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



FISCAL YEAR 2026  
SECOND QUARTER REPORT  
JANUARY 1, 2026 - MARCH 31, 2026

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REPORT DATE: APRIL 2026

# Table of Contents

<b>Message from the Chief Justice</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Vision and Mission</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Judicial Branch Highlights</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Understanding Court Terms &amp; Statistics</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Peacemaking Program</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Probation &amp; Parole Services</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Supreme Court &amp; District Courts</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Administrative Office of the Courts</b>	<b>41</b>

# nábináhaazláago

## Comprehensive Approach

### *Strengthening Navajo Justice Through Reflection and Purpose*

The Hashkééji Nahat'á (Judicial Branch) of the Navajo Nation Second Quarter focused on professional development, increased staffing, federal spend down plans, and improved services to the public. These key areas continue to address the Judicial Branch's Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

This quarter the Judicial Branch initiated a review of facility maintenance needs for all court buildings with limited federal funding options. Each year, the Judicial Branch will continue to prioritize optimizing all sources of funding for the purpose of maintaining Navajo Nation facilities. In preparation for this year's budget process, the Judicial Branch is identifying critical areas for repairs and maintenance for all facilities.

Secondly, technological advances remain a key strategy to improving access to justice for Navajo people. A new case management system that improves access to justice through such technology as e-filing and e-serve is paramount to our communities. In preparation for e-file system development, it has become apparent that a new case management system is required. Working with key justice partners (Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's and Navajo Police Department), the Judicial Branch will be identifying a modern case management system.

Thirdly, the technology, in conjunction with the Judicial Navigators who will be providing direct services to the public, is fundamental to increasing public confidence in our justice systems. Judicial Navigators, through directed funding by the Navajo Nation Council, will begin providing education, scribing, and wrap-around services to the public that will help Navajo people navigate the courts, Peacemaking along with Probation and Parole services. Beginning in May 2026, the Judicial Navigators will start providing these services in various locations throughout the Navajo Nation as renovations begin on the T'áá Shí Ádá'asht'í Bá Hooghan, the first self-help center on the Navajo Nation.

As we move to the next quarter, the Judicial Branch looks forward to working with both the Executive and Legislative Branches on key initiatives that improve access to justice and public confidence in our government. *Ahéhee' Nitsaago.*

Eleanor Shirley, Interim Chief Justice  
Office of the Chief Justice

# STRATEGIC PLAN

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## 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

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## 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.

### **Case Certification and Backlog Reduction**

The Judicial Branch continues to demonstrate its commitment to serving the people of the Navajo Nation through the annual case certification process, which documents the true scope of its workload. Case certification was successfully completed on February 27, 2026, marking a significant accomplishment in strengthening accountability and data accuracy across all judicial districts. While the process is routine, it highlights the extraordinary volume of cases managed by judges and court staff operating with limited resources and fewer judges than needed. Despite these challenges, the certification reflects that every judicial district is actively addressing case backlogs and making measurable progress.

Judges continue to preside over heavy dockets with professionalism and integrity, while court staff carry expanded responsibilities—maintaining records, supporting court operations, and assisting litigants. Following completion of the certification, the Chief Justice will work with the Court Statistician to evaluate the data and inform strategies to improve case management and system-wide efficiency. Collectively, this effort reflects the resilience, dedication, and strength of the Judicial Branch in upholding judicial independence and delivering access to justice for the Navajo Nation.

### **Advancing E-Filing and Technology**

Under the Chief Justice's direction, the Judicial Branch continues to advance the development of an electronic filing (e-filing) system to improve how cases are submitted, tracked, and managed across the Navajo Nation courts and programs. During the evaluation process for an e-filing system, it became apparent that a new Case Management system will be necessary as the current system, JustWare will become obsolete in the next few years. In collaboration with BerryDunn and justice partners across the Navajo Nation, the Branch has made significant progress through system assessments, stakeholder engagement, and planning for both the e-filing platform and a modern Case Management System. Listening sessions were successfully conducted with Judicial Branch employees, justice partners, and Navajo Nation Bar members, reflecting strong participation and shared commitment to modernization.

These accomplishments demonstrate the Branch's continued progress toward reducing barriers, increasing transparency, and improving efficiency in court operations. The integration of e-filing with a new Case Management System will support more streamlined processes across courts, Peacemaking, and Probation services, ensuring a more accessible, responsive, and unified justice system for the people of the Navajo Nation.

### **T'áá Shí Ádá'asht'į Bá Hooghan – Access to Justice Initiative and Judicial Navigators**

The Judicial Branch continues advancing T'áá Shí Ádá'asht'į Bá Hooghan, an access to justice initiative focused on helping individuals understand and prepare their cases through self-help tools, legal forms, and legal informational guidance. The initiative promotes awareness of both court and Peacemaking options, empowering community members to navigate the justice system with greater confidence. Progress continues in Window Rock with a focus on probate and quiet title matters. A contractor has been identified for the Self-Help Center renovation, with the contract currently under administrative review, marking an important step toward expanding public access to services.

A major accomplishment this quarter is the successful hiring of four Judicial Navigators, who began on March 23, 2026. The Navigators are undergoing intensive, cross-training with Judicial Branch programs, Navajo Nation programs and offices, and community partners across the Navajo Nation to provide coordinated, culturally responsive wrap-around services. This milestone reflects strong collaboration and forward momentum, positioning the Navigators to serve as a vital bridge between the Judicial Branch and the community. The initiative continues to reduce barriers, support self-represented litigants, ease demands on court staff, and strengthen public trust in the Navajo Nation justice system.

### **Investing in Our Staff and Strengthening the Judicial Branch**

The Judicial Branch continues to invest in staff development and organizational capacity, reflecting a strong commitment to serving the people of the Navajo Nation. Individualized training plans are being developed to support professional growth, strengthen skills, and ensure operational continuity across courts and programs. These efforts support a well-prepared workforce capable of meeting the evolving needs of the justice system.

The Judicial Branch onboarded 11 new employees in March 2026, strengthening workforce capacity across the courts and programs. In addition, one Judicial Law Clerk was hired to support both the Chinle and Window Rock Judicial District Courts—two of the largest districts—enhancing legal and judicial support where demand is highest. In response to limited resources, judges and court staff across all districts continue working diligently to maintain court operations. Despite these challenges, the Judicial Branch remains committed to providing consistent and accessible services to the people.

# KEY TERMS IN THE JUDICIARY

## CASE MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS

### **Continuance**

A postponement of a scheduled court hearing or proceeding to a later date, often contributing to case delays or backlog.

### **Disposition**

The final resolution of a case, including outcomes such as dismissal, judgment, settlement, plea, or other court action that closes the case.

### **Docket**

The official schedule or list of cases set for hearing before the court, including all pending matters assigned to a judge on a given day or time period.

### **Pro Se Litigant**

An individual who represents themselves in court without the assistance of an attorney. Pro se litigants are responsible for preparing and submitting their own legal documents and navigating court procedures.

## Case Certification

The case certification process requires each court to manually review and count its cases, identify matters filed more than one calendar year prior, and outline strategies to address existing backlog caseloads.

Case certification is completed annually in February of the subsequent year. For example, Calendar Year 2024 case certification was completed in February 2025, and Calendar Year 2025 case certification was completed on February 27, 2026. The Judicial Branch resumed this process in 2023 to strengthen accountability, improve data accuracy, and support courts and programs in addressing longstanding case backlogs.

Following completion of the certification, the Chief Justice will work in coordination with the Court Statistician to review and analyze the data to inform case management strategies and system-wide improvements.



# 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

## Program Capacity & Staffing

The program sought qualified individuals for Traditional Program Specialist positions at Chinle, Window Rock, Crownpoint, and Dilkon. Vacancy announcements were posted through the Judicial Branch, Administrative Office of the Courts, Human Resources website.

## Conferences, Training & Outreach

The program held its 3rd Annual Winter Peacemaking Conference on February 4–5, 2026, in Window Rock, Arizona, with multiple agencies, programs, and the public in attendance. Informational booths were provided, and Diné traditional and cultural teachings were delivered by program staff with training hours awarded.

The Annual Peacemaker Orientation and Training was held January 29–30, 2026, at Chinle Judicial District, where 15 Peacemakers were oriented and trained.

The program provided presentations to the University of Washington School of Law and to approximately 45 State of Arizona attorneys, promoting understanding of Diné traditional and cultural teachings.

## Staff Development

Staff received First Aid/CPR/AED and Narcan training. All staff are certified and trained to respond as needed.

## Service Delivery & Case Activity

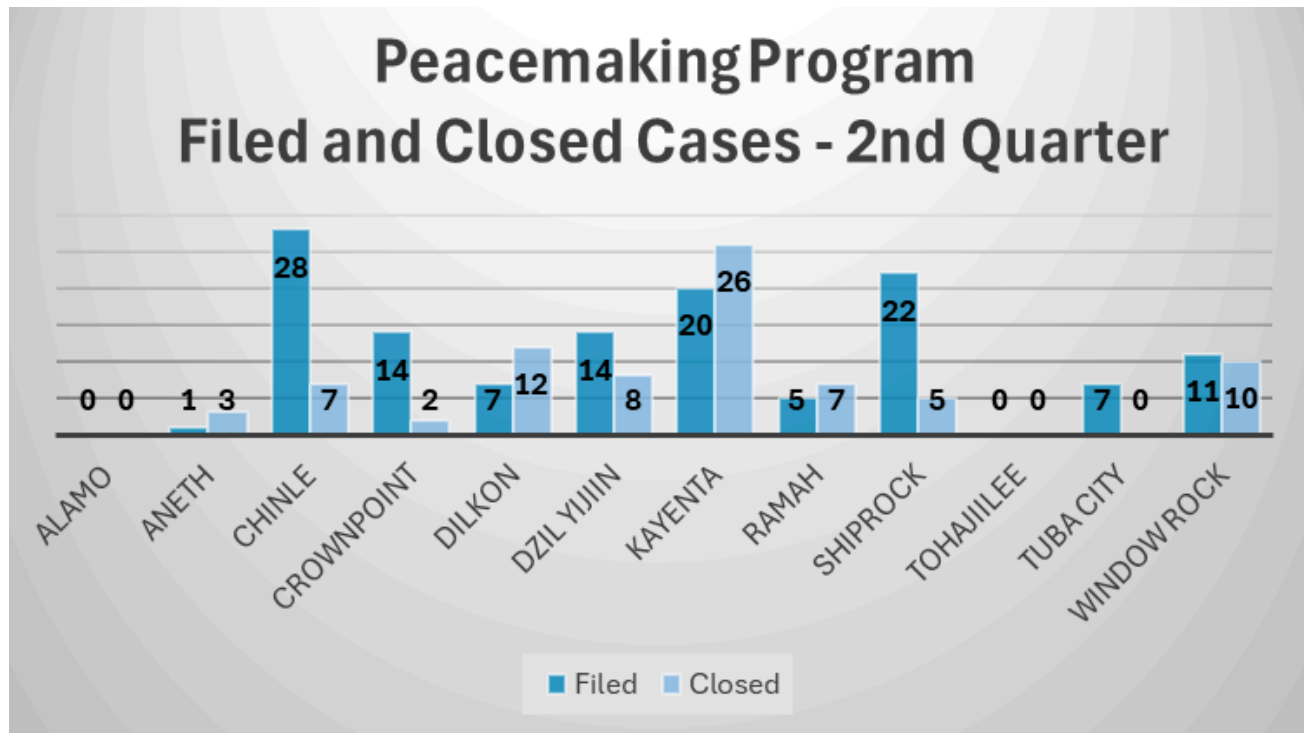
The program received 65 cases this quarter, including 14 Peacemaking, 44 Life Value Engagement, 5 Diné Family Group Conferencing, and 2 Probate/Quiet Title cases. Of these, 56 were referred and 9 were walk-ins.

Annual case certifications reflected improved service delivery and an increase in workload.

## Overall Performance

The program continued to strengthen services through training, outreach, and increased case activity while maintaining culturally grounded services to the public.

# PEACEMAKING PROGRAM



# 102

## PENDING CASES

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

# 62%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the Peacemaking Program received a total of 129 new filed cases. The Peacemaking Program closed 80 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 62%.

# 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 the Next Quarter

- Prepare and submit the FY2027 Budget.
- Hire and orient incoming probation staff.
- Coordinate case reviews.
- Coordinate the annual Train-the-Trainer Seminar.

## Objectives from Previous Quarter

Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair met the deadline to submit annual evaluations for Senior Probation Officers and western region staff. The PPS management team completed the first draft of the FY2027 budget and continued efforts to edit and finalize Standard Operating Procedures. One of two annual safety trainings was coordinated with the PPS Safety team, and leadership training was completed by the Chief Probation Officer and Senior Probation Officers.

## Significant Accomplishments

### Workforce Development & Training

Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair followed through and coordinated trainings to enhance employee performance, productivity, and retention. Leadership training was completed, strengthening supervisory capacity.

### Recruitment & Staffing

Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and the PPS management team successfully interviewed and hired three probation officers, strengthening staffing levels and service capacity.

### Organizational Improvement

The PPS management team initiated the reorganization of probation services to create a more manageable, organized, and streamlined process.

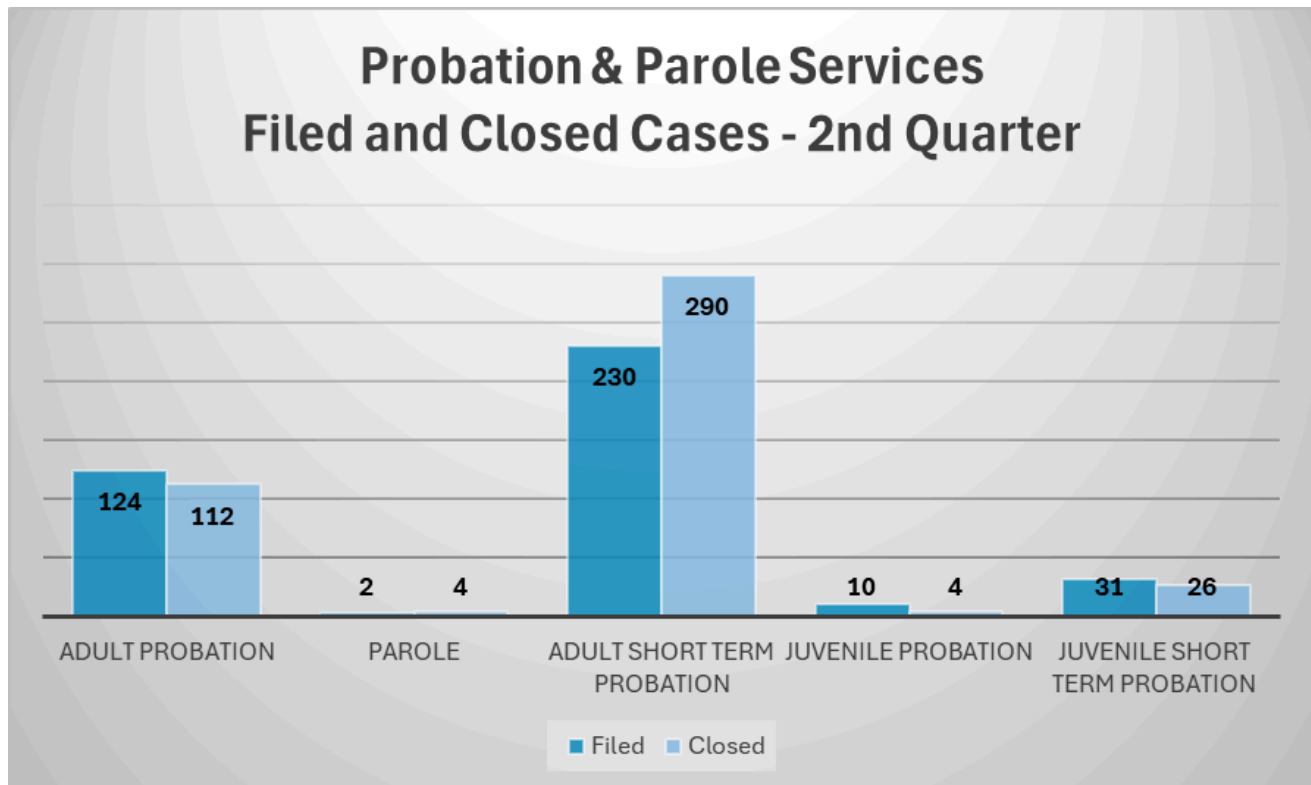
### Budget Execution & Resource Management

Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and the management team planned and strategized to expedite approximately 25% of second quarter budget expenditures to support probation needs and services.

### Team Collaboration & Operations

Chief Probation Officer and PPS Management continued to work collaboratively to ensure a strong work environment and effective processes and operations of probation services.

# PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES



# 830

## PENDING CASES

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

# 110%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Probation and Parole Services received a total of 397 new filed cases. Probation and Parole Services closed 436 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 110%.

## 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.



## Oaths of Office and Governance Leadership

On March 18, 2026, Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley swore in Honorable Titus Nez to represent District 16 on the Navajo Nation Council. During January, February, and March 2026, the Chief Justice administered oaths to 14 Navajo Nation elected officials from all five agencies, reinforcing continuity in leadership and governance across the Nation.

## Judicial and Administrative Appointments

Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley appointed Hon. Associate Justice William Platero as the Judicial Branch Representative to the Retirement Plan Administration Committee, strengthening Judicial Branch representation in key governance functions.

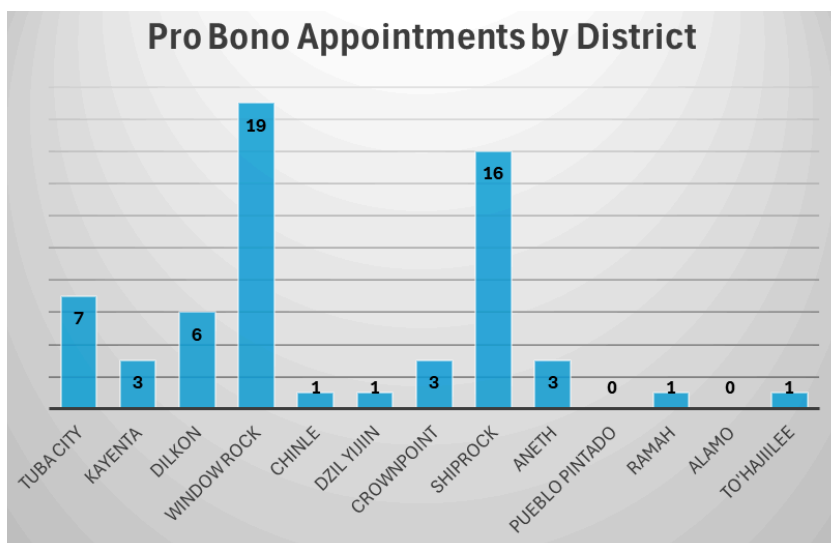
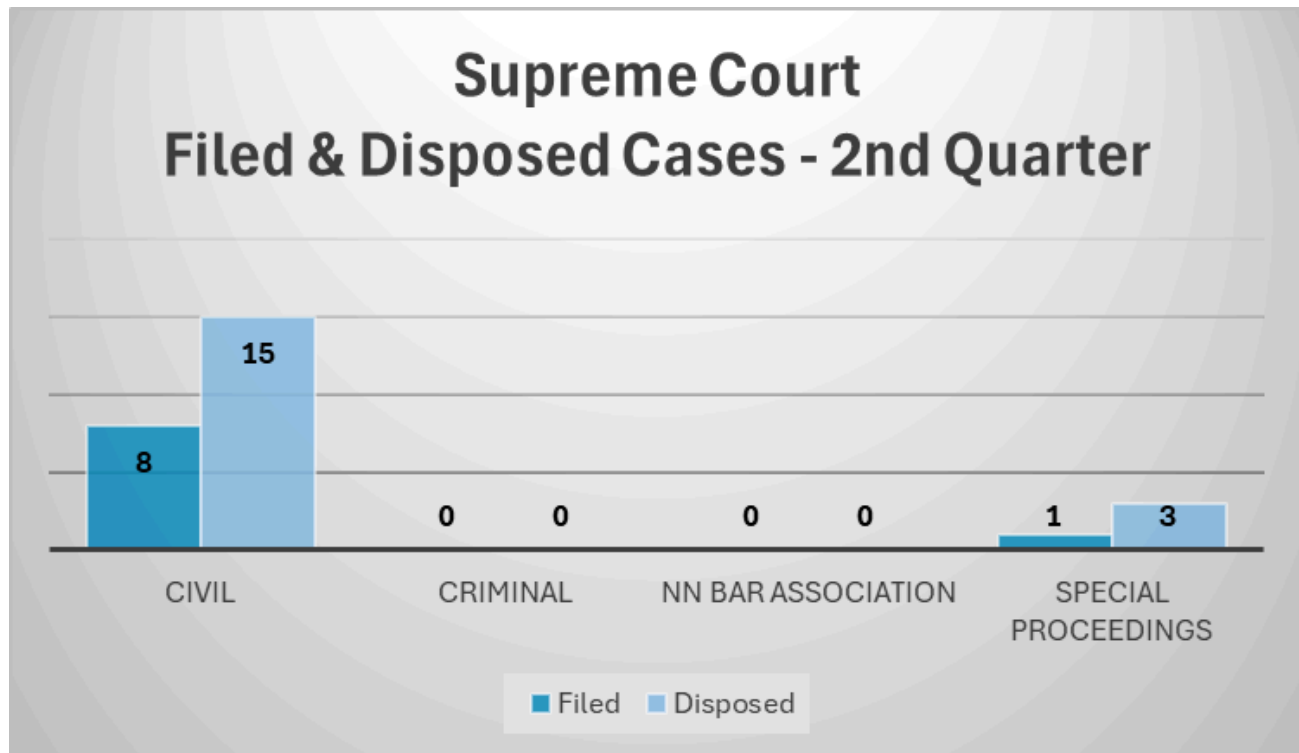
Hon. Judge Letitia Stover was appointed as Chairperson of the Judicial Branch Grievance Board effective February 6, 2026, supporting oversight and accountability.

Additionally, Rosiene Charley of the Peacemaking Program was elected by Judicial Branch employees as the Employee Representative, with Lavonne Yazzie of the Kayenta District Court serving as alternate.

## Judicial Assignments and Expanded Representation

Hon. Judge Genevieve Woody was appointed to the Special Division of the Window Rock District Court through Administrative Order No. 14-2026, enhancing judicial capacity and case coverage. Chief Justice Eleanor Shirley also appointed Lauren Billy of the To'hajiilee District Court to serve on the Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Review Board, further strengthening Judicial Branch engagement and representation across governmental entities.

# SUPREME COURT



# 91

## PRO BONO APPOINTMENTS

This quarter, the Supreme Court facilitated 91 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'hajílee Judicial District serves both Alamo and Tó'hajílee 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.

## Staffing and Personnel Enhancement

The Alamo District Court Custodian position has been successfully filled, with Mr. Warren R. Vicente selected for the role. Mr. Vicente began employment on March 2, 2026, and is currently within his 90-day probationary period, set to conclude on June 2, 2026. This hire strengthens overall facility operations and support services.

## Community Outreach and Public Engagement

In collaboration with the Alamo Navajo Chapter Officials, CLUP-C members, and the BIA Realty Office (Gallup, NM), the Alamo District Court extended an invitation for a Meet & Greet event focused on Probate and Quiet Title matters. The Court will continue utilizing Probate/Quiet Title funds to support public outreach and education.

## Interagency Collaboration and Justice Day Coordination

The Court Administrator participated in the Socorro County Community Alternative Program DWI Planning Council meeting via Zoom, which included agency reports and coordination efforts. Invitations were extended to various service providers to participate in Alamo Justice Day, with several providers confirming participation and planning to host informational booths.

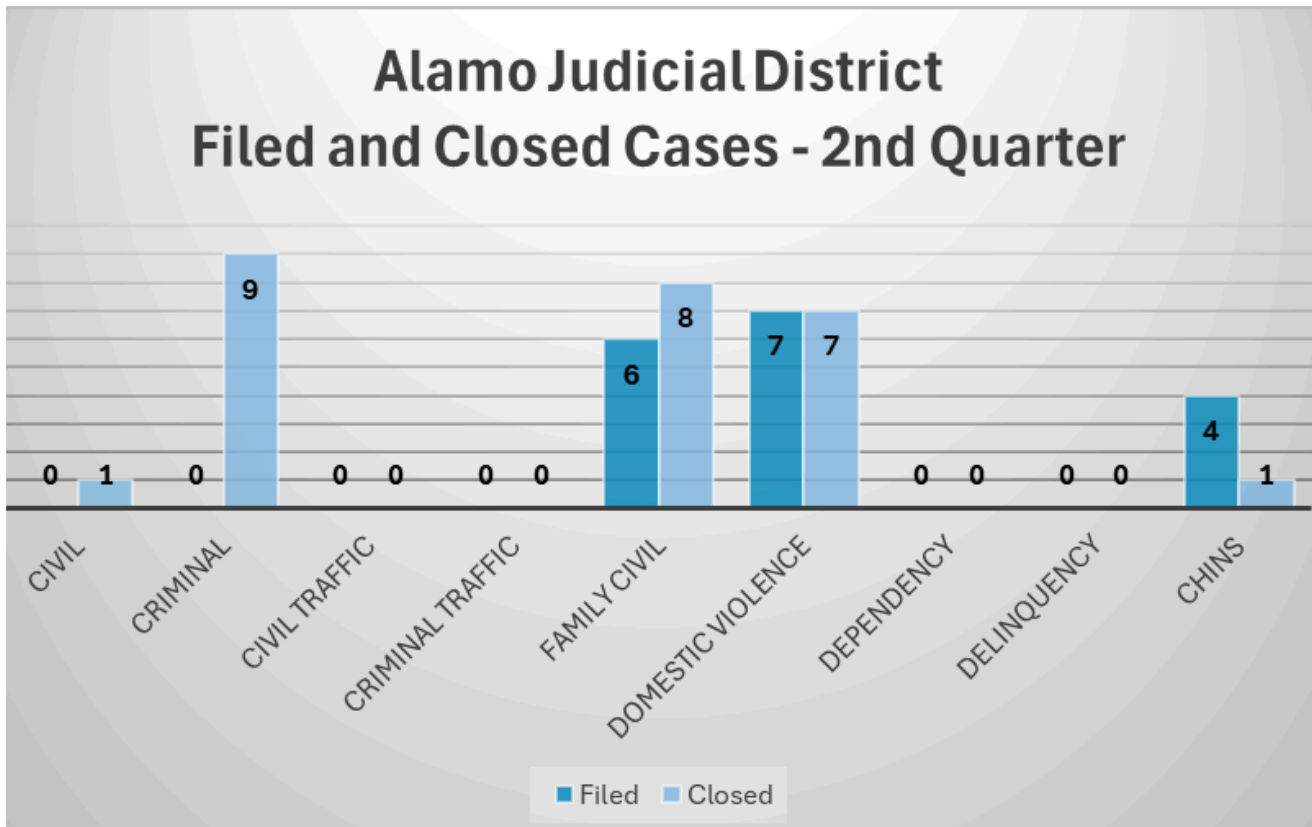
## Performance Management and Staff Development

All Alamo District Court staff evaluations, including performance goals, were completed and submitted in a timely manner. Staff members achieved scores above 4.0, and continued performance goals were identified to support ongoing professional development.

## Technology and Operational Improvements

Sunstate telephone services have been successfully implemented, with new phones and assigned phone numbers distributed to each staff member. This transition is expected to reduce overall telephone service costs and improve communication efficiency.

# ALAMO DISTRICT AND FAMILY COURTS



# 25

## 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.

# 153%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Alamo Judicial District Court received a total of 17 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 26 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 153%.

# 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.

## Facility Repairs and Maintenance Oversight

In January 2026, water damage to the Staff Attorney’s office caused by a leak was successfully repaired by Facilities Maintenance. A follow-up assessment by the Construction Manager confirmed that repairs to the wall and ceiling were properly completed and that the leak issue was fully resolved.

## Leadership and Board Representation

The Court Administrator was appointed to serve on the Motor Vehicle Review Board (MVRB) and has actively participated in regular monthly meetings, as well as special sessions and work groups focused on reviewing policies and procedures related to tribal vehicle usage.

## Community Outreach and Access to Justice

In collaboration with Tohajiilee Chapter officials, CLUPC members, and the BIA Realty Office in Gallup, New Mexico, the court supported a Meet & Greet event focused on Probate and Quiet Title matters. The court continues to utilize Probate and Quiet Title funding to expand public outreach and education efforts.

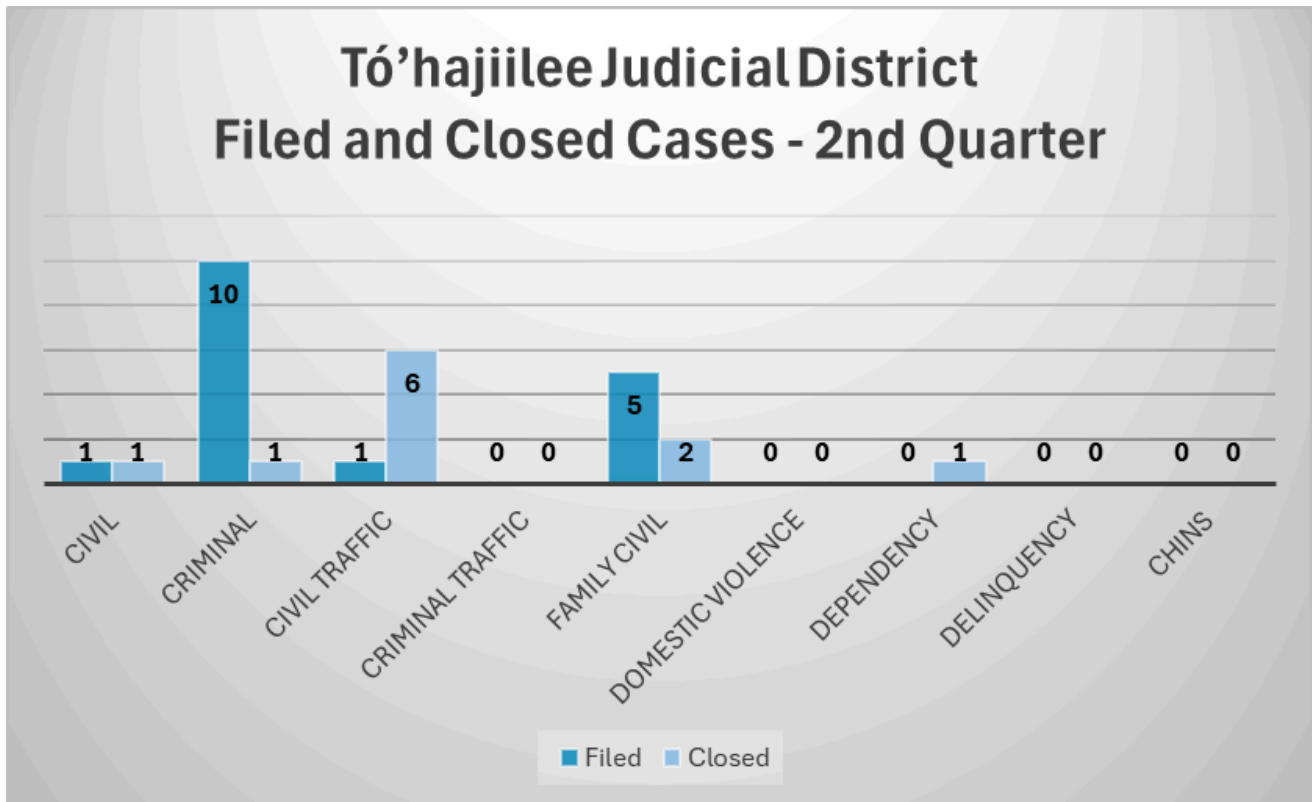
## Court Operations and Scheduling Coordination

Following the resignation of the Tohajiilee and Alamo Court Prosecutor, the Court Administrator coordinated with the Prosecutor and Judge Livingston to address scheduling conflicts across multiple court assignments. As a result, court dates were adjusted to improve case scheduling and operational efficiency.

## Technology and System Modernization

Court staff participated in E-Filing and Case Management System listening sessions and demonstrations presented by various e-file and case management vendors. These sessions enhanced staff understanding of e-filing capabilities and potential implementation within the Navajo Nation Courts.

# TÓ'HAIILEE JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 71

## 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.

# 65%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Tó'hajiilee District and Family Court received a total of 17 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 11 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 65%.

# 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.

## Court Building Project Progress

The Aneth Court Building Project is nearing completion of the programming phase, with weekly update meetings underway with the contractor. The final programming session is scheduled for April 9, 2026, in Aneth, Utah, marking continued progress toward development of the new facility.

## Case Backlog Reduction Efforts

The court continues to actively reduce backlog across all case types. While progress is impacted by the presiding judge’s assignments to other courts, case resolutions remain a priority during scheduled court sessions in Aneth.

## Community Outreach and Pro Se Services

Staff Attorney Mahlon Wigton conducted Pro Se clinics on Probate and Quiet Title in Aneth, Utah, and Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. These clinics mark the launch of an ongoing educational series scheduled through August 2026 across the Aneth Judicial District, expanding access to justice for self-represented litigants.

### *Objectives for Next Quarter*

## Fiscal Management

Continue the prudent expenditure of funds and begin formulation of the FY2027 budget.

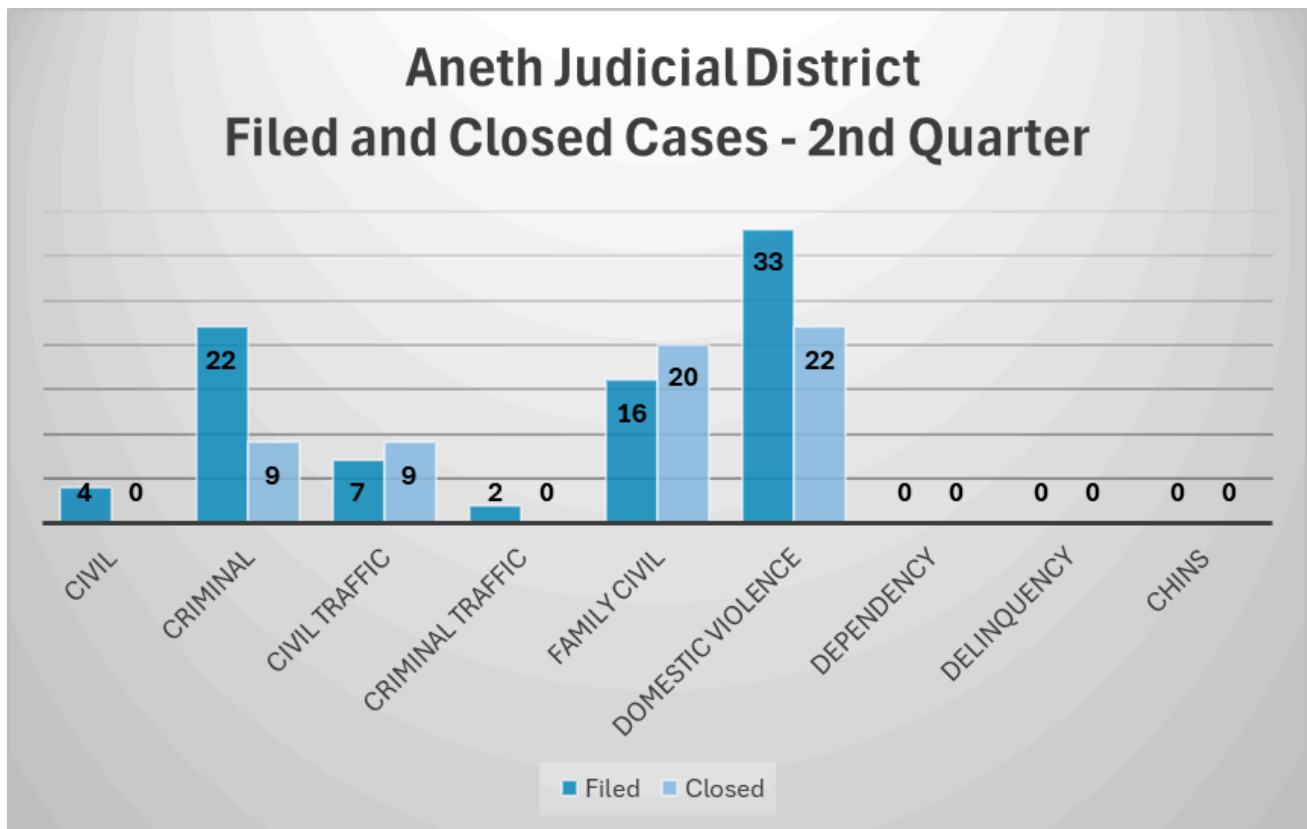
## Facility Development

Pursue collaboration with the Aneth Chapter to identify potential cost-sharing opportunities for infrastructure development at the 24-acre site.

## Case Management and Data Integrity

Staff will continue reviewing physical files to ensure consistency with JustWare records and provide direct support to the presiding judge to streamline docketing and case processing.

# ANETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 358

## 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.

# 71%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Aneth Judicial District Court received a total of 84 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 60 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 71%.

# 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.

## Workforce Development and Performance Management

Staff performance evaluations were completed, and step increases were submitted for all eligible personnel. Training needs were also identified to support professional development, enhance job performance, and promote continued organizational effectiveness.

## Case Certification and Accountability

Case certification was completed, with full accounting of all 2025 court cases. While one docket number was lost due to a computer system error, all remaining cases were verified. Backlog cases continue to be addressed, with contributing factors including continuances, lack of party action, and unserved bench warrants.

## Community Engagement and Youth Initiatives

The Save Our School (SOS) initiative, spearheaded by Judge Thompson, continues in the planning stages of a conference for students and parents. Proposed topics include school safety, bullying, substance abuse, and mental health, with a focus on strengthening family support services and promoting safe learning environments.

### *System Improvements and Operational Needs*

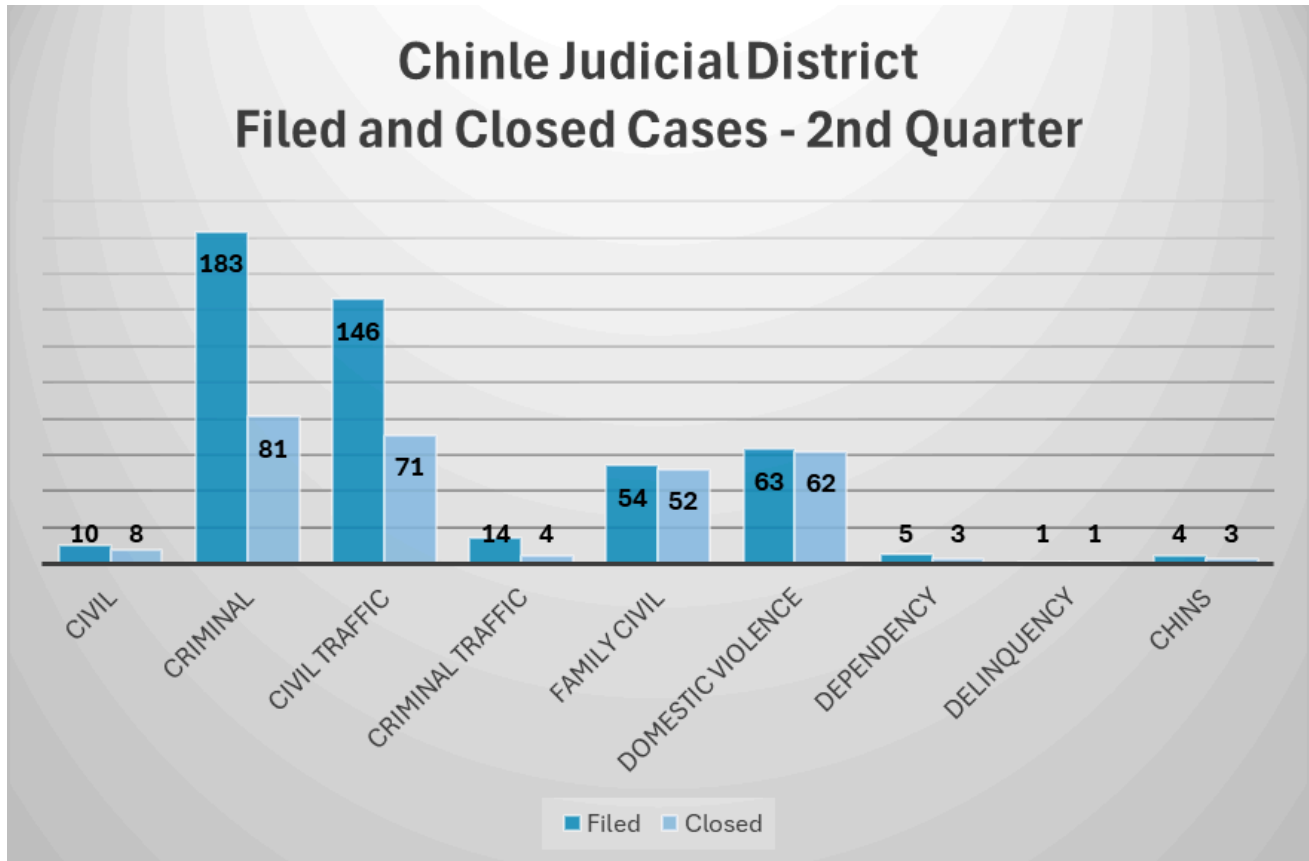
## Dayforce Implementation

The Dayforce system continues to present challenges related to staff scheduling, leave balances, payroll discrepancies, and limited training. Additional training is needed for onboarding processes, personnel action forms, and performance evaluations. Anticipated system improvements are expected to address these concerns and enhance efficiency.

## Commitment to the Judicial Mission

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. Ahéhee'.

# CHINLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 893

## 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.

# 59%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Chinle Judicial District Court received a total of 480 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 285 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 59%.

# 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 second quarter of FY2026, the Crownpoint Judicial District and Family Court successfully closed 343 cases, demonstrating continued efficiency in case management. The Judicial Hearing Officer conducted in-person Domestic Violence hearings, resulting in 122 additional case closures. A Document Technician completed the 90-day probationary period and transitioned to permanent status, strengthening court operations and administrative support.

## Operations and Public Engagement

Court staff actively participated in meetings and trainings focused on court development, public education, self-help services, and access to justice. Trainings included Dayforce system implementation, Probate and Quiet Title education, E-Filing System Assessment, and mandatory computer training. The court is also developing educational materials and scheduling community outreach for Probate and Quiet Title services in the upcoming quarter.

## Facility

The court continues coordination with BIA Facility Maintenance to address work orders and facility needs. Installation of safety bollards and upgrades to security camera systems are in progress, enhancing court security and functionality.

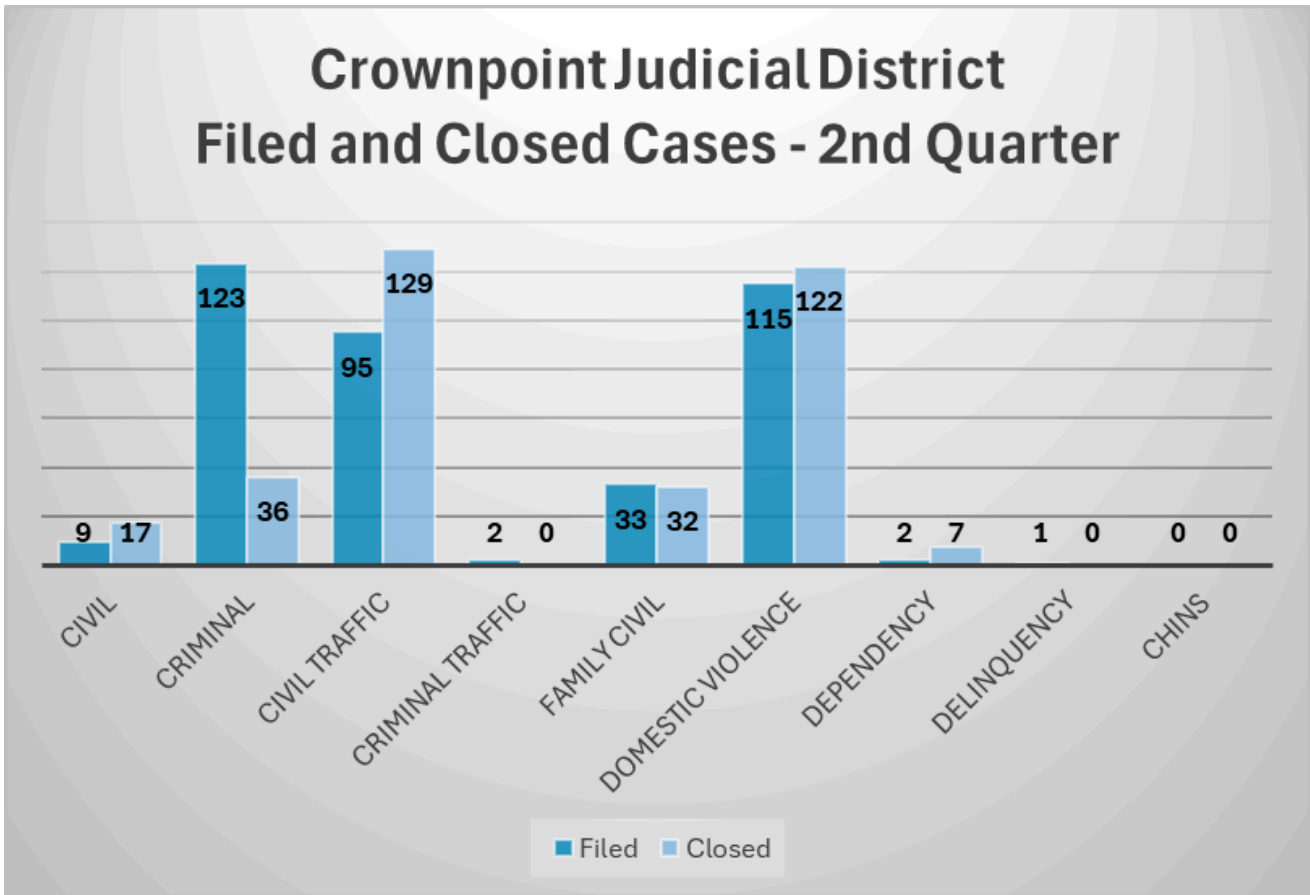
## Challenges

Internet connectivity issues continue to impact operations, requiring consideration of backup solutions. Additional needs include upgraded courtroom audio equipment to support communication and equitable access to justice. Demolition of the old Crownpoint Courthouse and Judicial Housing Complex remains a priority to reduce liability and support future development.

## Future Trends

The court will continue coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts to support facility improvements, personnel retention, increased case closures, strengthened partnerships, and expanded Probate and Quiet Title outreach.

# CROWNPOINT JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 1,054

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.

# 90%

CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Crownpoint Judicial District Court received a total of 380 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 343 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 90%.

# 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.

## Achievements

The Dilkon Judicial District Court staff continues to make progress in improving case backlog numbers across all case types, including probate and quiet title, as directed by the Chief Justice. Through proactive case management, more cases were closed than filed this quarter, reflecting ongoing improvement and a continued quarterly goal.

## Training and Professional Development

Quarterly staff in-service trainings were conducted, with staff participating in Dayforce training, Judicial Branch E-Filing Listening Sessions, the Judicial Branch Book Club, an overview of Medical Records in Family and Domestic cases, and updates on Pro Se forms for probate and quiet title matters. Judge Clyde also attended a judicial conference at the Dzil Yijiin Judicial District and participated in an E-Filing Listening Session with other judicial districts.

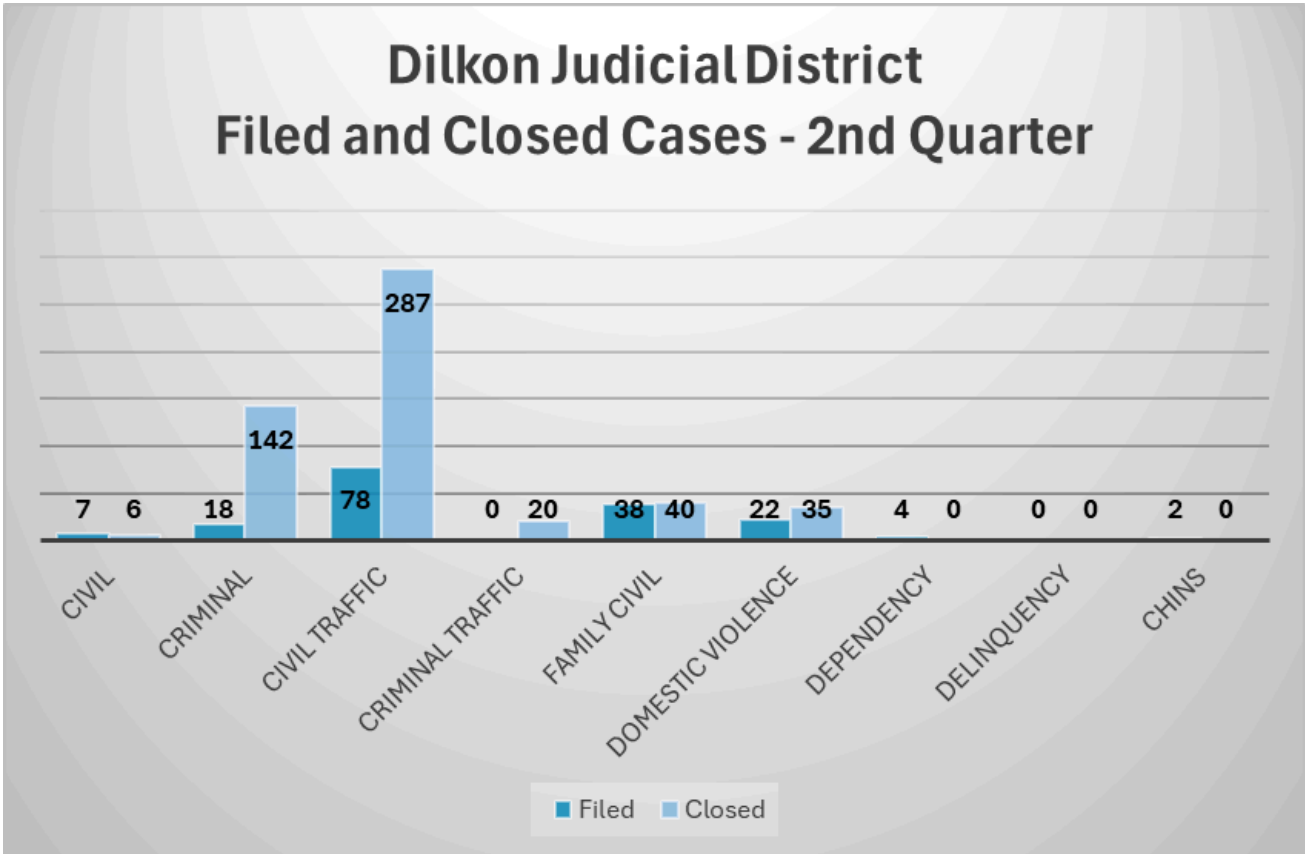
## Facility Improvements

The Dilkon Judicial District is actively working toward the repair of the courthouse roof under contract review. This project remains a priority, and the court looks forward to its completion.

## Challenges

The implementation and integration of the Dayforce system with Judicial Branch administrative processes continues to present challenges, requiring additional time and adjustments. Facility concerns also persist due to aging infrastructure, including roof leaks and HVAC failures that impact climate control. The ongoing roof replacement project is a critical step toward addressing these long-standing issues.

# DILKON JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 2,467

## 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.

# 314%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Dilkon Judicial District Court received a total of 169 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 530 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 314%.

# Dził Yíjín Judicial District

Honorable Cynthia Thompson  
Arlene Lee, Court Administrator

## 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 Access and Case Management

The Dził Yíjín Judicial District continues to provide extensive court services across a broad spectrum of case types. To promote accessibility and efficiency, the Presiding Judge conducts hearings in person, virtually, and by telephone, while also supporting other district courts as assigned by the Chief Justice. A Judicial Hearing Officer presides over Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) hearings, ensuring focused and timely case management.

## Staff Training and Professional Development

Staff in-service continued in February, with participation in e-filing and Case Management System (CMS) demonstrations, virtual judicial listening sessions, and the Peacemaking Program winter conference. The Court Clerk attended Civil Case Management training, the bailiff completed new hire orientation, and staff participated in Dayforce training provided by the Department of Personnel Management.

## Administrative Leadership and Coordination

The Court Administrator continues to support efficient court operations through case management, daily docket oversight, weekly financial recaps, and staff coordination. She assisted with annual case certifications, participated in managers' meetings, served on interview panels for vacant positions, and supported planning for the upcoming Justice Day event scheduled for April 2, 2026.

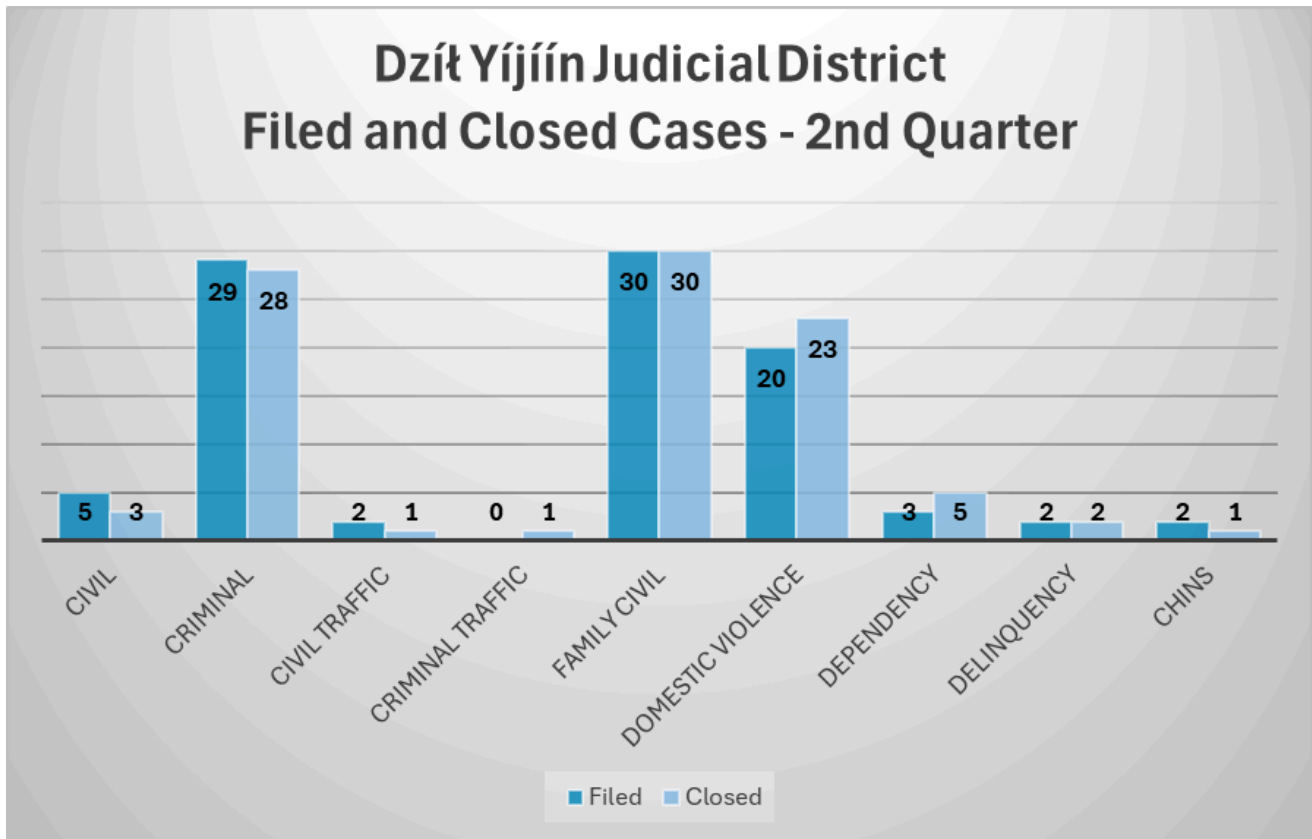
## Staffing Enhancements

The district strengthened operations with the hiring of Court Bailiff Raynard Kieyoani and Document Technician Shanaya Clark, both bringing valuable skills and experience to support court functions and service delivery.

## Facility Security Needs

An ongoing challenge remains due to the lack of perimeter fencing around the facility, which is essential for ensuring the safety and security of staff, visitors, and court property.

# DZÍŁ YÍJÍÍN JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 241

## 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.

# 101%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Dzít Yíjín Judicial District Court received a total of 93 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 94 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 101%.

# Kayenta Judicial District

Honorable Letitia Stover  
Lavonne K. Yazzie, Court Administrator

## 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 Complex Construction Progress

Construction of the new Kayenta Judicial Complex continues with monthly update meetings and onsite walkthroughs. The 16,937-square-foot facility is funded through Navajo Nation Sihasin Funds, the State of Arizona, and the Kayenta Township Commission, with completion anticipated by the end of 2026.

## Case Certification and Accountability

The Kayenta Judicial District completed its 2025 Certification of Caseload Study to ensure accountability of district and family court cases. The district reported a backlog of 33 family court cases and verified that 32% of the 718 district civil backlog cases are in bench warrant status.

## Judicial Leadership and Professional Development

Judge Letitia M. Stover, Judicial Hearing Officer Dorothea Denetsosie, and Court Administrator Lavonne K. Yazzie participated in the 2026 National Association for Court Management Conference, gaining insight into judicial independence, court integrity, workflow management, and court security.

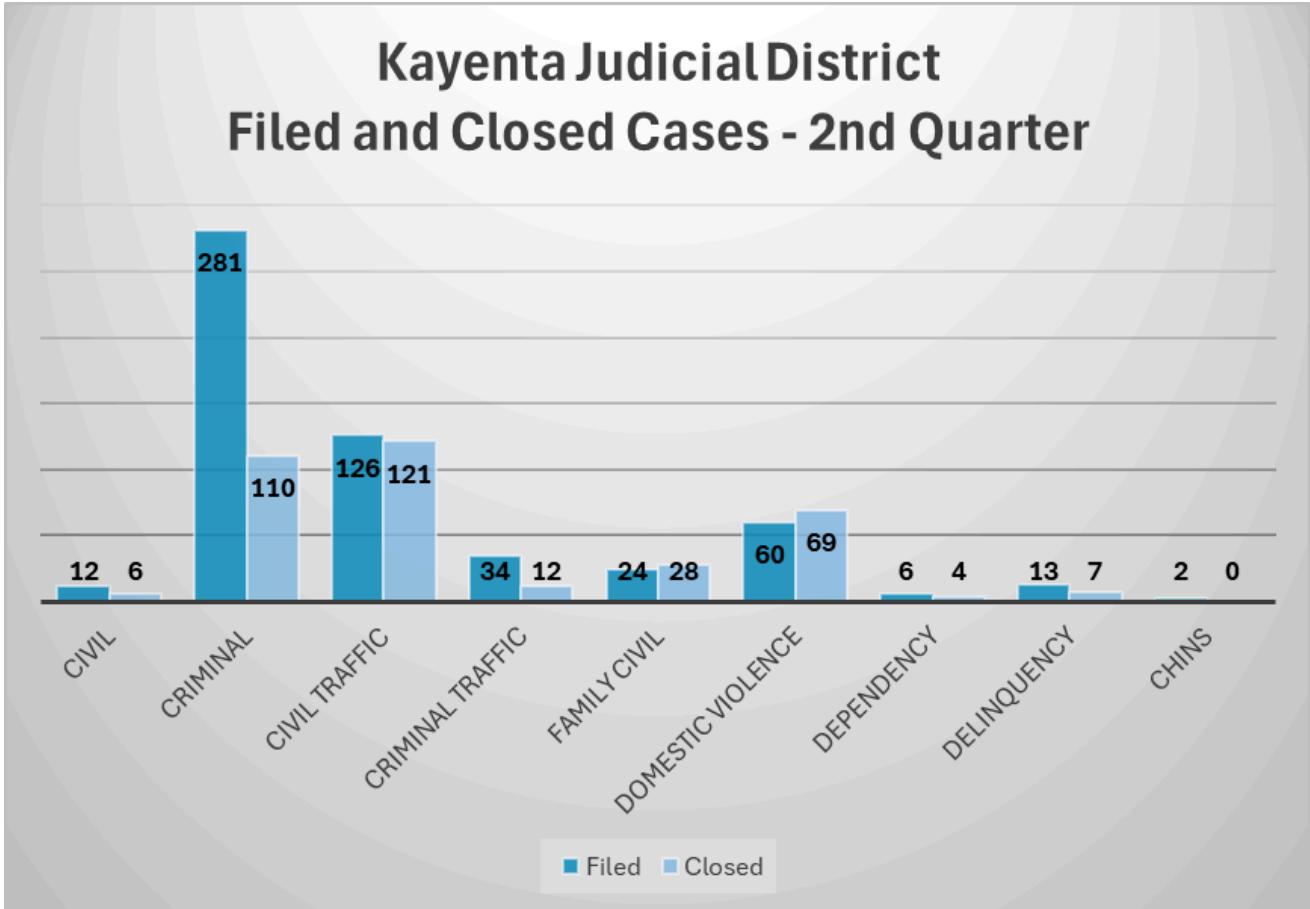
## Community Service and Oaths of Office

By invitation, Judge Letitia M. Stover administered the Oath of Office to forty-five (45) Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety police officers from Kayenta and Tuba City, supporting public safety and governance.

## Staff Development and Cross-Training

Court clerks initiated the bi-annual clerk rotation on February 9, 2026, promoting cross-training in district and family court proceedings and strengthening overall case management capabilities.

# KAYENTA JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 1,579

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 2nd quarter, the Kayenta Judicial District Court received a total of 558 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 357 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 64%.

# 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.

## Judicial Operations and Case Management

During the second quarter of FY2026, Ramah District Court Judge Malcolm Laughing continued to preside over district and family court hearings on Mondays and Tuesdays, focusing on essential matters and prioritizing case management. The court processed an increased number of family court cases, including CHINS, delinquency, and probate matters, demonstrating continued service to the community.

## Staff Development and Workforce Contributions

Court staff participated in e-filing and case management system listening sessions and demonstrations, and attended clearinghouse webinars to enhance professional development. Court Clerk Tanisha Littleman was recommended for regular-status employment, reflecting her strong performance and contributions to daily operations. Data Technician Reda Eriacho continued to strengthen skills in matrix processing and microfilming, improving the court’s ability to provide public services.

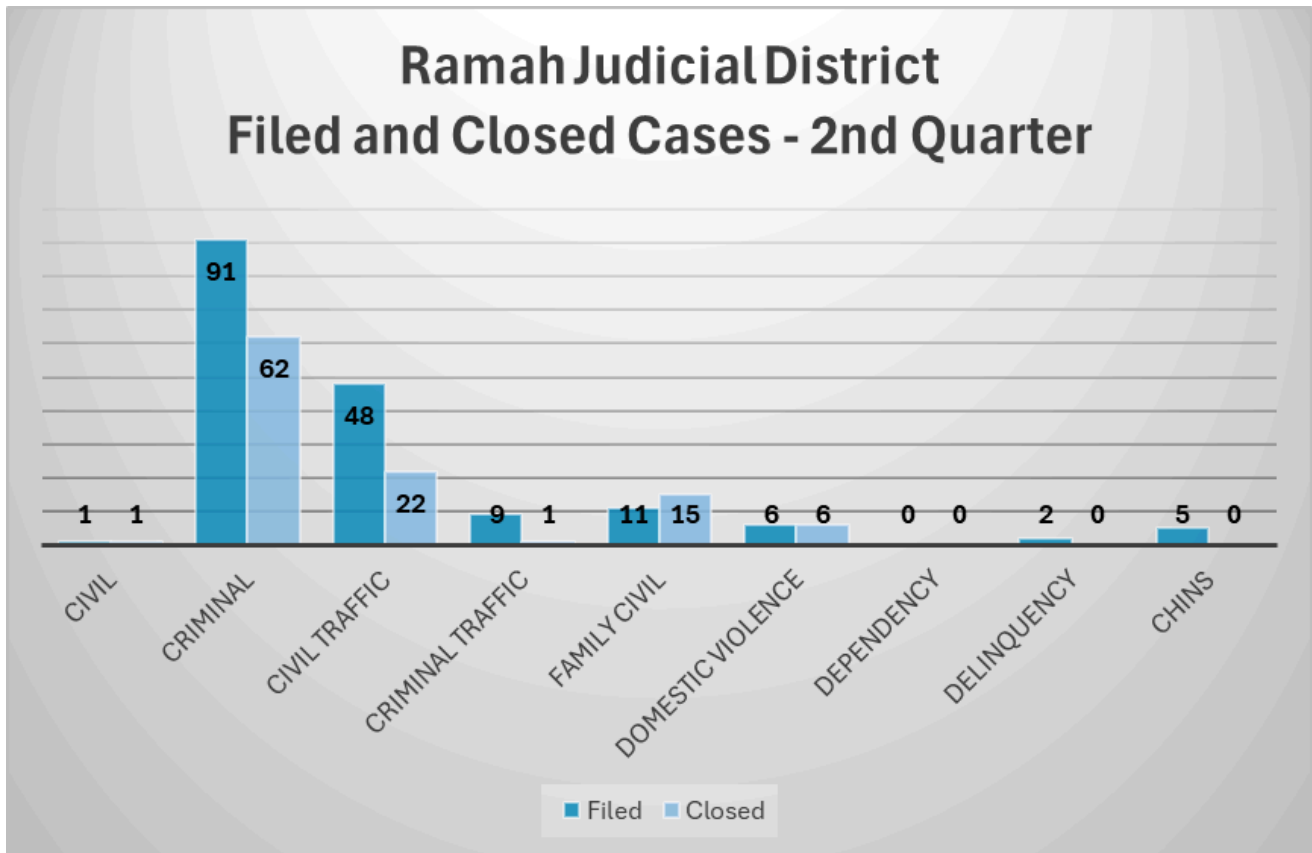
## Facility Planning and Development

The Ramah District Court Building Design Kick-Off Meeting was held with LAM Corporation in Gallup, New Mexico, and a Notice to Proceed for design was issued on March 19, 2026. A follow-up meeting included a Building Program Assessment and site walkthrough with court staff, the peacemaker, and local partners, including Ramah Chapter officials, Ramah 638 Programs, and the Navajo Housing Authority. Ongoing coordination and planning efforts continue to support development of the new facility.

## Facility Infrastructure Needs

The court continues to experience challenges with an aging HVAC system, resulting in heating and cooling outages in several offices. While facility needs were identified during a prior site visit, the court is awaiting a formal report and recommendations to move forward with necessary repairs and improvements.

# RAMAH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 393

## 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.

# 62%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Ramah Judicial District Court received a total of 173 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 107 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 62%.

# 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.

## Court Activity and Case Outcomes

During the quarter, the Shiprock Judicial District received 475 new filings and adjudicated 649 cases, reflecting a significant increase in case resolutions. The judicial district team worked diligently to achieve these results, demonstrating strong case management and productivity.

## Public Access and Court Services

The Shiprock Judicial District continued to provide comprehensive services to Northern Agency communities through in-person assistance, telephone and fax services, postal mail and drop box, call-in payments, and court filings. This resulted in 11,235 total service transactions, including 2,530 telephone calls, 522 fax transmittals, 2,031 postal transactions, 1,059 district filings, 2,217 family filings, and 2,816 visitor log entries.

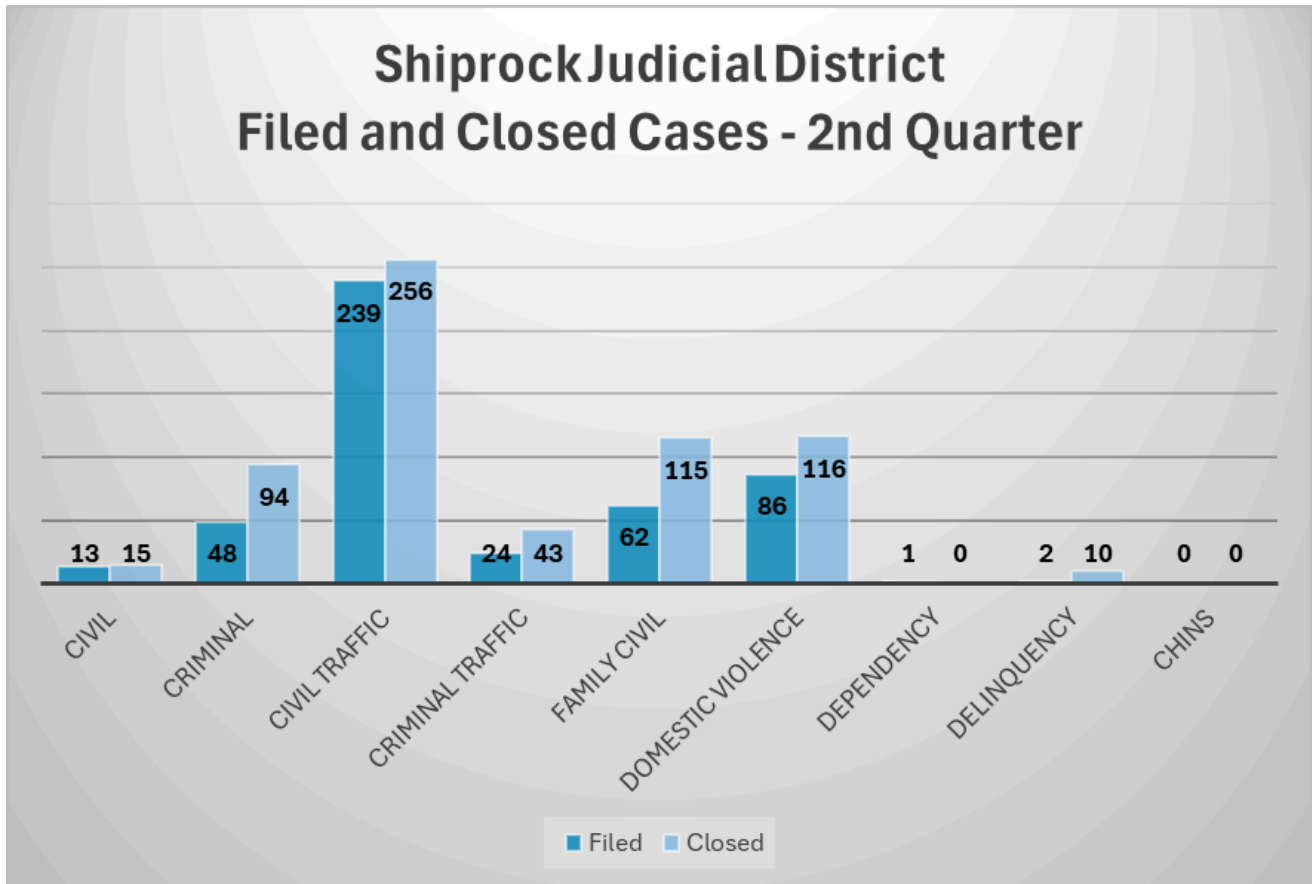
## Financial Performance and Collections

Court fines and fees totaled \$22,902.80 this quarter, with additional collections including \$350.00 in bonds posted, \$100.00 in cash bond forfeitures, and \$3,319.32 in community service work hours in lieu of fines, for a total value of \$26,672.12. Collections increased this quarter, including expanded use of the ACH card payment system.

## Judicial Outreach and Professional Engagement

The court administered the annual Oath of Office for Shiprock Police Department and Criminal Investigations personnel. Additionally, Honorable Judge Woody engaged in discussions with the Bronx County District Attorney's Office regarding a potential invitation to serve as a distinguished speaker for prosecutors and professional staff, reflecting recognition of judicial leadership.

# SHIPROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 809

## 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.

# 137%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Shiprock Judicial District Court received a total of 475 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 649 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 137%.

# 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.

## Professional Development and Leadership

Honorable Cecelia Tallman attended the 3rd Annual Peacemaking Winter Conference in February 2026. The Court Administrator participated in Dayforce Supervisor Training and the National Association for Court Management Conference, gaining valuable insight into court management, leadership, and community outreach to strengthen public trust and confidence in court operations.

## Workforce Development and Case Management

Tuba City District Court completed and submitted the 2025 Judicial Branch Employee Performance Evaluations on January 30, 2026, with continued emphasis on teamwork and cross-training to support employee development and advance the court’s mission. The court also completed the 2025 Annual Certification of Caseload Study on February 27, 2026, identifying backlog cases including bench warrants, criminal and traffic matters pending service, and family cases pending orders. Staff continue to review, update, and expedite cases in a timely manner.

## Access to Justice Initiatives

With support from the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Office of the Chief Justice, the court is progressing toward a service contract for Probate and Quiet Title pro se presentations and mobile court services to expand access for self-represented litigants.

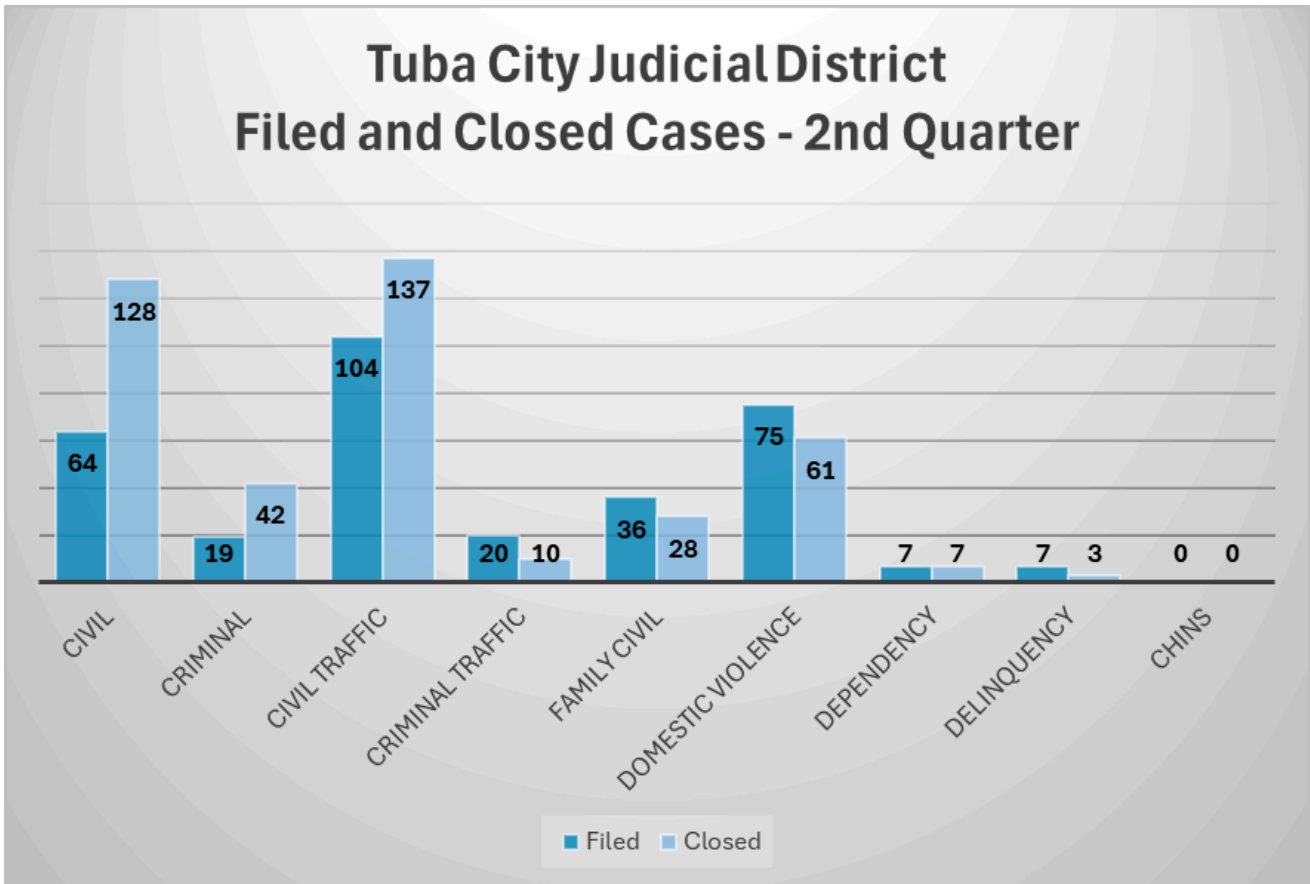
## Judicial Support and Community Engagement

Judge Malcolm Laughing assisted as Circuit Court Judge from December 2025 through March 2026, conducting arraignments and DAPO hearings, which helped manage a high caseload. The court is also collaborating with public safety agencies to plan the annual Public Safety and Justice Day scheduled for May 8, 2026.

## Operational Capacity

Court staff continue monthly meetings to improve services and workflows while operating with limited staffing, with the Court Administrator supporting case management and customer service needs.

# TUBA CITY JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 1,589

## 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.

# 125%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Tuba City Judicial District Court received a total of 332 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 416 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 125%.

# 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.

## **Judicial Operations and Case Management**

The Window Rock Judicial District continues addressing all cases on the court's docket through in-person hearings. The Honorable Judge Malcolm Begay presides over all court matters, with a primary focus on domestic violence, criminal, and dependency cases due to ongoing community needs, which has impacted family civil case scheduling. The court extends appreciation to Judge Malcolm Laughing for his assistance with the domestic violence caseload.

## **Staffing and Workforce Enhancements**

The district strengthened operations by successfully filling key positions, including a Bailiff and a Document Technician, marking the first time in many years the district has had a dedicated Document Technician to support case processing and records management. The Law Clerk position was also filled, and the court welcomed Glenn Edwards to the district. These staffing accomplishments enhance operational efficiency, improve case management support, and strengthen overall service delivery to the public.

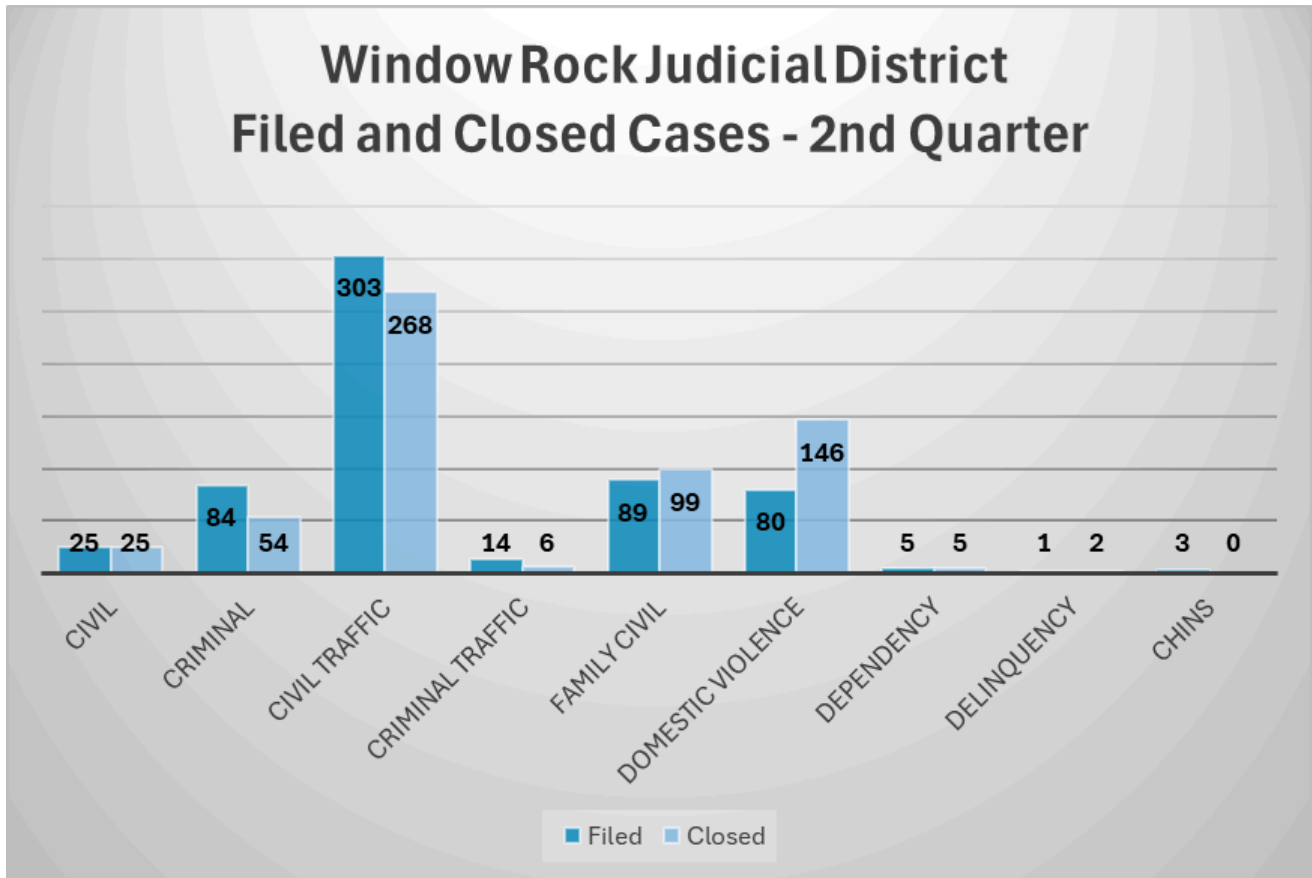
## **Training and Professional Development**

Judge Begay and the Court Administrator attended Dayforce training in Twin Arrows, Arizona. The Court Administrator and Acting Court Administrator also attended the National Association for Court Management Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In addition, Judge Begay provided training to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court's Court Navigators on Quiet Title and Probate proceedings.

## **Court Activity and Operations**

During the quarter, the court conducted 341 Family Court hearings and 274 District Court hearings. Staff also coordinated the relocation of two Connex storage units from Window Rock to Fort Defiance, completing six truckloads of supplies to support operational needs.

# WINDOW ROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT



# 2,390

## 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 2nd quarter, the Window Rock Judicial District Court received a total of 604 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 605 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 100%.

# 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.

## Case Management and Court Operations

Despite the continued closure of the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court during the second quarter of FY2026, the court successfully closed 34 cases, demonstrating steady progress in caseload management. The Judicial Hearing Officer conducted in-person Domestic Violence hearings at the Crownpoint District Court, resulting in 17 additional case closures and contributing to overall district performance.

## Coordination and Administrative Support

The Crownpoint Judicial District Court administration continued coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), addressing financial management, personnel hiring, and vendor support. Court operations remained active through the support of Crownpoint District Court Clerks, the District Judge, and the Judicial Hearing Officer.

## Facility and Reopening Efforts

Preventive maintenance work orders and building assessments are ongoing to support reopening of the facility. Financial documents are being processed to procure necessary materials and services. While progress continues, limited manpower remains a challenge affecting repair timelines.

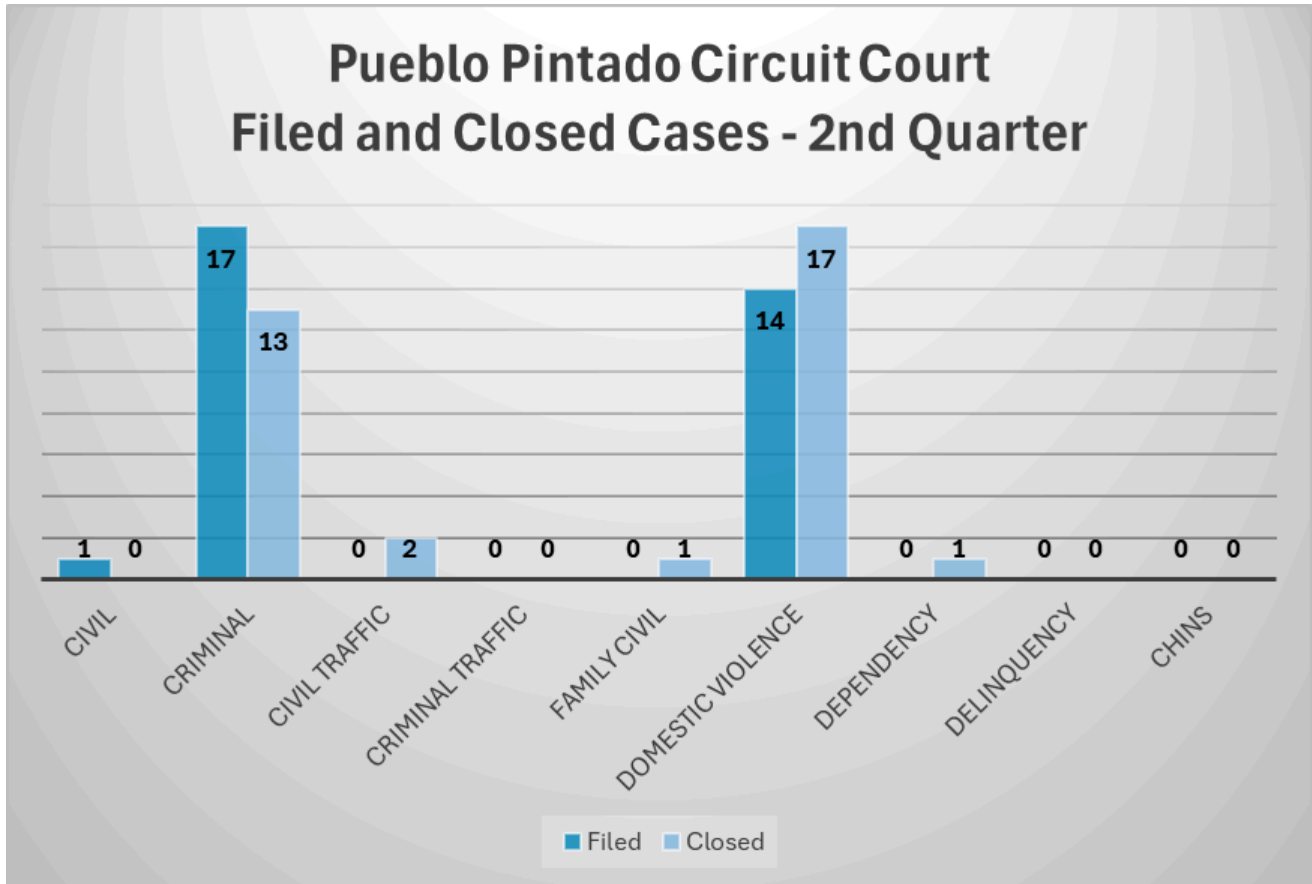
## Staffing and Service Continuity

Recruitment for circuit court clerk positions remains ongoing. In the interim, case processing and new filings continue to be managed to ensure uninterrupted services.

## Goals for the Upcoming Quarter

- Reopen the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court facility and fill vacancies
- Recruit and onboard staff
- Install security camera systems
- Acquire updated courtroom equipment
- Complete mandatory staff safety and operations training
- Provide Probate and Quiet Title education and outreach

# PUEBLO PINTADO CIRCUIT COURT



# 93

## 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.

# 106%

## CLEARANCE RATE

During the 2nd quarter, the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court received a total of 32 new case filings across civil, criminal, traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 34 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 106%.

# 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.

## Human Resources

Human Resources supports Judicial Branch operations through recruitment, hiring, and workforce development. The unit actively advertises vacant positions through multiple platforms, including academic institutions, media outlets, professional organizations, and tribal networks, to attract qualified candidates and strengthen staffing across the Branch.

## Fiscal Services

The Fiscal Services unit provides comprehensive financial support to the Judicial Branch, including budget development, procurement coordination, contract processing, expenditure monitoring, and financial reporting. This unit ensures responsible stewardship of funds and supports operational continuity across all judicial districts and programs.

## Information Technology

The Information Technology unit supports daily court operations by maintaining case management systems, e-filing platforms, courtroom technology, network infrastructure, and secure user access. IT also supports remote and hybrid court operations, system upgrades, cybersecurity safeguards, and technical troubleshooting, ensuring reliable, secure, and efficient delivery of judicial services.

## Facilities and Maintenance

The Facilities and Maintenance unit oversees the construction, maintenance, and improvement of Judicial Branch facilities. Despite limited staffing, the unit completed maintenance and repair assessments for court buildings this quarter and will conduct assessments for Peacemaking, Probation, and Parole Services facilities in the upcoming quarter, supporting safe, functional, and compliant work environments.

# 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.

## Talent Acquisition and Onboarding

The Human Resources Team facilitates the recruitment and onboarding of Judicial Branch employees, coordinating hiring processes, supporting candidate selection, and ensuring smooth transitions for new hires. The team also administers employee compensation and benefits in alignment with established policies and guidelines.

## Workforce Support and Employee Relations

Human Resources provides ongoing support to supervisors and employees on personnel matters, including workplace concerns, disciplinary processes, and grievance procedures. The team promotes a professional work environment grounded in Diné values, emphasizing respect, fairness, and accountability.

## Administrative Services and Employee Development

The unit manages essential human resources operations such as maintaining personnel records, processing employment documentation, and coordinating orientation and training opportunities. These efforts support employee development and help maintain consistent administrative practices across the Judicial Branch.

## Systems Implementation and Policy Advancement

Under the direction of the Chief Justice, Human Resources continues to advance personnel policies and procedures to support Judicial Branch operations. The team is actively supporting the rollout and refinement of the Dayforce system, providing guidance and training to staff while addressing implementation challenges. These efforts aim to strengthen efficiency, improve accuracy in timekeeping and payroll, and ensure the system meets the operational needs of the Judicial Branch.

# 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.

## Financial Management and Accountability

The Fiscal Services Team promotes strong financial stewardship across the Judicial Branch by standardizing practices, processing expenditures efficiently, and ensuring compliance with Navajo Nation and Judicial Branch policies. Ongoing monitoring supports transparency and accountability across courts and programs.

## Procurement and Budget Support

The team coordinates procurement and contracting activities to ensure timely access to goods and services. In collaboration with the Chief Justice, Fiscal Services supports budget development, fund allocation, and ongoing financial management, helping align resources with operational priorities across the Branch.

## Program Funding and Spend-Down Management

Fiscal Services supports districts in implementing Probate and Quiet Title initiatives, with funding actively being utilized to expand public education and access to court services. The team also administers external and special funding sources, including K-accounts, ensuring proper planning, expenditure tracking, and compliance while supporting timely and strategic spend-down.

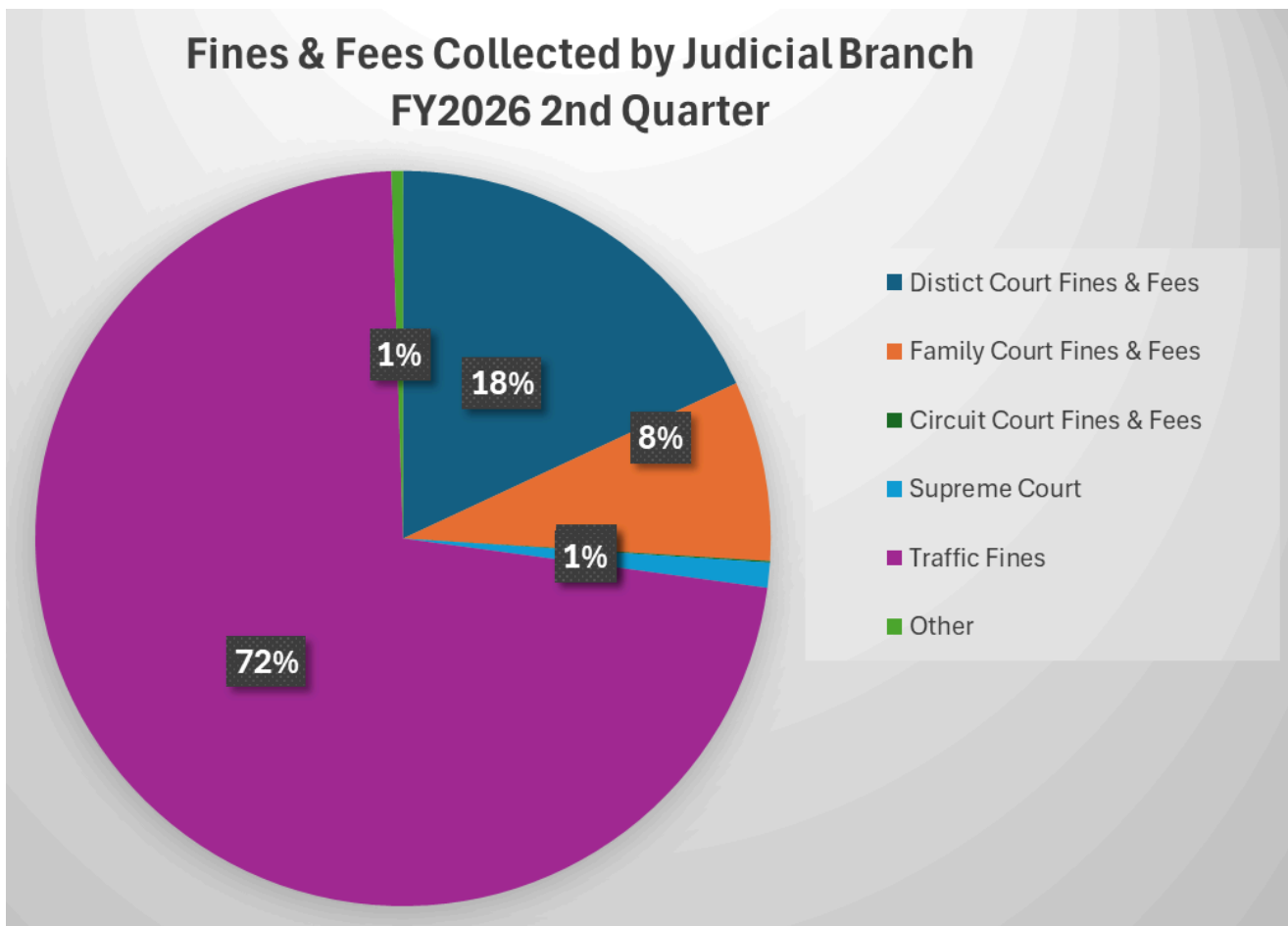
## Staffing Update

The Fiscal Services Team welcomed a new employee this quarter. Cinandre Dolfin has joined as the Budget Analyst and will be responsible for preparing budgets, processing budget revisions, and assisting in other areas of finance. Her addition strengthens the team's capacity to support financial planning and operations across the Judicial Branch.

# Fines and Fees

During the second quarter of FY 2026, the Judicial Branch collected a total of **\$142,481.23** in fines and fees. All funds were deposited into the Navajo Nation General Fund.

These collections reflect the continued diligence and effective efforts of all judicial districts in carrying out their financial responsibilities.



# 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.

## Website Development and Public Access

The IT Team partnered with the Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology (NNDIT) to launch a temporary Judicial Branch website, ensuring continued public access to critical court information. Concurrently, the team is advancing plans for a permanent, modern website designed to enhance usability, accessibility, and communication for both the public and Judicial Branch staff.

## District Court Technical Support

The IT Team continues to provide comprehensive support to all District Courts, including maintenance of network systems, digital recording equipment, conferencing tools, printers, and general hardware and software troubleshooting. Support also includes Microsoft 365 services, DUO multi-factor authentication, and JustWare system configuration to ensure reliable and secure court operations.

## Systems, Projects, and Training

The team remains actively engaged in system modernization efforts, including ongoing collaboration with BerryDunn on the E-Filing and Case Management System projects. Additional initiatives include implementation of VoIP services across district courts, delivery of JustWare training, user account management, and participation in network planning and coordination meetings. The IT Team also continues to support leadership efforts related to NNIJISP initiatives.

## Technology Asset and Infrastructure Management

The IT Team successfully completed equipment inventory efforts across judicial districts using the WASP inventory management system. Ongoing site visits and asset tracking continue to strengthen technology accountability and infrastructure reliability across the Judicial Branch.

# 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.

## Kayenta Judicial Complex Progress

Construction of the Kayenta Judicial Complex continues to advance, with structural development and underground utility installation well underway. The project has reached approximately over 50% completion and remains on schedule.

## Window Rock Peacemaking Administration Building Advancement

The project successfully progressed into the next phase, with procurement activities and 164(B) contract reviews underway. Construction documents are being updated to meet current standards, positioning the project for construction upon final approval.

## Aneth Judicial Complex Development

The Aneth Judicial Complex moved forward under a design-build contract and is actively in the design programming phase. Project planning milestones, including coordination meetings and groundwork activities, support anticipated construction in Summer/Fall 2026.

## Ramah Judicial Complex Planning Progress

The Ramah Judicial Complex advanced into the 164(B) contract review phase, with preparations in place to begin the design phase in Spring 2026.

## Judicial Branch Central Warehouse Initiative

Design-build funding was secured for the Central Warehouse project, allowing procurement to move forward and positioning the project for design completion and construction in 2026.

## Comprehensive Facility Assessment Completed

A branch-wide facility assessment was successfully completed, providing critical insight into building conditions, infrastructure needs, and operational gaps. This accomplishment supports informed decision-making, future capital planning, and long-term facility improvements across the Judicial Branch.

# Key Terms

## **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.

## **Case Management System (CMS)**

The court's internal system used to store, manage, and track case information and documents.

## **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.

## **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.

## **E-File System / E-Filing Platform**

The online application used to upload, submit, track, and manage court filings, including notifications and electronic payment of filing fees.

## **E-Filing (Electronic Filing)**

The secure, court-approved process of submitting legal documents to a court through an online portal rather than in person, by mail, fax, or email.

## **Electronic Confirmation / Receipt**

An automated notice showing that a filing has been successfully submitted or accepted by the court.

## **Filer**

A person or party who submits documents to the court through the e-filing system.

## **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.

## **System Integration**

The automated connection between the e-filing platform and the case management system that allows accepted filings to be recorded without manual data entry.

FISCAL YEAR 2026  
SECOND QUARTER REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2026 - MARCH 31, 2026

APRIL 2026

