connection to Historic Preservation was no longer needed.
5. The AOC IT team continued to work in conjunction with NNDIT, General Contractor (GC), and sub-IT vendor to set up all required data, ports, networking, Wi-Fi access points,

wiring, internal ethernet locations, VoIP and exterior building security systems for a turnkey move in process for the Window Rock District Court personnel.

**Acting Financial Service Manager, Sandra Dalgai and Fiscal Staff**

The fiscal staff are highly essential in AOC and very active every day assisting in managing the court systems budget. This includes:

1. Continuing to work very closely with district business unit managers by providing one-on-one interactions to assist Court Administrators, Office Technicians, and Judges with their budgets, and any other financial documents they are processing.
2. To help further accommodate the districts, fiscal staff members will make trips to the districts to host in-person training sessions at the district's staff development.
3. Acting Financial service manager assisted Acting AOC Director Ms. Yazzie and Chief Justice in getting FY26 Judicial Branch budgets prepared and ready for presentation to the oversight committees.
4. Another crucial task is ensuring all major contracts make it through the entire 164 process for construction projects, and big purchases for district courts in a timely manner by.