
HASHKÉÉJÍ NAHAT'Á
(JUDICIAL BRANCH)
OF THE
NAVAJO NATION

FISCAL YEAR 2025
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT
JULY 1, 2025-SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
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NÁBINÁHAAZLÁAGO

Comprehensive Approach

The Hashkééjį Nahat’á (Judicial Branch) of the Navajo Nation is realigning itself to its current Strategic Plan. The past quarter, and the past fiscal year, has brought much to light with the need to continue educating our people about their justice systems: Peacemaking and courts as well as Probation and Parole Services. By reinvigorating Navajo values and teachings through the Judicial Branch, we will be taking a comprehensive approach and focusing on improving services to the public.

Nábináhaazláago

A comprehensive approach to building public trust and confidence in our justice systems requires realigning Judicial Branch priorities. The success of our justice systems is measured by the Navajo people: the ability to rely upon our justice systems for integrity, independence, fairness, and respect. This includes centering Navajo teachings and values in our justice systems and developing Judicial Branch resources for the public. This comprehensive approach invests in building stronger relationships with the public, justice partners, and other participants in our justice system.

T’áá Shí Ádá’asht’į

True access to justice only comes with education and outreach to the public. The Judicial Branch initiative to create a self-help center that is focused on educating and informing the public on how to use their own justice systems is key to everyone having access to justice. Other key initiatives such as the Dził Yíjín Judicial District and Kayenta Judicial District’s continued outreach through the mobile courts are a prime example of how to fully engage Navajo people in their own justice systems. With the additional funding authorized by the Navajo Nation Council to specifically address probate and quiet title cases, the Judicial Districts will be working on developing critical initiatives to bring these specific cases to finality.

Enhancing Professionalism in the Workplace

Through workplace initiatives to improve our processes, encourage collaboration, advance technology and adopt best practices, we are revitalizing respect in our workplace. Our priorities of expanding judges’ excellence and leadership as well as upholding the highest ethical standards are key to serving the public. We are prioritizing initiatives that value our workplace, value professionalism, and the highest ethical standards – through improving technology, facilities, and reinvesting in our staff.

Eleanor Shirley, *Interim* Chief Justice
Office of the Chief Justice

STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

It is our vision that the present judicial system, consisting of an adversarial-style tribal court system modeled on Anglo courts, a peacemaking system modeled on Diné original dispute resolution methods, and Probation and Parole Services, will fully embody the values and processes of the Navajo People, including family and clan-centered Navajo values. Our justice system as a whole will truly reflect the heart and soul of the Diné. It will be one that the People can recognize as their own and fully participate in the spirit of nábináhaazláago.

STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

The Judicial Branch will provide stability in the Navajo Nation government by providing court, peacemaking, and probation and parole services, to adjudicate cases, resolve disputes, rehabilitate individuals and families, restore harmony, educate the public, agencies, services and other governments in Diné bi beenahaz' áanii, and protect persons and property pursuant to Navajo Nation laws, customs, traditions, and applicable federal laws. Pursuant to Diné bi beenahaz' áanii, the Judicial Branch will carefully develop a justice system that fully embodies the traditional values and processes of the Navajo People.

Grand Opening of the Window Rock Judicial District Court

The Judicial Branch proudly celebrated the grand opening of the new Window Rock Judicial District Court and Probation and Parole Services in Fort Defiance, Arizona. For nearly a decade, the staff operated without a permanent facility. The new courthouse and offices now provide a space that enhances access to a fair and respectful administration of justice. This milestone symbolizes stability, progress, and the Judicial Branch's ongoing commitment to serving the Navajo people with excellence and integrity.

Judicial Facilities Progress

Following the success of the Window Rock opening, construction of the Kayenta Judicial District building continues with an anticipated opening in next calendar year. The facility will expand access to court and program services in the northwestern region of the Navajo Nation.

In addition, three major construction projects: the Peacemaking Program, Aneth Judicial District, and Ramah Judicial District, entered the contracting phases for construction or design, marking tangible progress in the Judicial Branch's long-term infrastructure development. Together, these projects demonstrate the Branch's commitment to modern, culturally grounded facilities that strengthen our justice systems across the Nation.

Peacemaking Groundbreaking - A Milestone for the Judicial Branch

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Peacemaking building marks a historic step in advancing traditional and community-based justice. Rooted in Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii, Peacemaking emphasizes restoration, balance, and harmony as a traditional means of resolving conflict. This facility will be first of its kind not only on the Navajo Nation - a space for community Peacemakers, the public, and stakeholders to learn and utilize traditional methods of dispute resolution. This initiative aligns with key goals of the Judicial Branch Strategic Plan, enhancing accessibility, cultural relevance, and infrastructure for the benefit of the Navajo people and future generations.

Case Certification and Backlog Reduction

The Judicial Branch successfully completed the 2024 case certification process at the beginning of this year, ensuring accurate records across all districts and continued progress in reducing case backlogs. Judges and staff conducted thorough reviews of both physical and electronic case files, demonstrating diligence and accountability. The results show measurable improvements in court operations, reflecting greater efficiency, timely case resolution, and enhanced service to pro se litigants, attorneys, and the public. The courts and programs continue to improve efficiency while maintaining independence and high ethical standards.

Advancing E-Filing and Technology

Under the Chief Justice's direction, the Judicial Branch is developing an electronic filing (e-filing) system to improve how cases are submitted, tracked, and managed. This initiative will streamline processes, reduce paperwork, and enhance accessibility for litigants and attorneys. E-filing is a major step toward modern, efficient court operations and is expected to begin implementation by the end of calendar year 2026. This project represents the Branch's commitment to innovation, transparency, and responsive service to the Navajo people.

Spend Down Plan for Federal Funds - Fiscal Accountability

The Judicial Branch is implementing a spend down plan to address previously unspent federal funds, ensuring compliance and full utilization of resources. The plan addresses prior fiscal years federal funds that were held in abeyance by the Office of the Controller. Working with the Office of Management & Budget and the Office of the Controller, the Branch created a streamlined financial plan that supports staffing for Judicial Hearing Officers and Document Technicians. These actions strengthen fiscal accountability, eliminate underutilized funds, and direct resources where they have the greatest impact. The plan demonstrates responsible financial stewardship and a commitment to operational integrity.

T'áá Shí Ádá'asht'í Bá Hooghan - Access to Justice Initiative

The Judicial Branch launched T'áá Shí Ádá'asht'í Bá Hooghan, an access to justice initiative designed to help individuals prepare their cases through self-help tools, legal forms, and legal informational guidance. The initiative will educate the public on both court and Peacemaking options, empowering them to make informed decisions about their cases. The pilot program will begin in Window Rock, focusing on probate and quiet title cases this fiscal year. The goal will be to expand to all judicial districts, with Judicial Navigators providing remote and in-person assistance. This first-of-its-kind initiative in Indian Country strengthens access to justice, reduces burdens on court staff, and builds public trust through culturally responsive and wrap-around services.

Investing in Our Staff and Strengthening the Judicial Branch

Significant investments were made to strengthen staff expertise and organizational capacity across the Judicial Branch. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice, the Judicial Branch continues to invest in its workforce to ensure excellence in service to the Navajo people. Program managers are developing individualized training plans to build specialized expertise, promote professional growth, and strengthen operational continuity.

From July to September, eight key positions were filled, including the Financial Director and Court Solicitor, enhancing administrative capacity and efficiency. The Interim Chief Justice also identified key statutory mechanisms to recall former judges/justices to assist in case backlog.

Together, these efforts reflect a strong commitment to staff development, organizational capacity, and effective judicial service for the Navajo Nation.

The Judicial Branch still faces key vacant judicial positions. Large judicial districts such as Window Rock, Crownpoint, Tuba City, Shiprock and Chinle need at least two judges - currently all of these judges are covering multiple positions. Some of the judges are also faced with covering more than one judicial district. This is a critical juncture for our justice system as our judges and staff continue to bring down the number of backlog cases, but face increasing numbers of new cases.

KEY TERMS IN THE JUDICIARY CASE MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

Clearance Rate

The ratio of outgoing cases (disposed) to incoming cases (filed) over a period of time, expressed as a percentage. A rate of 100% or higher indicates the court is keeping up with its caseload.

Case Backlog

A case that has been pending in the court for more than one calendar year. During the annual case certification process, each court does a manual count of all cases to identify which cases have been filed and not disposed of within a calendar year time period. This count does not include cases filed during the current calendar year.

Pending Cases

A court case is one that has been filed but is not yet disposed of, meaning it is still open and active until a final judgment is reached. This includes cases filed in the calendar year and backlog cases.

Court Caseload

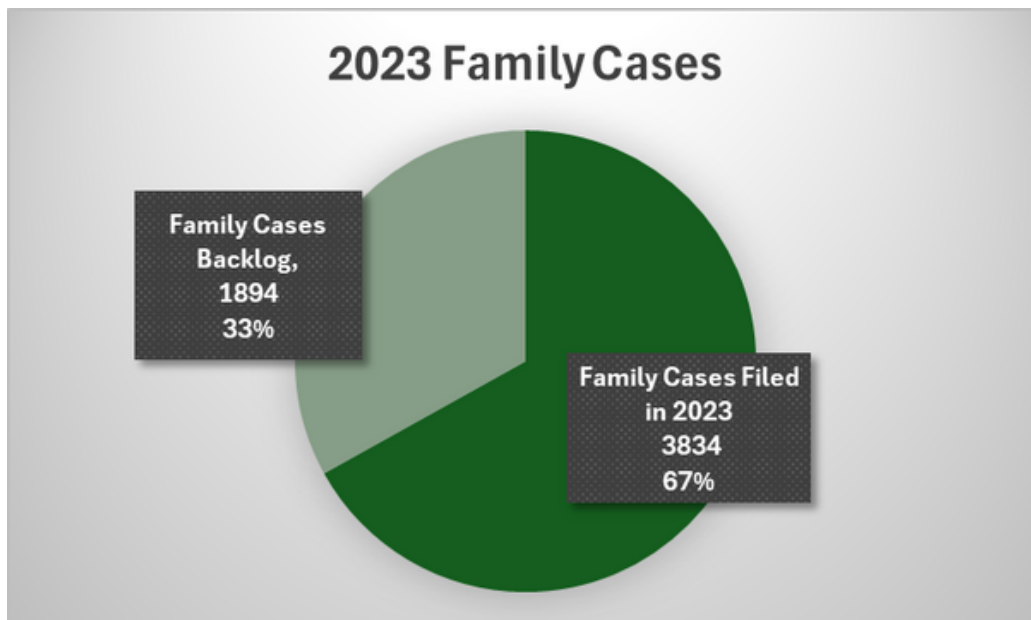
The total number of cases that the court is handling within a specific time period. It includes both newly filed cases and backlog cases, and can be used to measure workload, staff needs, and the efficiency of the judicial system.

Case Certification Process

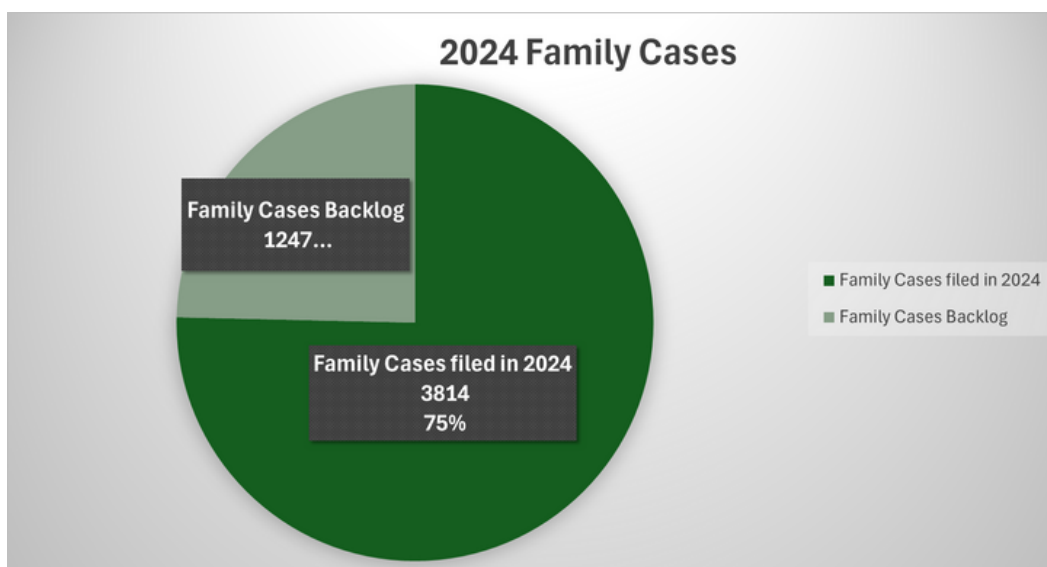
The following pages addressing court backlog is based upon the past two years of case certification. This process requires each court to manually count each case, identifying cases filed more than a calendar year prior, and demonstrate how the court expects to address current backlog caseloads. The case certification process is completed in February of the subsequent year: for example, Case Certification Calendar Year 2023 was completed in February, 2024 and Case Certification Calendar Year 2024 was completed in February, 2025. The Judicial Branch restarted this process in 2023 to assist the courts and programs in addressing the backlog of cases.

BACKLOG REDUCTION- FAMILY COURT CASES

In 2023, the Judicial Branch faced a backlog of **1,894 Family Court Cases**.



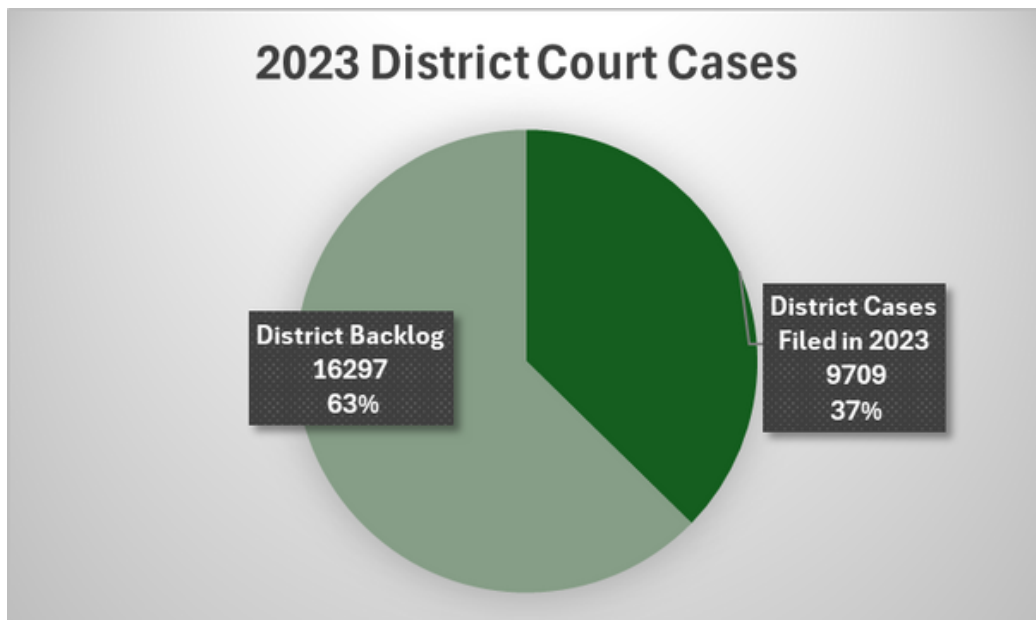
In 2024, the Judicial Branch reduced the Family Court Case backlog to **1,247**, a reduction of **34%**



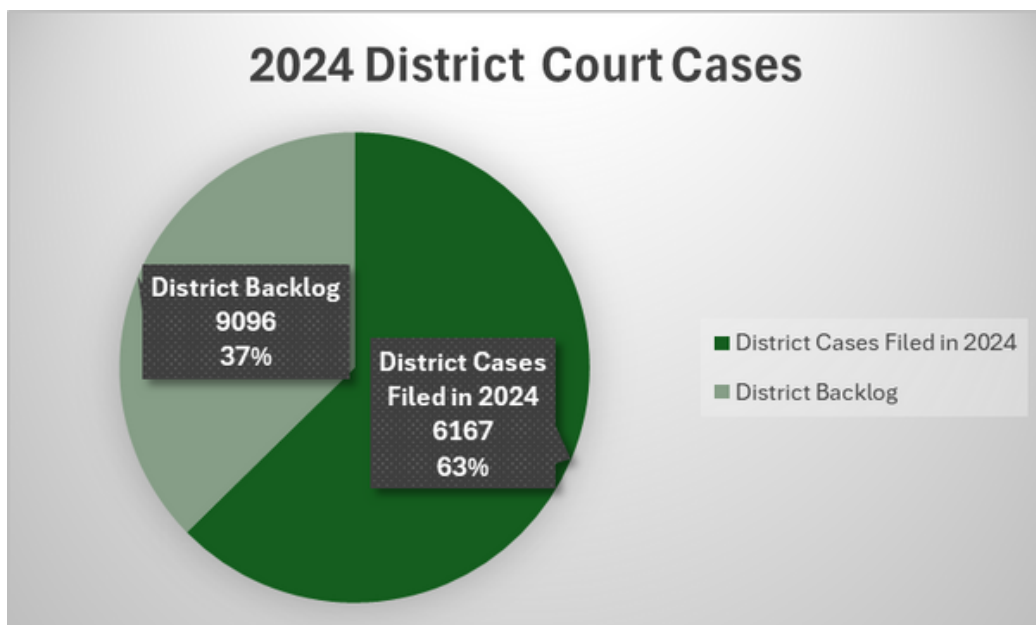
The case certification that is completed on an annual calendar basis is showing a downward trend in backlog of cases over the last two year period.

BACKLOG REDUCTION- DISTRICT COURT CASES

In 2023, the Judicial Branch Faced a backlog of **16,297 District Court Cases**.



In 2024, the Judicial Branch reduced the District Court Case backlog to **9,096**, a reduction of **44%**



The case certification that is completed on an annual calendar basis is showing a downward trend in backlog of cases over the last two year period.



Peacemaking

The goal of Peacemaking is returning to Hózhó. When there is disharmony or Anáhóót'i' with our children and families, among adults, or in our community, it is our personal responsibility to restore harmony and balance. We must learn to resolve our own problems and teach our children Traditional Diné values that will be a positive influence in their lives.

Peacemaking emphasizes that our Diné people solve their own problems by talking it out and finding justice, rather than depending on the courts. This concept is based on the Traditional teaching: "T'áá hó ájít'éego". Teaching traditional Dine values to our younger generation is vital to the well-being of the Diné. Youth engagement in Peacemaking is a high priority.

Priorities:

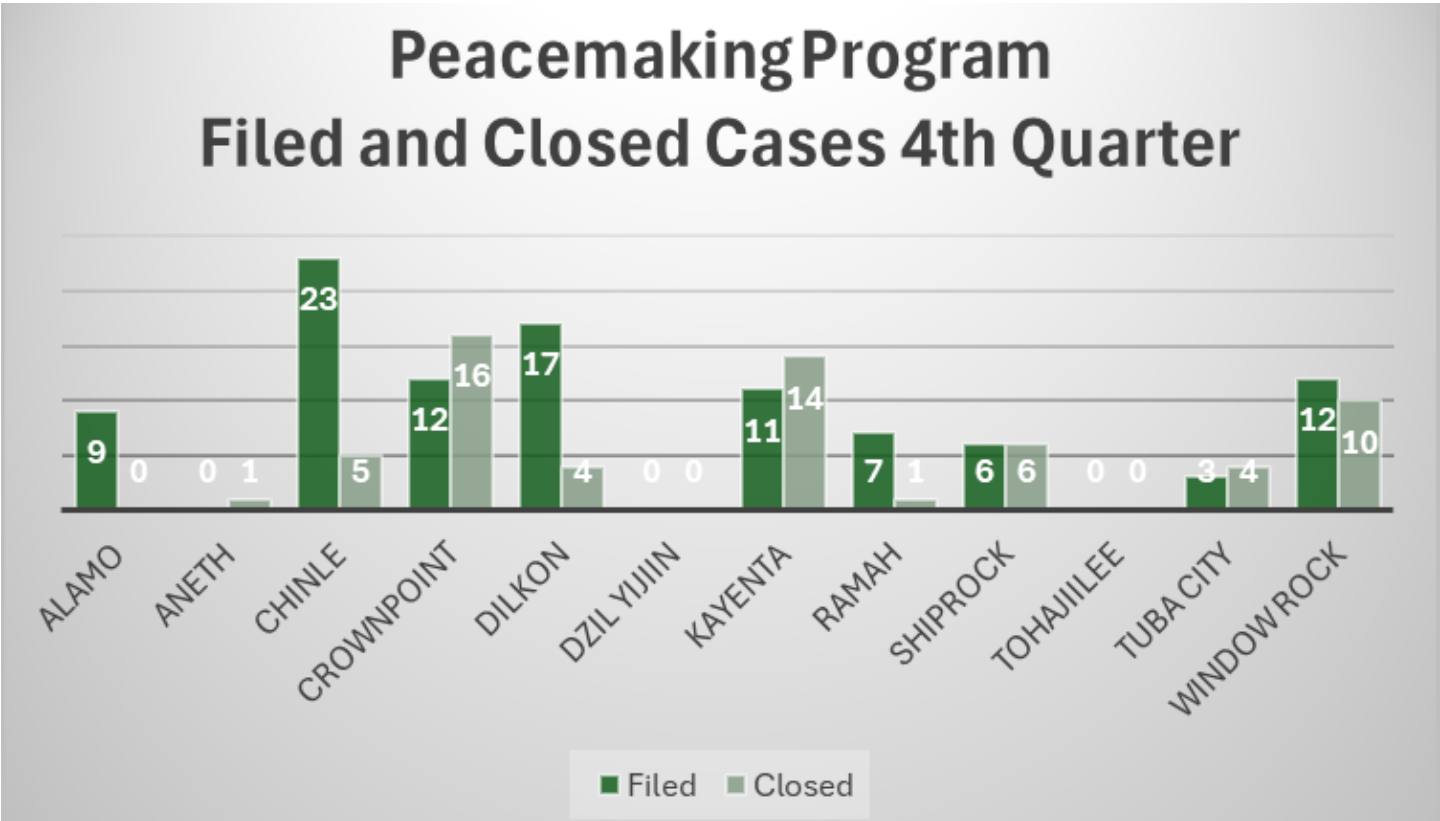
- Restorative Justice
- Traditional Teachings – Language & Culture
- Inclusiveness of all Faiths / Faith-Based
- Children & Family Hózhó
- Status Accorded to Elders
- Vulnerable Adults
- Extreme Family Discord

A major milestone this quarter was the groundbreaking ceremony for the Peacemaking Administration Building, achieved through the tireless efforts of Judicial Branch staff and the support of the Law and Order and the Budget & Finance Committees. A traditional hózhó-jí ceremony was conducted, and a gish was used for breaking ground, to plant the seed for the program's continued growth for present and future generations. The new facility will serve as the foundation of the program, a place where Diné cultural teachings can be shared to keep Diné values and traditions thriving.

Several key initiatives are coming to completion, including finalizing the Peacemaking Program Mission and Vision, the Plan of Operation, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Coconino County Attorney's Office. The proposed MOU recognizes the importance of culturally relevant services to Navajo people in Coconino County justice system and builds strong collaboration between our two sovereigns utilizing restorative justice. Peacemaking continues to develop and strengthen partnerships through the redevelopment of its Peacemaking Guidelines and Memorandum of Understanding with local schools to enhance service delivery.

Supporting staff wellbeing and developing professionalism, remains a priority. By providing opportunities to gain both traditional and western knowledge through program-led projects, the Peacemaking Program ensures continued development of our staff. Efforts to streamline processes and create more efficient systems is key to the continued development of the program.

PEACEMAKING PROGRAM



97

PENDING CASES

The Peacemaking Program is unique as cases are opened based upon court, agency, and school referrals as well as walk-ins.

61%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the Fiscal Year 2025 4th Quarter, a total of 100 new cases were filed with the Peacemaking Program; 61 cases were closed.

Probation and Parole Services

Navajo Nation Probation and Parole Services play a vital role in enhancing community safety and supporting rehabilitation across the Judicial Branch. Their work focuses on accountability, treatment, and reintegration to reduce future criminal behavior and strengthen families.

Purpose:

- Enhance public safety by reducing criminal acts among convicted offenders
- Conduct needs assessments for adults, juveniles, diversion participants, and their families
- Provide case management, supervision, and referrals for treatment and counseling
- Promote reintegration of clients as law-abiding, productive members of society
- Perform indigency determinations for court proceedings

Objectives for Next Quarter

- Identify and plan FY2026 training programs.
- Provide leadership training for the management team.
- Conduct case reviews in preparation for annual evaluations.

Operational Improvements

Significant progress was made on departmental operations. Senior Probation Officer, Joann Holyan-Terry, with the subject matter expert team began revising and updating the JustWare User Guide for Probation and Parole Services, while the management team continued revising the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual, with finalization anticipated by year-end. These initiatives focus on ethical considerations, technology advancements, and professionalism.

Training and Staff Development

Training was a major accomplishment this quarter. All probation staff successfully completed the annual defensive tactics training to ensure officer safety, and staff participated in mental wellness and self-care training. These trainings are critical to improved services and wellness of our staff.

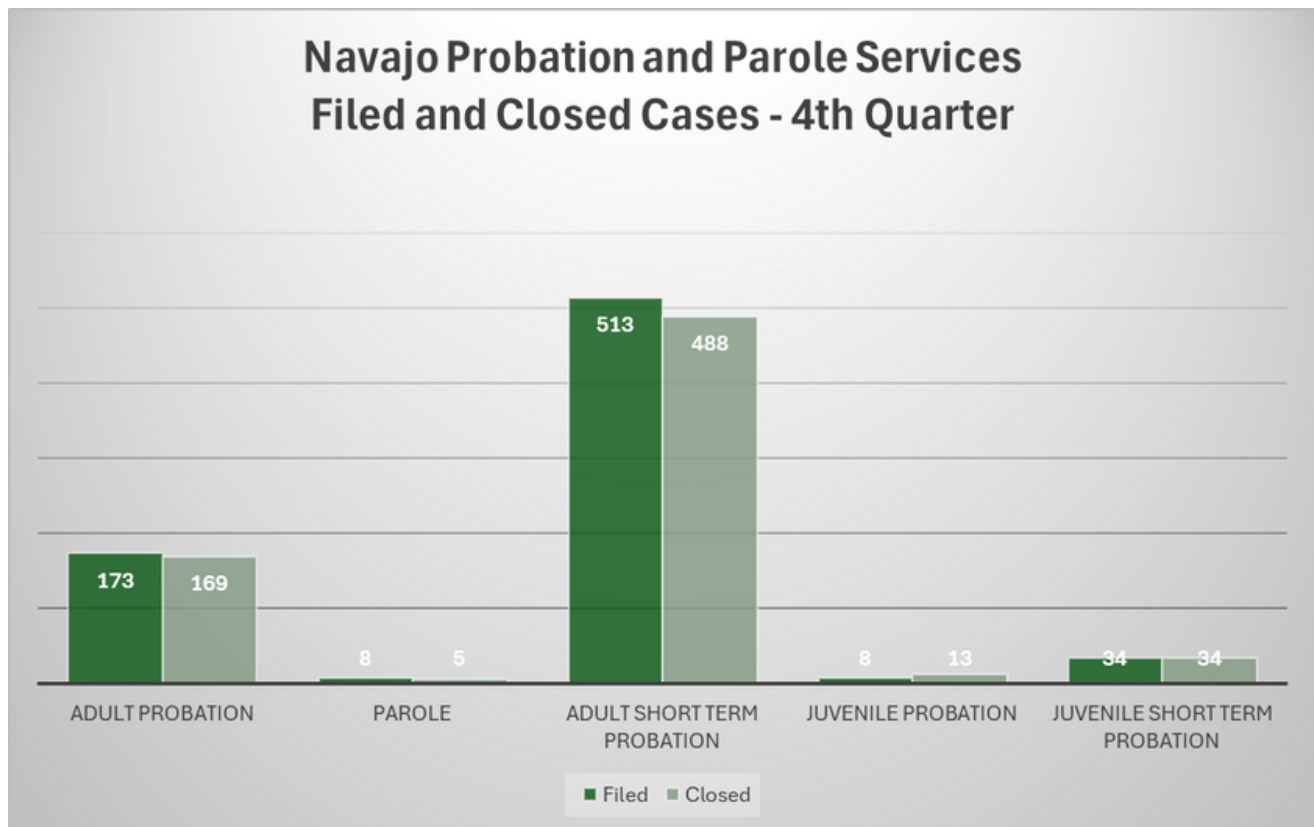
Leadership and Supervision

To address increased workload and responsibilities, Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair appointed Genevieve Curley as Acting Senior Probation Officer to supervise the Western Region districts of Kayenta, Chinle, and Tuba City, allowing the Chief to focus on administrative priorities.

Case Management and Quality Assurance

The management team conducted audits and case reviews, identifying areas for improvement, ongoing training, and operational adjustments to ensure proactive and efficient case management focused on restorative client care. Bi-annual reviews are planned to maintain consistency and quality. Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair continues to lead the department with a focus on collaboration, teamwork, and strategic growth initiatives.

PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES



930

PENDING CASES

The Probation and Parole Services provides short and long term probation and parole services.

96%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the Fiscal Year 2025 4th Quarter, a total of 736 new cases were filed with the Probation and Parole Services; 709 cases were closed.

Role of the Supreme Court

- 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
- Regulatory authority over the practice of law and Navajo Nation bar membership
- 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

Role of the Judicial District Courts

Within a Judicial District, there are two courts: a District Court and a Family Court. Each court having separate and unique authorities and roles for resolving disputes.

District Court

- 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.

Family Court

Original exclusive jurisdiction over:

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

Supreme Court

Honorable Eleanor Shirley
Honorable William Platero (temporarily assigned)
Honorable Robert Yazzie (recalled)

Jurisdiction and Authority

The Navajo Nation Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in the Nation, serving as the final appellate body for decisions from District Courts and other lower forums. Its jurisdiction covers civil, criminal, and administrative matters under Navajo law.

The Court also regulates Navajo Nation Bar members, overseeing admissions, professional conduct, and discipline to uphold ethical standards. Through its rulings and oversight, the Supreme Court ensures justice aligns with both traditional Navajo values and due process.



Appointment of Acting Chief Justice

On July 3, 2025, the Executive and Legislative Branches concurrently appointed Eleanor Shirley as the Interim Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation. This appointment reflects the Navajo Nation's commitment to ensuring an independent judiciary and continuity of strong leadership at the highest level of the Judiciary.

Appointment of Associate Justices

The Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley further strengthened the Supreme Court by temporarily assigning Associate Justice William Platero and recalling Associate Justice Robert Yazzie through Administrative Orders 32-2025 and 33-2025. These assignments/recalls reinforced the Court's capacity to fulfill its constitutional duties and to serve the Navajo people with fairness and integrity.

Expansion of Judicial Support Staff

The Office of the Chief Justice welcomed Reba Francisco as Judicial Executive Assistant, bringing valuable court and administrative experience to support the leadership of the Court. In addition, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court welcomed Lisa Stephens as Temporary Law Clerk, enhancing legal research and case support functions for the Justices.

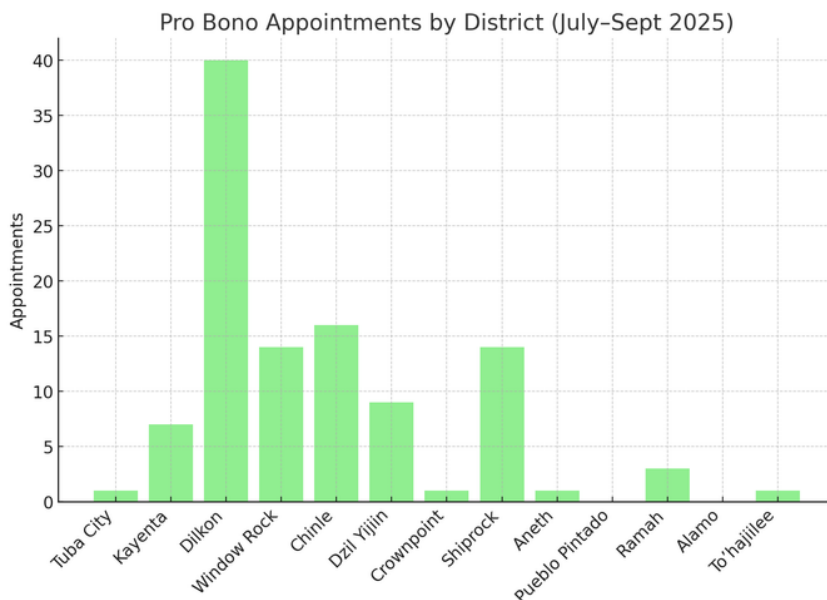
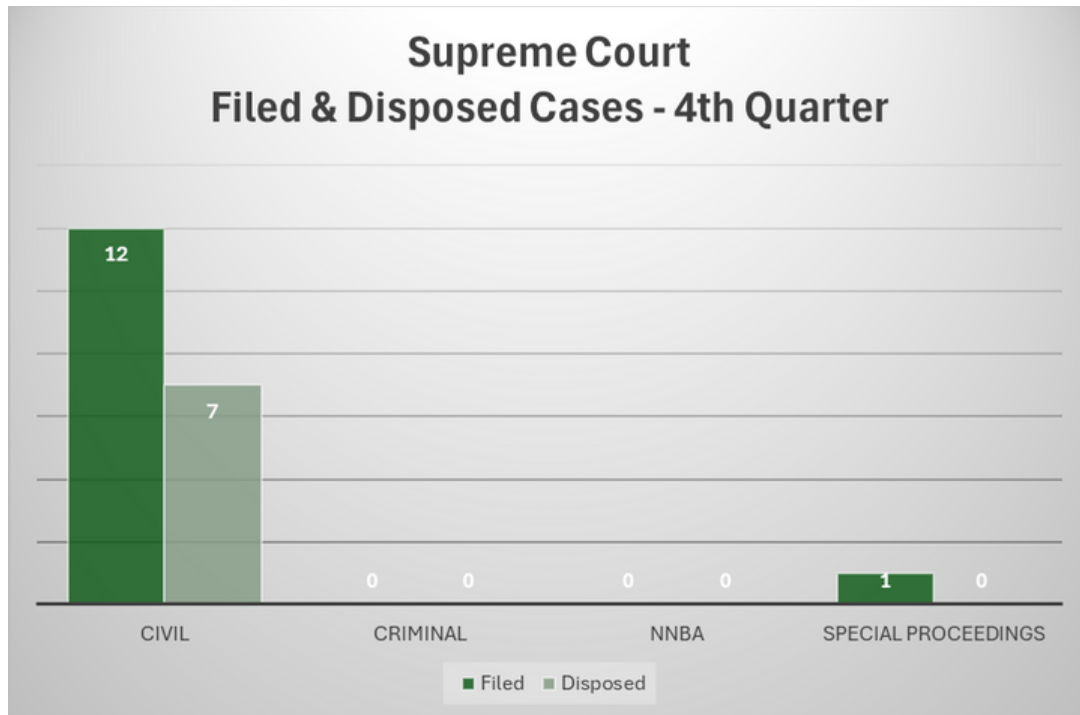
Administration of Oaths of Office

Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley administered the Oath of Office to 25 Navajo Nation elected officials representing all five agencies. This significant accomplishment ensured the lawful installation of leadership across the Nation and reinforced the Supreme Court's central role in upholding governance and accountability.

SUPREME COURT

4th Quarter Cases at a Glance

During the 4th Quarter, the Supreme Court managed a total of 12 new civil case filings. The most frequent filings included domestic violence (3), probate (1), and writs (6), along with matters such as contracts and other civil issues.



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PRO BONO APPOINTMENTS

This quarter, the Supreme Court facilitated 107 Pro Bono Appointments across the Navajo Nation. These appointments help ensure community members have access to legal assistance, supporting fairness and equal opportunity in the justice system.

Alamo District and Family Courts

Honorable Leonard Livingston
(temporarily assigned)

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Alamo/Tó'hajiilee Judicial District serves both Alamo and Tó'hajiilee communities. Each facility has a district and family court.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Judicial Leadership

In August 2025, Judge Leonard R. Livingston from the Crownpoint District Court was assigned to the Alamo/Tó'hajiilee Judicial District following the appointment of Judge William J. J. Platero as Acting Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. Judge Livingston's assignment ensures continuity of judicial services and effective case management.

Virtual Hearings

With Judge Livingston's assignment, hearings for the Alamo District Court are being conducted virtually. While the virtual format occasionally presents technological challenges, the Judge remains engaged and actively presides over hearings, maintaining access to justice for the community.

Facility Maintenance

The Alamo Court experienced HVAC and cooling issues during the summer. These facility issues are a priority for the Judicial Branch to address and the Chief Justice has directed Facility staff to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all Judicial Branch facilities beginning in September.

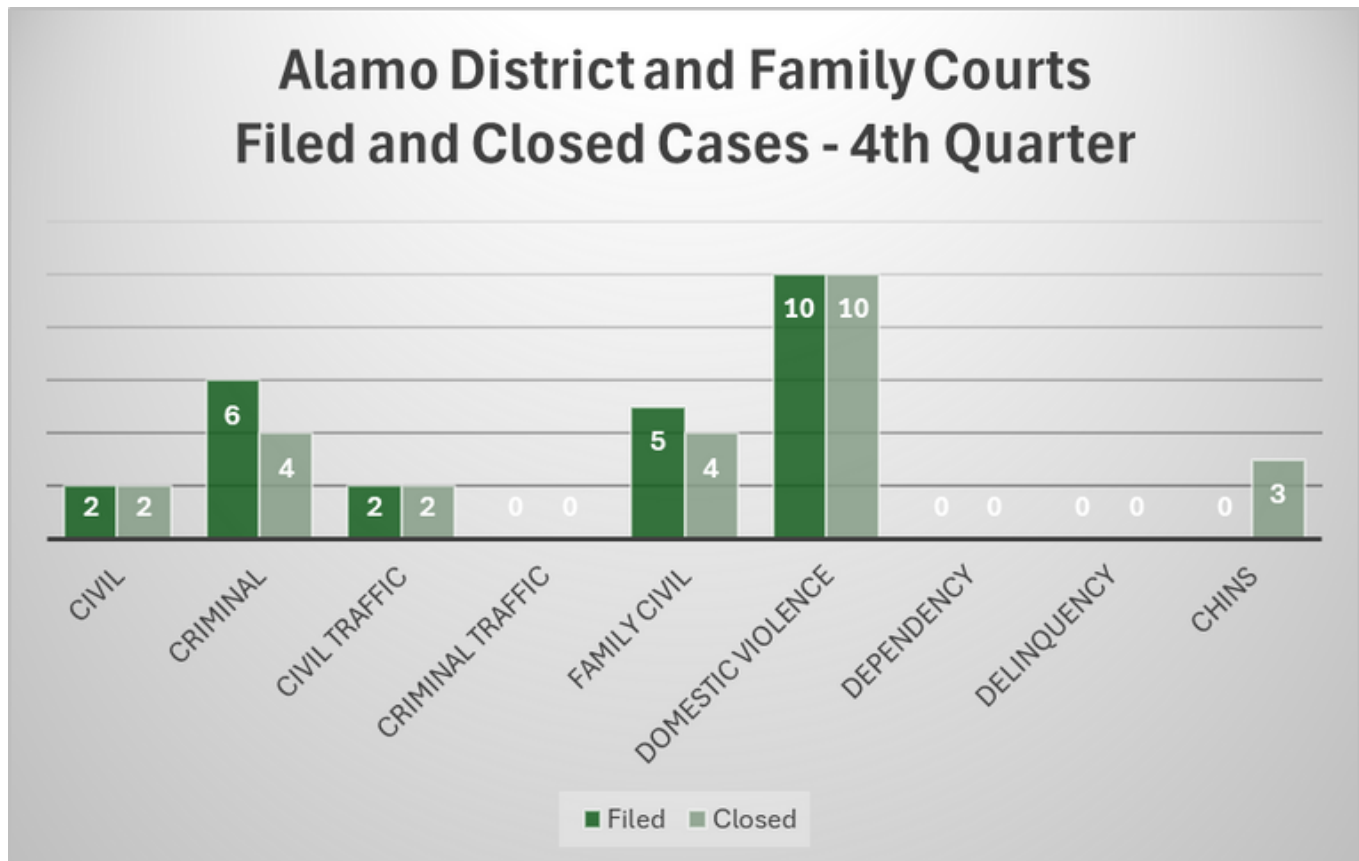
Staff Training

The Alamo Court Administrator and Court Clerks attended Court Clerk Training Parts I and II provided by the Judicial Branch. These trainings enhanced knowledge in case management, financial reporting, JustWare data entry, and court case processing, while strengthening supervisory skills and understanding of court procedures.

Staff Development and Recognition

The Alamo Court hosted a Staff Development Session in Alamo, New Mexico, with staff from the Tohajiilee Court. The session included instruction on court window services and customer service provided by the Staff Attorney, concluding with a recognition of staff for their dedication to serving the community.

ALAMO DISTRICT AND FAMILY COURTS



23

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

100%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025, a 100 new cases were filed with the Alamo District and Family Courts and closed 100 cases, achieving a 100% clearance rate.

Tó'hajiilee District and Family Courts

Honorable Leonard Livingston
(temporarily assigned)

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Judicial Assignment

In August 2025, Judge Leonard R. Livingston from Crownpoint District Court was assigned to the Alamo/To'Hajiilee Judicial District following the appointment of Judge William J. J. Platero as Acting Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in Window Rock, Arizona. Judge Livingston's assignment is for a 90-day period, ending on October 30, 2025.

Staffing Achievement

Lenny Abad Jr. became a permanent employee of the To'Hajiilee District Court as Court Clerk, effective August 7, 2025. Mr. Abad successfully completed Judicial Branch Court Clerk Trainings Part I and II, enhancing his clerking skills and knowledge of court operations.

Facilities and Maintenance

The To'Hajiilee District Court faced challenges with its HVAC system. These facility issues are a priority for the Judicial Branch to address and the Chief Justice has directed Facility staff to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all Judicial Branch facilities beginning in September.

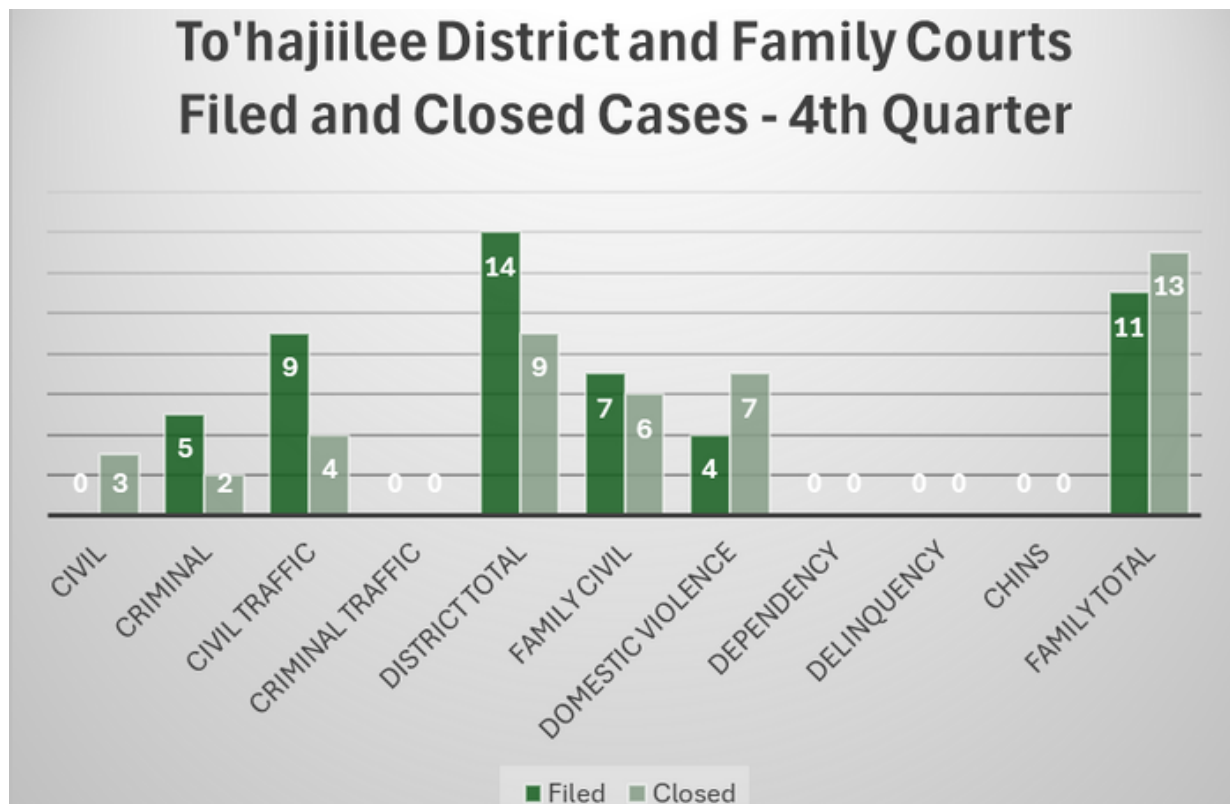
Staff Development

Court staff participated in the Alamo Staff Development training, which included instruction on court window services and customer service provided by the Staff Attorney. Updates were shared by the Court Administrator, and the session concluded with a staff recognition for their continued commitment to serving the community.

Operational Challenges

Staff from Alamo and To'Hajiilee continue to travel on remote and unpaved roads between the two locations. While tribal vehicles are regularly serviced, some routes require alternate paths through Socorro and Los Lunas. These conditions contribute to additional operational costs, highlighting ongoing funding considerations.

TÓ'HAIILEE DISTRICT AND FAMILY COURTS



58

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

88%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, To'hajiilee Judicial District Court received a total of 25 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 22 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 88%.

Aneth Judicial District

Honorable Irene Black

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

New Court Building Project Underway

The Aneth Court's new facility project has officially begun. A contractor has been selected, and contracts are currently being drafted and finalized. The project will proceed through the 164-review process in preparation for construction.

Case Backlog Reduction Efforts

The Aneth District Court continues to address its case backlog under the guidance of its assigned Judge. Although the presiding Judge has been serving the Shiprock District Court under an administrative order, she dedicates time to Aneth cases on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Despite this limited schedule, the court is making steady progress in moving cases forward and improving timeliness.

Staff Development and Operational Efficiency

The Aneth District Court is pleased to recognize Alethea Lee, who successfully completed her 90-day probationary period and was recommended for permanent employment as a Document Technician. She has been instrumental in organizing and logging closed case files to ensure accuracy prior to archiving, and in developing an efficient storage and filing system to strengthen court operations.

Objectives for the Next Quarter

Prudent Financial Management

The Aneth Court will continue collaborating with the Judicial Branch Finance Department to ensure the careful and responsible expenditure of its general fund allocation.

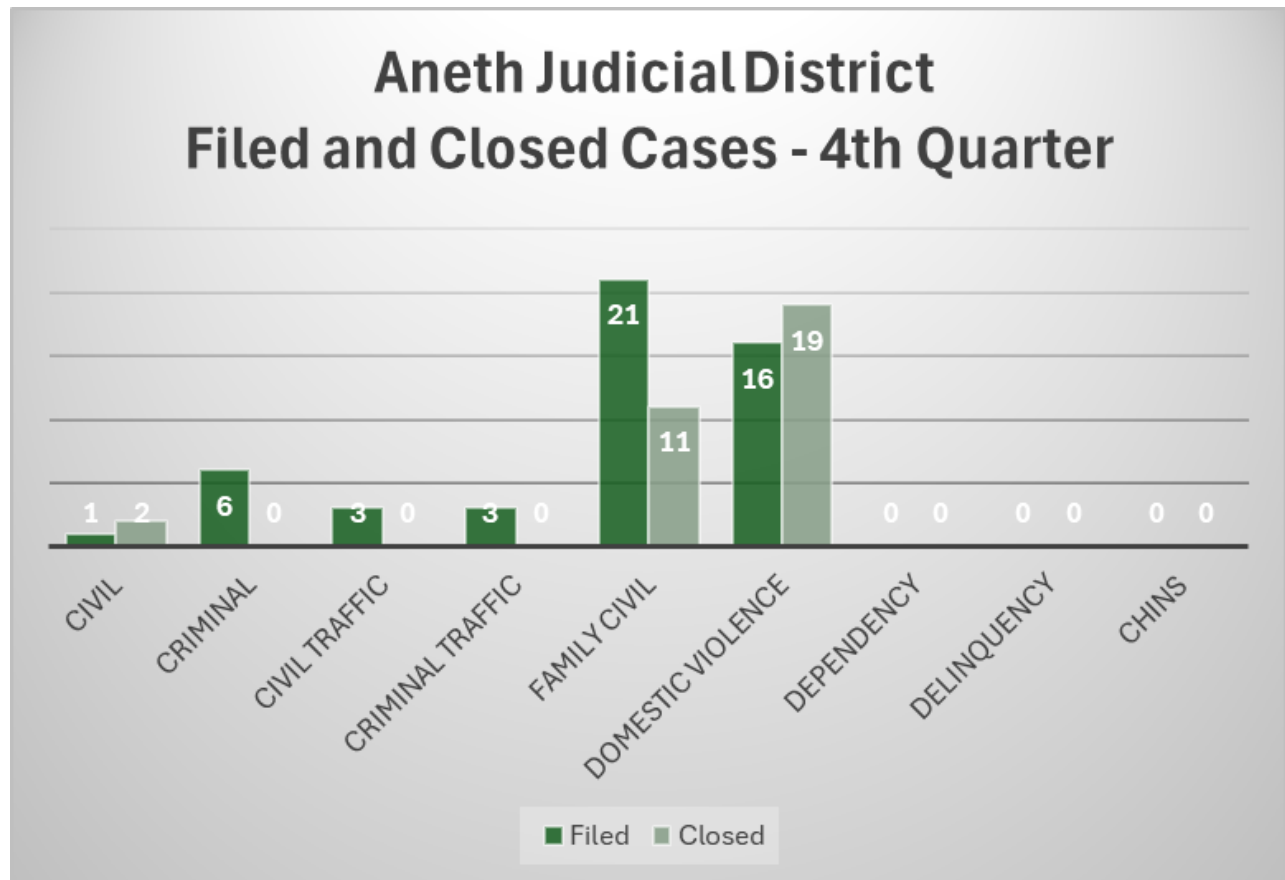
Advancing the Court Building Project

In coordination with the selected contractor, the court will move into the programming and construction document development phase for the new Aneth Court facility.

Improving Case Management Accuracy

To enhance case management and data reliability, court staff will review physical case files and verify consistency with entries in the JustWare system. Staff will continue to assist the presiding Judge with all related docket matters to support timely case resolution.

ANETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



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PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

64%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Aneth Judicial Court received a total of 50 new cases across civil, criminal, traffic, family, and domestic violence matters. The court closed 32 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 64%.

Chinle Judicial District

Honorable Cynthia Thompson

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Court Clerk Training and Professional Development

The long-anticipated three-day Court Clerk Training was successfully completed by staff, providing comprehensive instruction to strengthen judicial clerk knowledge and skills. The sessions covered case file management, docketing, hearing scheduling, and court processes, with emphasis on the critical role clerks play in supporting judicial operations. Participants found the training highly beneficial, gaining valuable knowledge and appreciation for the opportunity to enhance their professional growth.

JustWare System Training

A second component of the training focused on the court's data management system, JustWare. Clerks received hands-on instruction in docketing cases, entering data accurately, and generating reports to support effective case management. This training reinforced the importance of maintaining precise and complete records to ensure efficient court operations.

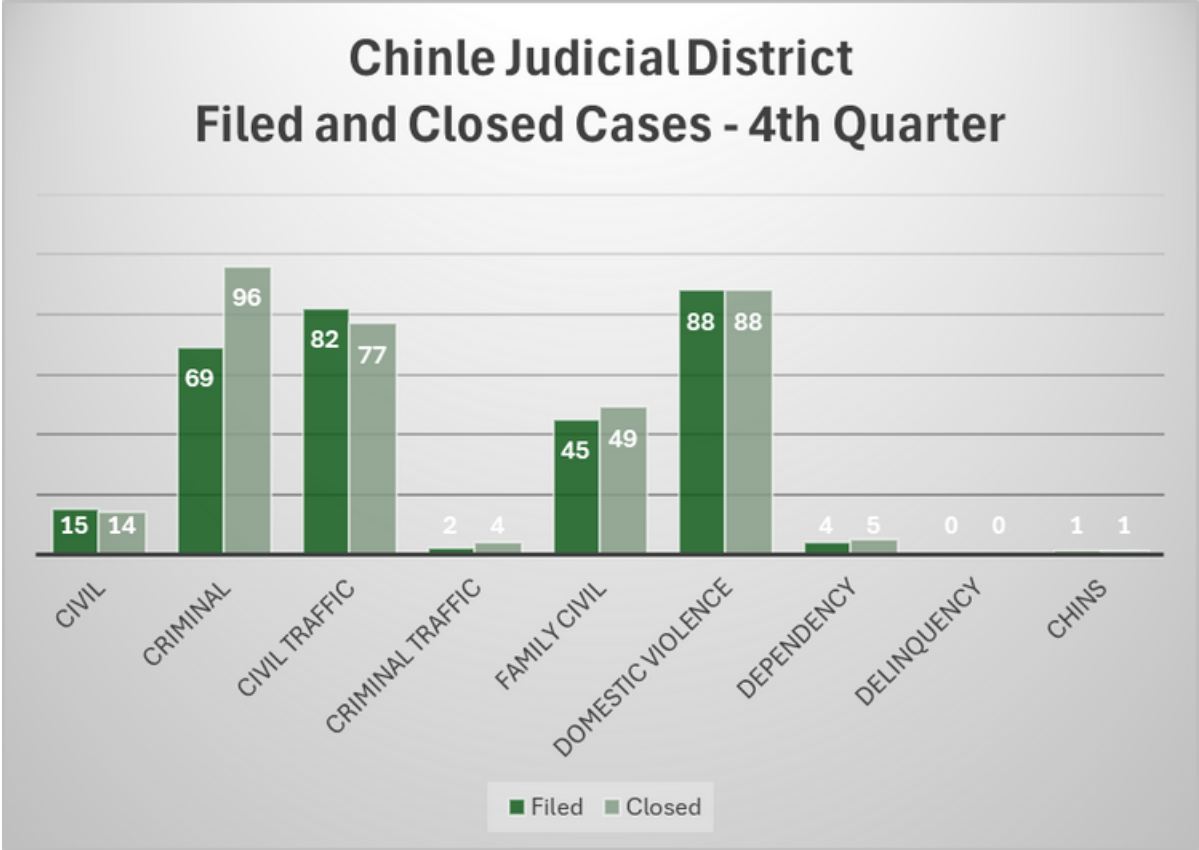
Community Engagement

The Court Administrator and Judge participated in a community meeting organized by Chinle Law Enforcement in partnership with the Chinle Chapter. Discussions centered on community concerns such as homelessness, unauthorized businesses, the sale of exotic animals at the flea market, and illegal dumping. The meeting fostered collaboration among local agencies to improve community safety and services.

Save Our Schools Initiative

The Chinle District Court continued its active role in the Save Our Schools (SOS) initiative, with plans underway to host a fall conference for parents and students. Key priorities include addressing school bullying and supporting mental health awareness and resources.

CHINLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT



791

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

109%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Chinle District Court received a total of 306 new cases across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 334 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 109%.

Crownpoint Judicial District

Honorable Leonard Livingston

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Achievements

During the fourth quarter of FY2025, the Crownpoint Judicial District and Family Court closed 328 cases, reflecting steady progress in case management. The Judicial Hearing Officer conducted in-person Domestic Violence and Shelter Care hearings, closing 123 additional cases. Two new District Court Clerks achieved permanency, strengthening operations and administrative support.

Transparency and Engagement

Court staff participated in meetings and training focused on court development, self-help services, and public education. Several attended the 2025 Family Violence Awareness Conference at Navajo Technical University, which emphasized domestic violence prevention and community outreach.

Facility and Infrastructure

The court coordinated with BIA Facility Maintenance to complete safety upgrades, including bollard and security camera installations. The planned demolition of the old courthouse and Judicial Housing Complex remains a top priority for safety and future development.

Challenges

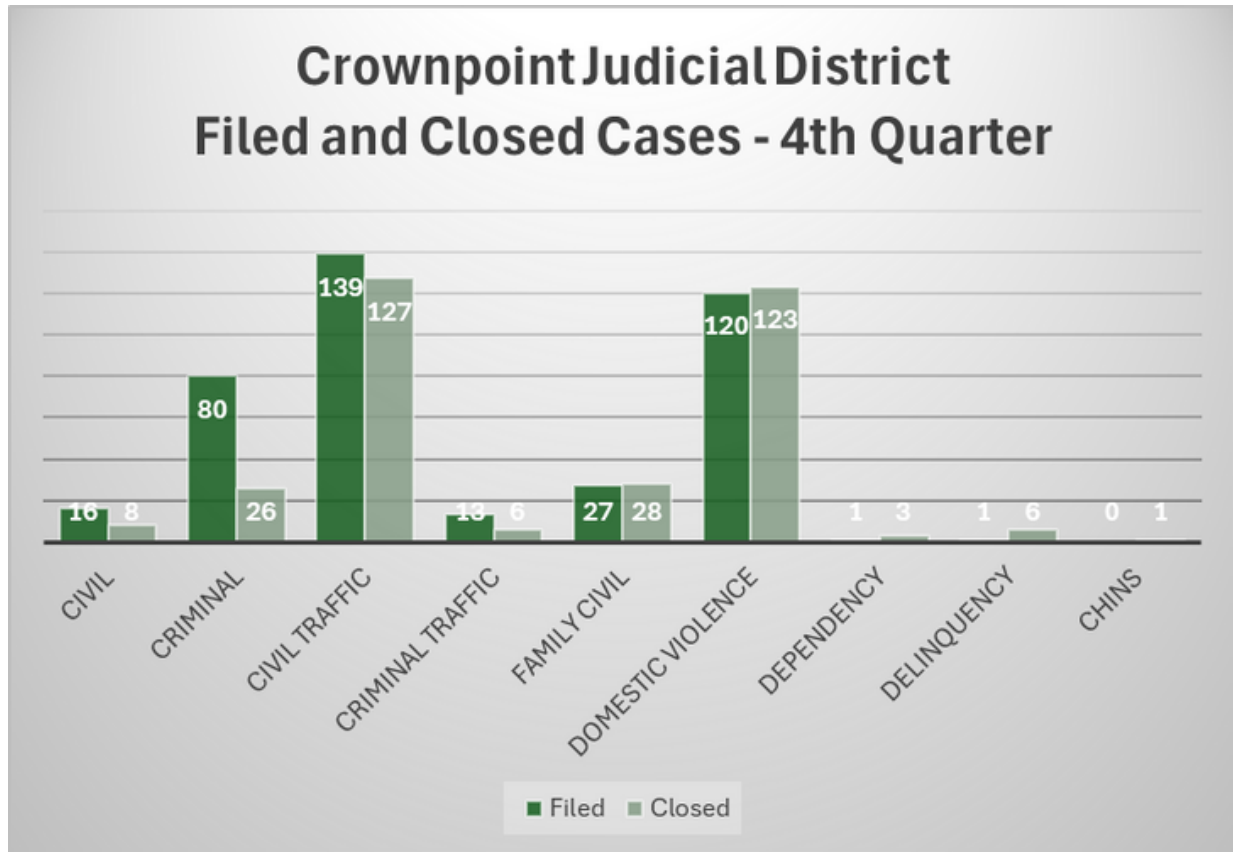
Ongoing internet connectivity issues continue to affect operations, and upgraded courtroom audio equipment is needed to improve communication and accessibility.

Future Priorities

The court will continue collaborating with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to advance:

- Major facility improvements;
- Staff hiring and retention;
- Increased case closures; and
- Stronger coordination with justice system partners.

CROWNPOINT JUDICIAL DISTRICT



943

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

83%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Crownpoint District Court received a total of 397 new cases across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 328 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 83%.

Dilkon Judicial District

Honorable Victor Clyde

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Case Backlog Reduction

The Dilkon District Court continues to make steady progress in reducing its case backlog through proactive case management, closing more cases than were filed this quarter.

Staff Development and Training

Professional development was a priority this quarter, with staff completing JustWare training and participating in the Judicial Branch Court Clerk Training/Conference (Parts I & II). The Judge also attended the Judicial Conference and administered Oaths of Office for a Private Process Server and a School Board member.

Staffing Progress

Staffing needs are being addressed: the vacant custodian position was filled, interviews are underway for a court clerk, and final steps are being completed to hire a new bailiff.

Internal Collaboration

Court staff participated in valuable branch-wide discussions and planning sessions, including the transition from Frontier to Sunstate phone services, budget planning, and a Dayforce presentation.

Challenges

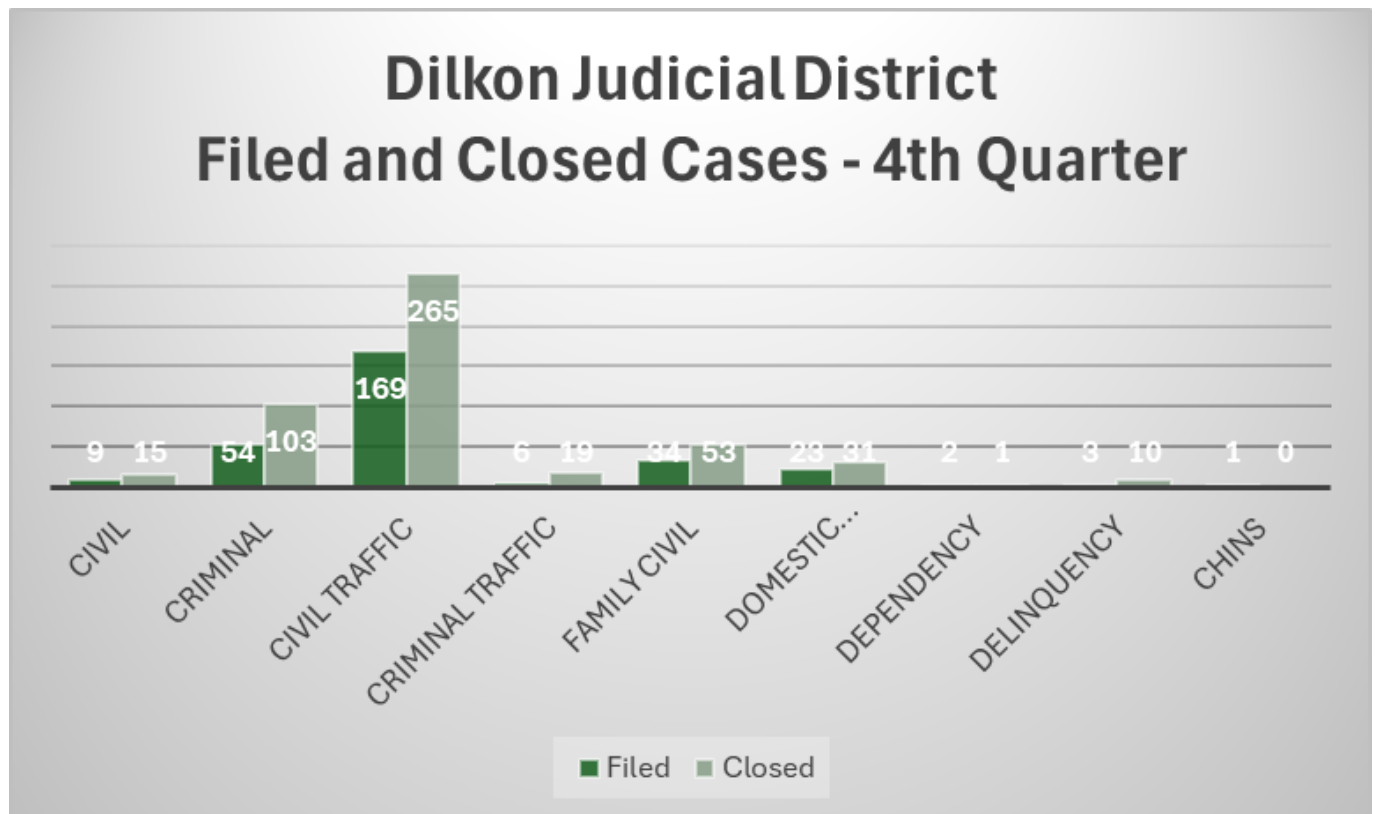
Fiscal and Administrative Improvements

The court recognizes that fiscal and administrative processes can be time-intensive, especially with contracts and purchasing procedures. With the appointment of a new Financial Director, the Court is optimistic that these changes will streamline operations and bring greater efficiency moving into FY2026.

Facility Concerns

Ongoing roof leaks and HVAC failures continue to impact climate control in parts of the building. A roof repair project is currently underway.

DILKON JUDICIAL DISTRICT



2,594

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

165%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Dilkon Judicial District Court received a total of 301 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 497 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 165%.

Dził Yíjín Judicial District

Honorable Cynthia Thompson

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Performance and Service Delivery

The Dził Yíjín Judicial District continues to provide comprehensive court services across a wide range of case types. To enhance access and efficiency, the Presiding Judge conducts hearings in person, virtually, and by telephone, while also overseeing two district courts and handling additional case assignments from the Chief Justice. A Judicial Hearing Officer manages DAPO hearings to ensure focused and timely case management.

Staff Development and Training

From August 4–6, 2025, district court staff successfully completed the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Tribal Court Clerk Certification Course. This three-day training strengthened staff expertise in due process, ethics, record and case flow management, performance measurement, and customer service—demonstrating the district’s ongoing commitment to professional excellence and high standards in public service.

Community Outreach and Access to Justice

On September 30, 2025, the Court collaborated with DNA People’s Legal Services, Inc. to host a mobile Pro Se Clinic for community members. This outreach effort provided critical legal guidance and assistance with family and domestic pleadings, expanding access to justice for residents in this remote district. The event was well-attended and highly successful.

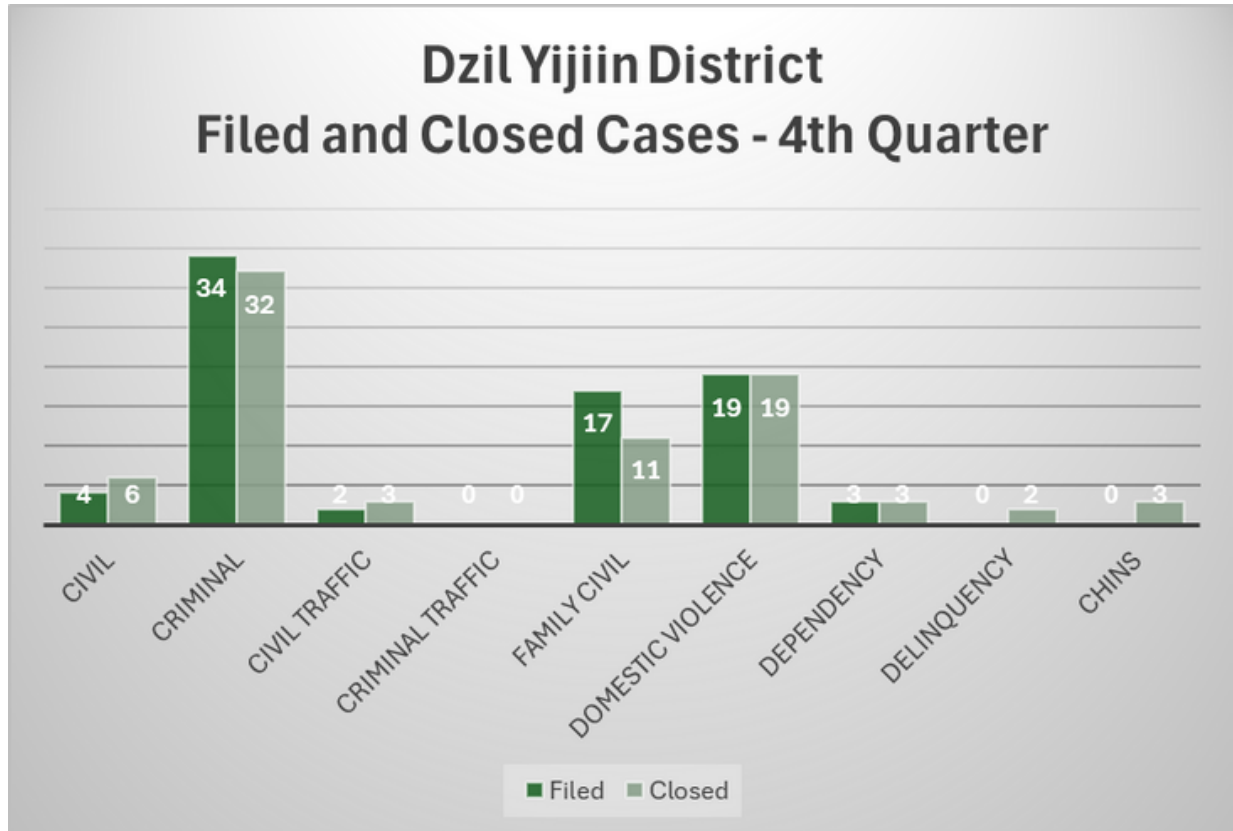
Administrative Management

The Court Administrator ensured efficient daily operations, including case management, financial reporting, and staff coordination. She actively participated in managers’ meetings and submitted the FY2026 budget, aligning district operations with strategic goals and resource priorities.

Challenges and Priorities

A key challenge remains the lack of fencing around the facility, a necessary security measure to protect staff, visitors, and property. The Chief Justice has tasked Facility staff with addressing this matter.

DZIL YÍJÍÍN JUDICIAL DISTRICT



242

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

100%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Dzil Yijiin Judicial District Court received a total of 79 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 79 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 100%.

Kayenta Judicial District

Honorable Letitia Stover

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Court Clerk Certification and Staff Training

In 2023, Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie proposed using Hashkééjį Nahat'á Béeso Bá Hooghan Funds to develop a two-phase Navajo Nation Judicial Branch Tribal Court Clerk Certification Course. The training, held August 4–6, 2025, prepared court clerks and administrators to meet position requirements, adapt to modern court trends, and serve the public effectively. Topics included foundational clerk concepts, records and case management, auditing, docket management, customer service, and distinguishing legal advice from legal information. Staff applied Navajo statutes, rules, and administrative orders, and 68 participants passed the required test to receive a two-year certification.

Additional trainings on the JustWare Case Management

System and the Navajo Nation Privacy & Access to Information Act were held August 26–29, 2025.

Kayenta Judicial Complex Construction

Construction of the new Kayenta Judicial Complex continues with monthly updates and on-site walkthroughs. Completion is scheduled for July 2026.

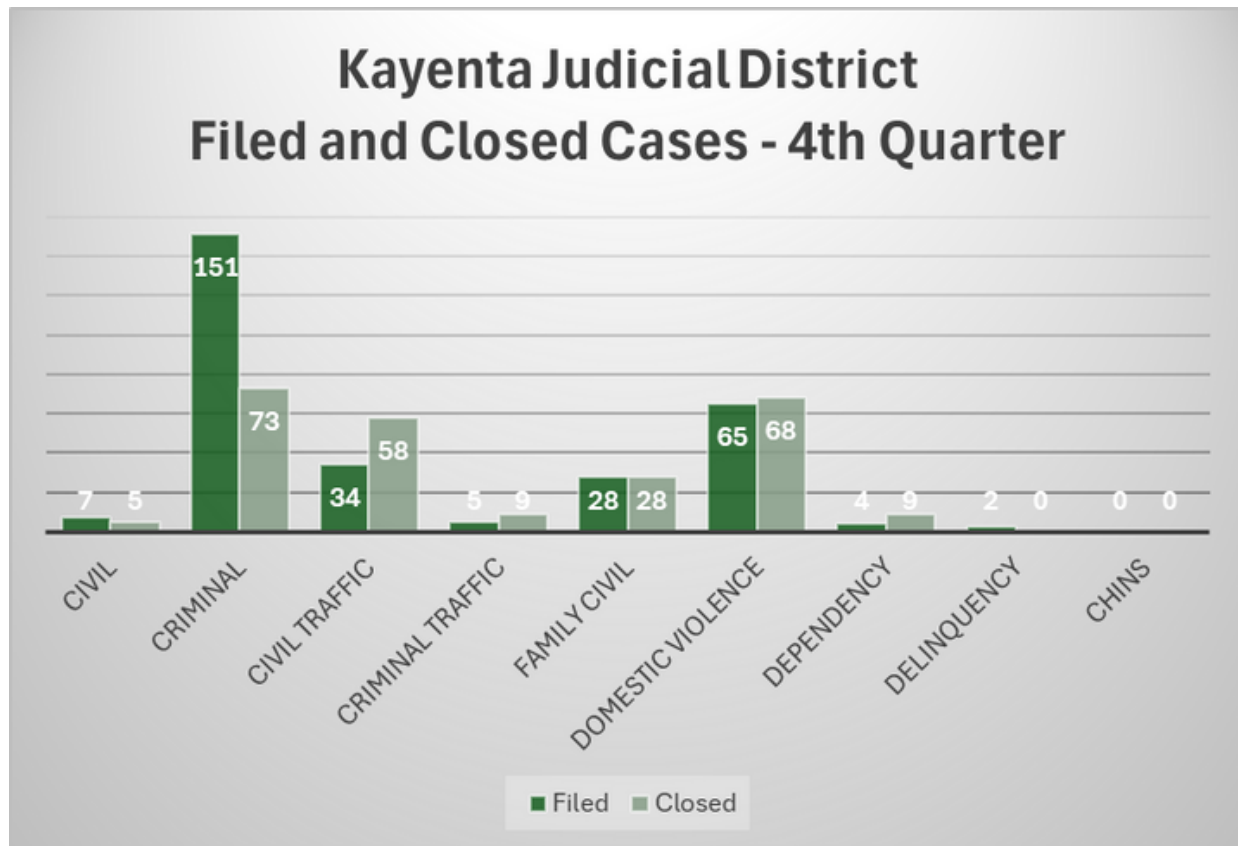
Records Management for Relocation

In preparation for the 2026 move, the district safely shredded 200 boxes of archived court and administrative files on-site in Kayenta, Arizona.

Judicial Participation and Updates

Judge Letitia Stover attended the Quarterly Judicial Conference on September 26, 2025, in Aneth, Utah, where Justices and Judges received updates on Judicial Branch policy initiatives and developments.

KAYENTA JUDICIAL DISTRICT



1,311

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

84%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Kayenta Judicial District Court received a total of 296 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 250 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 84%.

Ramah Judicial District

Honorable Malcolm Laughing

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Staff Development & Training

This quarter, Ramah District Court staff strengthened their skills through several important training opportunities. Court Clerks and the Court Administrator attended the Judicial Branch Court Clerk Certification Course on August 4–6, 2025, at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, the Court Administrator, Court Clerk, Office Technician, and Document Technician participated in the JustWare Case Management System Overview Training held on August 26–27, 2025, at the Chinle District Court.

Judicial Hearings & Case Management

Honorable Judge Malcolm Laughing presided over essential court hearings, utilizing alternative methods to ensure that District and Family Court cases moved forward, including petitions for Domestic Violence Protection Orders. Judge Laughing emphasized the importance of enhancing court efficiency while continuing to prioritize in-person hearings, case reviews, and arraignments.

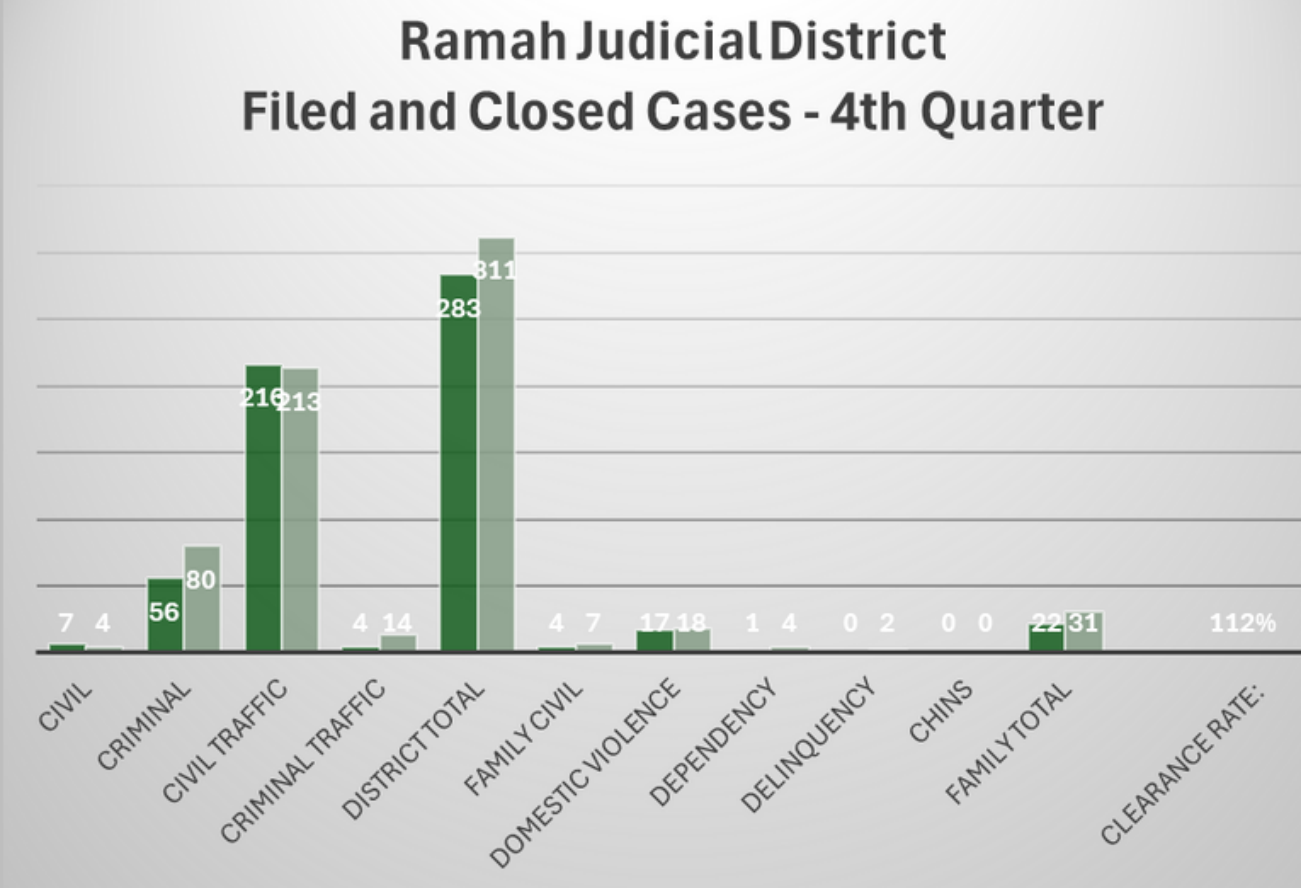
Essential Services to the Community

Throughout the quarter, Ramah District Court staff served as essential workers, ensuring uninterrupted daily operations. Staff remained in regular contact with service populations and local service providers, continuing to provide professional and courteous services to the community.

Participation in Judicial Conference

Judge Malcolm Laughing also participated in the quarterly Judicial Conference, where he engaged in discussions on Judicial Branch updates and new developments, contributing to the overall progress of the court system.

RAMAH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



438

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

112%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Ramah Judicial District received a total of 305 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 342 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 112%.

Shiprock Judicial District

Honorable Genevieve Woody

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Service Delivery

Services to the Northern Agency communities were delivered through multiple channels, including in-person assistance, phone and fax service, postal and drop box submissions, online payments, family and district filings, and visitor interactions, resulting in a total of 8,539 service transactions, demonstrating strong community engagement and accessibility.

Staff Wellness and Appreciation

On August 1, 2025, district personnel participated in a one-day Staff Appreciation Day. Activities focused on the 8 Dimensions of Wellness: physical, emotional, social, intellectual, occupational, financial, spiritual, and environmental, and included team-building exercises and recognition of individual and team strengths.

Professional Development

The Court Clerks and Court Administrator completed specialized Court Clerks Training from August 4–6, 2025. Training topics included Court Clerk and Due Process; Roles as Officers of the Court; Responsibilities and Ethics; Case and Records Management; Case Readiness; Auditing and Evaluating Cases; Case Flow Management; Case Backlog and Productivity; Docket/Calendar Management; Customer Service Skills; and Legal Advice vs. Legal Information.

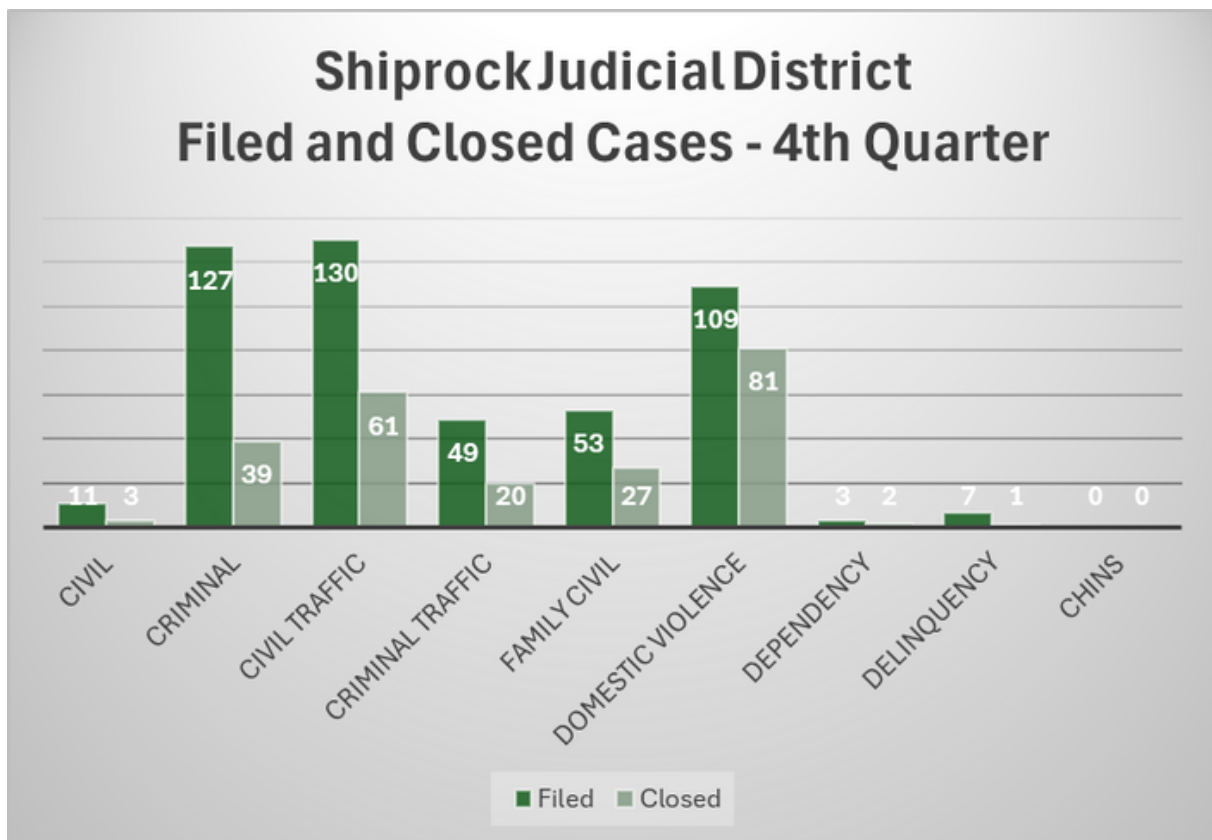
Advanced Training

Part II of the training focused on the Case Management System and the Navajo Nation Privacy & Access to Information Act, provided by Judicial Branch Information Technology and the Judicial Staff Attorney.

Financial and Community Impact

For this quarter, the district collected \$5,682.50 in court fines and fees, with \$100 in bonds posted, no cash bond forfeitures, \$2,527 in community service hours performed in lieu of fines, and \$600 in direct restitution payments, resulting in a total of \$8,909.50.

SHIPROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT



833

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

48%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Shiprock Judicial District Court received a total of 489 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 234 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 48%. This is largely due to judge coverage matters.

Tuba City Judicial District

Honorable Cecelia Tallman

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Staff Training and Development

Tuba City District Court staff completed several training programs this quarter to enhance professional skills and public service. The Court Administrator attended the National Association for Court Management Conference in Omaha, NE. Clerks and staff completed Tribal Court Clerk Certification, JustWare, and Navajo Nation Privacy Act training in August. Bailiffs attended Court Security and Emergency Planning training, and all staff earned two-year First Aid/CPR/AED certifications. The Honorable Cecelia Tallman completed two virtual National Judicial College courses focused on enhancing the judicial role and analyzing complex evidentiary issues.

Court Clerk Rotation

Court clerk rotations were completed on July 1, promoting cross-training in district and family court operations, teamwork, and improved workflows.

Staff Development and Recognition

Staff participated in a development outing in Page, AZ, on August 1, which included opioid awareness and Narcan training, and a staff recognition event for their dedication to the Judicial Branch and serving the public.

Community Engagement

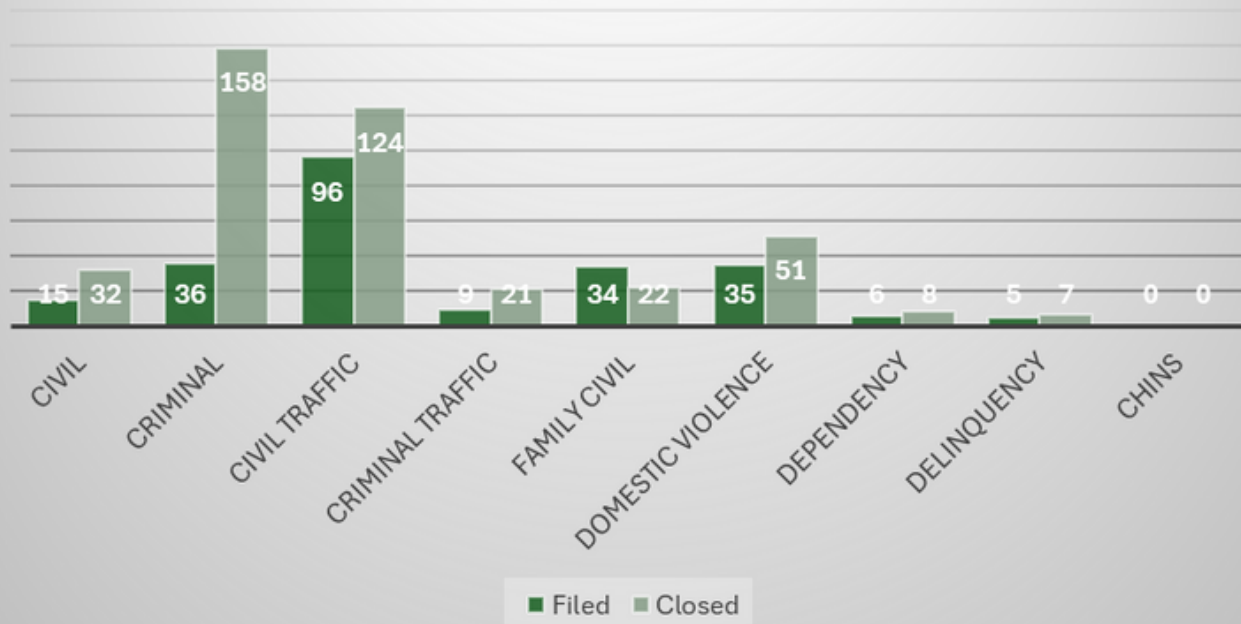
Tuba City District Court hosted Flagstaff Superior Court's Justice Bus on August 15, providing court services, public assistance, and community resources to Tuba City residents and surrounding communities.

Recruitment and Staffing

Interviews for vacant Court Clerk and Document Technician positions were conducted on August 22. One candidate accepted the Document Technician position (starting October 6), while the Court Clerk position is being readvertised. The district currently operates with three clerks, with the Court Administrator assisting in case management and customer service until vacancies are filled.

TUBA CITY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Tuba City Judicial District Filed and Closed Cases - 4th Quarter



1,621

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

179%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Tuba City Judicial District Court received a total of 236 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 423 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 179%.

Window Rock Judicial District

Honorable Malcolm P. Begay

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Judicial District Courts continued to uphold their vital responsibility of delivering justice services across the Navajo Nation.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Court Operations and Case Management

The Window Rock Judicial District continues to address all cases through in-person hearings, with the Honorable Judge Malcolm Begay presiding. In addition to his docket, Judge Begay manages workloads for two vacant judgeships, Staff Attorney duties, and the Judicial Hearing Officer. The court focuses primarily on domestic violence, criminal, and dependency cases, which have impacted family civil case timelines. Recent statistics show a 93% backlog reduction for District Court cases and a 30% reduction for Family Court cases, with similar or improved results anticipated for 2025.

Facilities and Public Access

Staff prepared and set up the new modular building over two weeks, culminating in the grand opening on August 25, 2025. The court opened to the public and conducted in-person hearings the following day. The Court Administrator continues to address building issues promptly. The public, legal counsel, and service personnel have expressed appreciation for the new facility and restored in-person hearings.

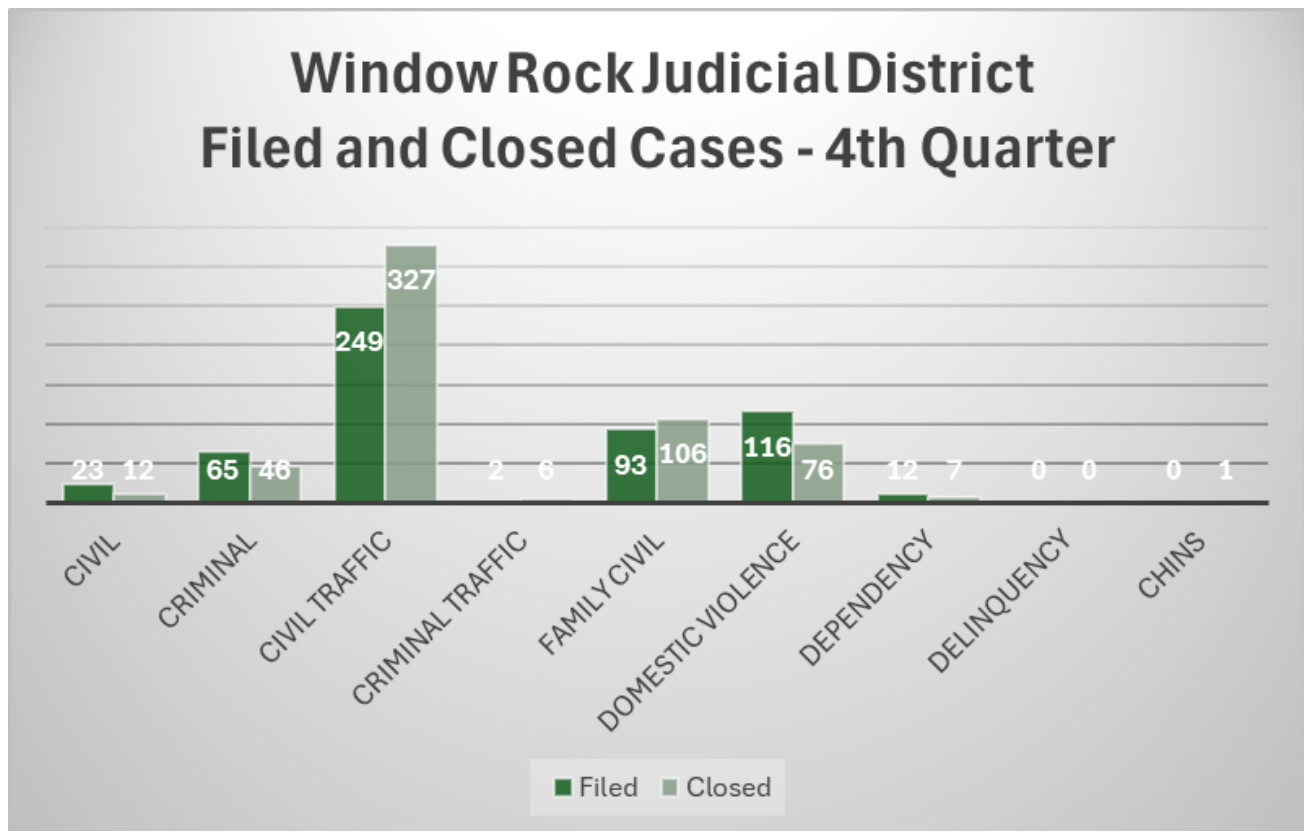
Staff Training and Development

Court staff received training on in-person hearings, including mock hearings, as well as Sunstate 3CX VOIP phone training. Court Clerks completed Part I and II Judicial Branch Clerk training, and staff continue participating in teamwork exercises. Staff have performed effectively in all duties during the quarter.

Case Activity

The Window Rock Judicial District conducted 431 Family Court hearings and 483 District Court hearings this quarter. Clerks completed quarterly case statistics reports for July through September for case certification purposes.

WINDOW ROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT



2,690

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

104%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Window Rock Judicial District Court received a total of 568 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 581 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 104%.

Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court

Honorable Leonard Livingston

Judicial District Courts at a Glance

The Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court is a part of the Crownpoint Judicial District.

District Court Cases:

- Civil
- Criminal
- Civil Traffic
- Criminal Traffic

Family Court Cases:

- Domestic Violence
- Dependency
- Delinquency
- Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS)

Each day, Judges and Court Clerks work diligently to manage this wide range of cases, ensuring fairness, protection, and timely resolutions. Their dedication reflects the strength of the judicial system and its essential role in supporting Navajo families and communities.

Caseload Management and Judicial Hearings

Despite the continued closure of the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court, 50 cases were closed this quarter, showing steady progress in caseload management. The Judicial Hearing Officer also conducted in-person Domestic Violence and Shelter Care hearings at the Crownpoint Family Court, resulting in 25 additional case closures.

Community Engagement and Local Governance

The District Court Judge administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Pueblo Pintado Chapter Officials, supporting local leadership transitions. The Court Administrator also presented at a chapter meeting to strengthen transparency and community relations.

Administrative Coordination and Facility Maintenance

Court administration worked with the Administrative Office of the Courts on financial management, staffing, and vendor coordination for circuit operations. Preventive maintenance and repairs continue in preparation for reopening, though progress is limited by staffing and resource constraints.

Staff Recruitment

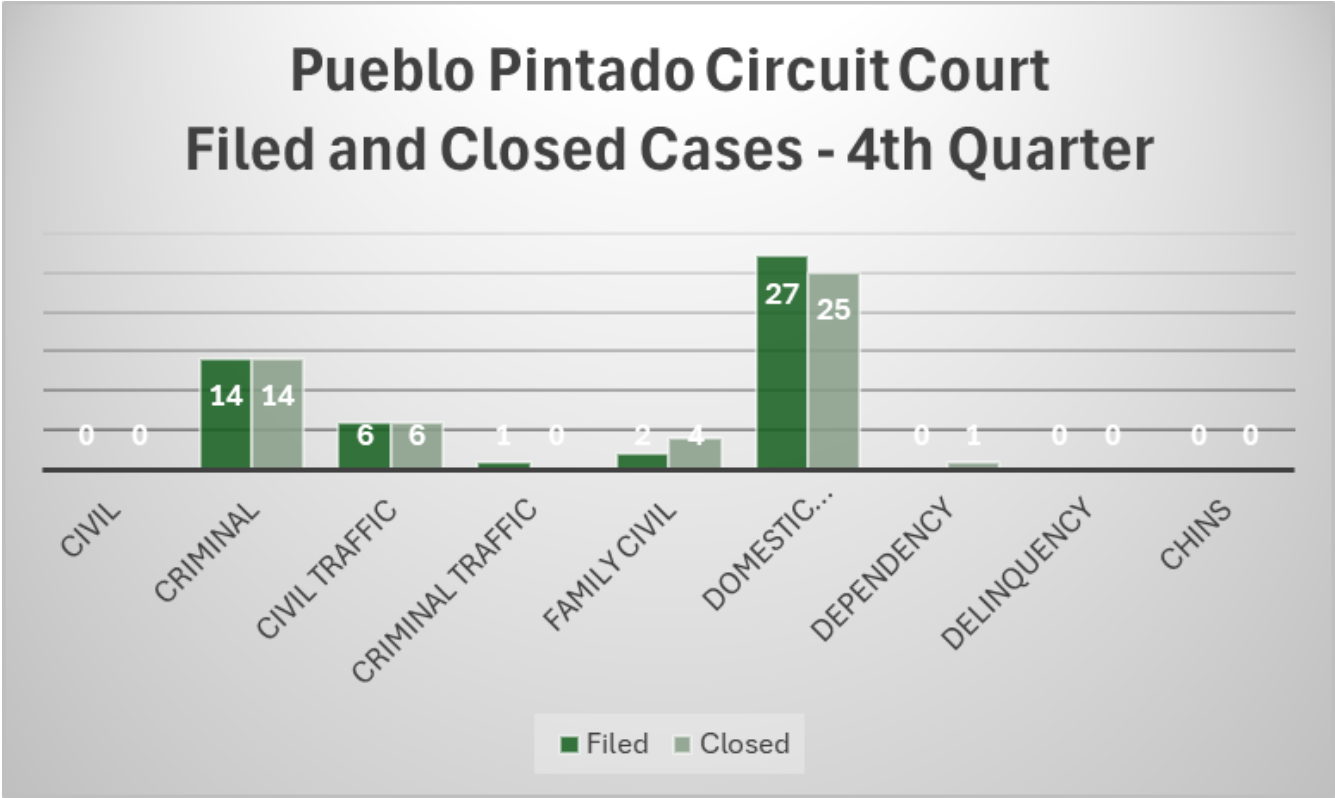
A Court Bailiff was hired this quarter, and recruitment continues for the vacant Court Clerk position.

Goals for the Next Quarter

The primary goal is reopening the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court facility and filling remaining vacancies. Additional priorities include:

- Continued staff recruitment and onboarding
- Installation of security camera systems to enhance court safety
- Acquisition of updated equipment to improve courtroom operations

PUEBLO PINTADO JUDICIAL DISTRICT



96

PENDING CASES

Pending cases highlight the active caseload managed by the courts and reflect the ongoing judicial process as hearings, filings, and orders move forward. Monitoring pending cases is important for understanding workload trends and ensuring timely resolution to better serve the people.

100%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 4th quarter, Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court received a total of 50 new cases filed across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 50 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 100%.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Administrative Office of the Courts

At a Glance

The Judicial Branch's Administrative Office of the Courts acts as the administrative arm of the Chief Justice. As the Chief Justice is the administrative head of the Judicial Branch but also serves as a Supreme Court jurist. The primary role is to provide administrative support for all Navajo Nation Courts, Peacemaking system, and Probation and Parole Services.

Under the direction of the Chief Justice, 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.

Administrative Support Systems for the Judicial Branch

Fiscal

The Fiscal Team welcomed new leadership with the recent hire of Helen Brown as the Financial Services Director. This section works tirelessly to provide financial, procurement, and budget support to the entire Judicial Branch.

Human Resources

The Human Resource team work diligently to advertise vacant positions through many platforms. These platforms include law school websites, social media sites, local newspapers, radio stations, local/state organizations, and national tribal organizations.

Information Technology

Every day, IT team works behind the scenes to ensure reliable access to digital tools and secure information. Their dedication strengthens efficiency, protects sensitive data, and empowers Judges, hearing officers, Court Clerks, and staff to deliver justice services effectively to the Navajo people.

Facilities and Maintenance

The Facilities and Maintenance team oversees the construction, care, and improvement of court buildings and infrastructure across the Navajo Nation. With extremely limited staffing, the Facilities and Maintenance team is working to address long standing issues and has been tasked by the Chief Justice to complete maintenance and repair assessments for each Judicial Branch facility in this coming quarter.

Fiscal

Fiscal at a Glance

The Judicial Branch's Fiscal Unit provides the essential financial, budget, and procurement services to the entire Judicial Branch.

Key services supported:

- Financial
- Budget
- Procurement
- Fund Management (including external funds)

Every day, the Finance team works with all of the courts and programs - with judges, court administrative, office technicians, probation and peacemaking staff to ensure all of the various courts and programs are provided highly professional financial support.

Overseeing Financial Oversight

The Finance team provides administrative oversight and support to the courts and programs, including establishing financial standards, processing expenses, and ensuring compliance with financial policies, procedures, and regulations. The team regularly updates the courts and programs utilizing financial reports, tracking expenditures and revenues.

Developing Streamlined Procurement Processes

The Finance team works diligently to move procurements through the Navajo Nation processes. These key purchases and contracts ensure timely services to the public and vital support to the Judicial Branch staff.

Budget Management

The Finance Team works with the Chief Justice to assist courts and programs with the development and management of the Judicial Branch's budget. This includes requesting appropriations and allocating funds to different courts and programs.

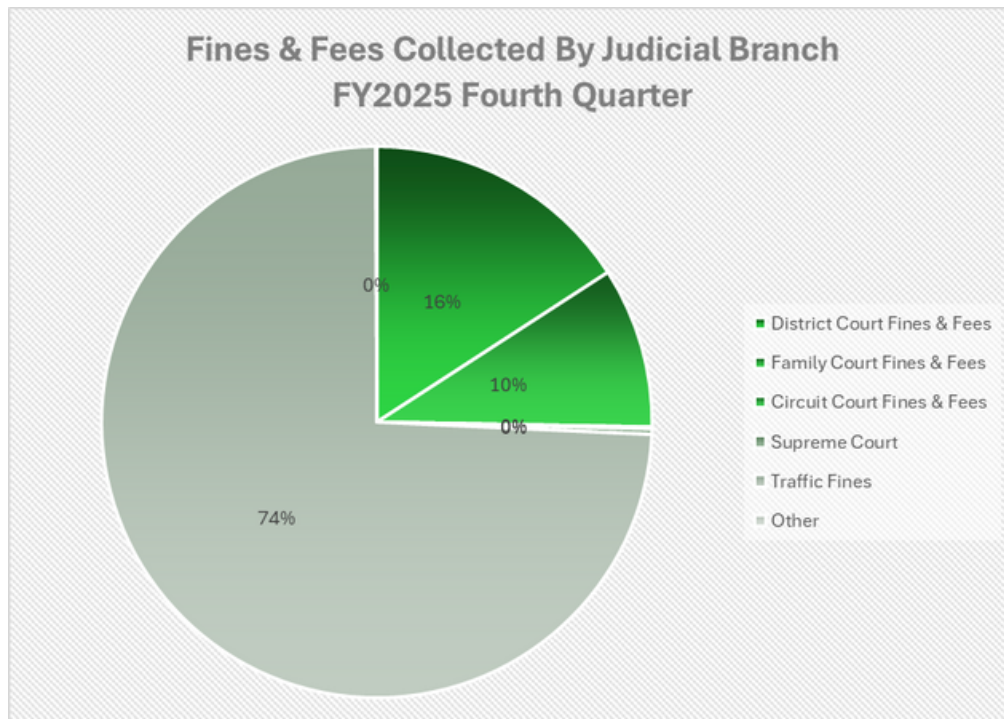
External Funds Management

The Finance team administers external funding that provide financial assistance to courts for specific purposes, such as improving case processing or funding specific programs such as hearing officers for domestic violence and children's cases.

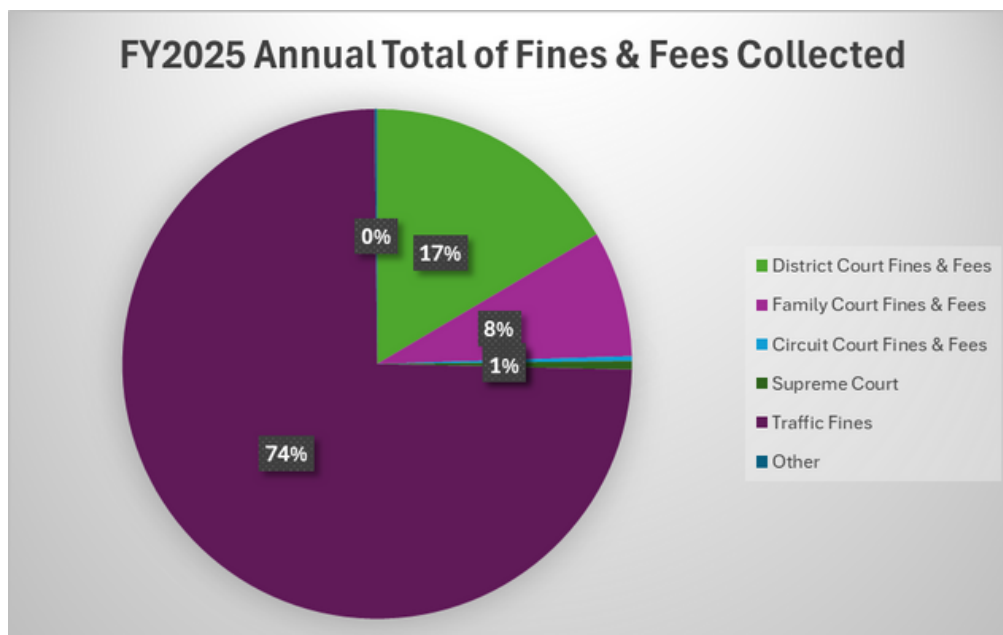
**JUDICIAL BRANCH
FINES AND FEES
COLLECTED**

PAGE 46

The Judicial Branch collected **\$130,835.54** Fines & Fees in the FY25 Fourth Quarter. All funds are deposited into the Navajo Nation General Fund.



The Judicial Branch collected a total of **\$485,597.09** Fines & Fees during the FY2025. All funds are deposited into the Navajo Nation General Fund.



Human Resources

Human Resources at a Glance

The Judicial Branch's Human Resources Unit provides the essential financial, budget, and procurement services to the entire Judicial Branch.

Key services supported:

- Trainings
- Onboarding for New Employees
- Employee Relations
- Recruitment

Every day, the Human Resource team works to recruit and retain highly qualified staff. Providing onboarding for new employees and continuing professional development for current employees. The Human Resource team works with the entire Judicial Branch to effectively address human resources matters.

Recruitment

The Human Resource team recruits, finalizes hiring, and trainings employees while addressing compensation and benefits for the Judicial Branch employees.

Employee Relations

By assisting supervisors and employees with disciplinary actions, employee grievances and guidance to managers on policies and procedures, the team relies upon Navajo teachings and values.

Operations and Administrative Support

Daily management of personnel files, new employee hiring documents and providing support such as new employee orientation trainings and on-going professional development.

Policy Development

At the direction of the Chief Justice, the Human Resource team initiates policy and procedure development to effectively support the courts and programs of the Judicial Branch.

Information Technology

Information Technology at a Glance

The Judicial Branch's Information Technology program provides the essential systems and technical support that keep court operations running smoothly across the Navajo Nation.

Key services supported:

- Case management systems
- Network and server security
- Computer and equipment support
- Training for court staff

Every day, IT staff work behind the scenes to ensure reliable access to digital tools and secure information. Their dedication strengthens efficiency, protects sensitive data, and empowers Judges, Court Clerks, and staff to deliver justice services effectively to the Navajo people.

Information Technology Staffing

The IT team includes a Computer Operations Analyst, two Automation/Information Services Specialists, and a Programmer Support Specialist, with vacancies for an IT Director and Information Data Technician.

Accomplishments

The IT team provided technical support across all District Courts, covering network infrastructure, digital recorders, conferencing equipment, printers, hardware/software, Microsoft 365, DUO, and Justware configurations. They coordinated with NNDIT, contractors, and vendors to prepare the Window Rock District Court modular building for move-in, including networking, Wi-Fi, VoIP, and security systems. A temporary Starlink connection was installed pending permanent network access.

Other Significant Accomplishments

Key achievements included launching the BerryDunn e-File Assessment, implementing VoIP for five district courts, delivering Justware training, managing end-user accounts, and participating in AOC and network planning meetings.

Objectives – Next Quarter

The IT team will establish permanent networking and Wi-Fi at Window Rock, implement WASP inventory software with district visits, restore JusticeWeb with Pine Technologies, complete pending IT requests and Justware updates, and continue supporting all District Courts and programs while preparing computers for new employees.

Judicial Branch Facilities Projects

Facilities & Infrastructure at a Glance

The Judicial Branch's Facilities and Maintenance program oversees the construction, care, and improvement of court buildings and infrastructure across the Navajo Nation.

Scope of Work:

- Planning and managing new construction projects
- Overseeing renovations and facility upgrades
- Coordinating infrastructure development such as utilities and site improvements
- Ensuring compliance with building codes and safety standards
- Supporting long-term sustainability of Judicial Branch facilities

Through this work, Facilities and Maintenance strengthens the foundation of the Judicial Branch, creating safe, modern, and accessible spaces that ensure justice services can continue to grow and serve future generations.

Window Rock Judicial Modular Building

The Window Rock Judicial Modular Building is complete and now open to the public.

Kayenta Judicial Complex

Construction at the Kayenta Judicial Complex is ongoing, with foundation work and installation of all underground utilities, including sewer and water systems. The fourth monthly construction meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2025, at the Kayenta Court construction site.

Window Rock Peacemaking Building

Construction of the Window Rock Peacemaking Building is scheduled to begin in March 2026. Current floor plans are being updated to comply with the 2021 International Building Codes (IBC). Procurement with an architect firm is underway, including 164(B) reviews to revise the Construction Documents and Project Manual in preparation for cost bids in Fall 2025. The Judicial Branch Project Manager will coordinate kick-off meetings with the AOC and stakeholders.

Aneth Judicial Complex

The Aneth Judicial Complex is under design-build procurement for its future court building, with design expected to be completed by the end of the year and construction anticipated to begin in Spring 2026. The Judicial Branch Project Manager will coordinate budget planning and stakeholder engagement.

Ramah Judicial Complex

The Ramah Judicial Complex is in the design procurement phase, with completion expected by year-end and construction contingent upon available funding, anticipated for Summer/Fall 2026. The Judicial Branch Project Manager will coordinate project planning and stakeholder engagement.

AOC Central Warehouse

The AOC Central Warehouse project has secured design-build funding. Procurement will begin once land development is finalized, with design completion expected by the end of winter and construction planned for Spring/Summer 2026.

FISCAL YEAR 2025
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

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