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



FISCAL YEAR 2026
THIRD QUARTER REPORT

APRIL 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2026

REPORT DATE: JULY 2026

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nábináhaazláago

Comprehensive Approach

Revitalizing the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch begins and ends with one question: How do we better serve Navajo people? This principle guides our work as we continue strengthening a justice system that is accessible, accountable, and prepared to serve all generations.

In addressing the legal desert facing the Navajo Nation, one of our most recent initiatives is the development of T'áá Shí Ádáasht'í Bá Hooghan (Self-Help Center). This project represents more than a new facility, it is a promise to the Navajo people that justice should not be limited by financial hardship, distance, or uncertainty. As the number of pro se litigants continues to grow due to the lack of attorneys and tribal court advocates on the Navajo Nation, the Judicial Branch is focusing on educating the public. The T'áá Shí Ádáasht'í Bá Hooghan (Self-Help Center) will provide the public with the guidance and resources they need to confidently navigate the court system, expanding meaningful access to justice for all.

As you might have begun to see in your communities, the Judicial Branch is investing in reinvigorating what justice and justice-serving agency looks like with the creation of Judicial Navigators – staff specifically trained to provide legal information focused on probate and quiet title matters. As we seek to expand this funding to other areas (adult and child guardianship, health commitments, correction of records, and name changes), the Judicial Branch is broadening how we serve Navajo people with community pro se clinics that educate the public to better prepare for their court matters while also providing wrap-around services – ensuring that we do not make people sit and wait nor send people away without assistance. These changes are systematic and are only possible due to the support from both the Legislative and Executive Branches.

As we lean into improving access to justice through technology, the Judicial Branch continues to make significant progress toward implementing a modern case management system through the Navajo Nation Integrated Justice Information Sharing Project (NNIJISP). In coordination with our justice partners and through continued collaboration with the Executive and Legislative Branches, we are building a more connected justice system that improves communication, efficiency, and public service. The future implementation of electronic filing (e-Filing) will further remove barriers to the courts, Peacemaking, and Probation and Parole Services by allowing greater accessibility and convenience for those seeking justice across the Navajo Nation.

Our commitment to infrastructure extends beyond technology. We by continue to invest in facilities that strengthen the foundation of our judiciary and demonstrate our long-term commitment to the communities we serve. We are grateful for the continued progress of the Shiprock Judicial Court project and the advancement of the Dilkon Justice Complex. These projects represent lasting investments that will serve our people not only today but for generations to come, providing safe, functional, and welcoming spaces where justice can be administered with dignity and respect.

nábináhaazláago

Comprehensive Approach

In preparing for the FY2027, we remained committed to being responsible stewards of the public's trust. As we completed our fiscal year spend-down plans and prepared the FY2027 budget, every decision was made with the understanding that these are the Navajo people's resources. Our responsibility is not simply to spend wisely, but to invest thoughtfully in initiatives that strengthen our justice systems, improve services, and ensure long-term sustainability for generations to come.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the dedication of our judges, Judicial Branch staff, justice partners, and community stakeholders. Your professionalism, innovation, and unwavering commitment to public service continue to move the Judicial Branch forward.

Together, we are building more than programs, facilities, and technology, we are building public trust. We are creating a judiciary that honors our values, embraces innovation, and ensures that every person has meaningful access to justice. It is an honor to serve the Navajo people, and I remain confident that the work we undertake today will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

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.

Strengthening the Workforce of the Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch continues to enhance workforce capacity and organizational effectiveness through strategic recruitment, professional development, and operational improvements. This quarter, the Judicial Branch filled 14 positions across courts and programs and received a high volume of employment applications, reflecting strong interest in supporting the justice system of the Navajo Nation. Individualized training and development efforts continue to strengthen employee skills, promote professional growth, and support continuity of court operations. These initiatives help ensure a prepared and capable workforce that can respond to the evolving needs of the justice system.

Judicial Districts Initiatives Changing the Look of Justice

Judicial Districts across the Navajo Nation implemented various programming to educate and inform the public about probate and quiet title. Taking the justice systems into chapter houses and other local community venues, court staff provided unique opportunities for the public to learn about court filings, court rules, and processes. These events offered throughout the Navajo Nation, were spearheaded by various court administrators and court staff effectively providing community outreach.

Pro Bono Services: Bringing Relief Through Access to Justice

The Navajo Nation Supreme Court continued to advance access to justice through Administrative Order No. 01-2026, establishing a pilot initiative that provides free Probate and Quiet Title assistance in exchange for a one-time exemption from Pro Bono appointments. The pilot was launched during Justice Day at the Crystal Chapter House on May 4, 2026, where eight volunteer attorneys assisted 58 community members with Probate and Quiet Title matters. Participation from individuals across the Navajo Nation highlighted the significant need for these legal services and the importance of expanding access to justice.

The success of the initiative reflects the leadership of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court and the collaborative efforts of the Office of Pro Bono Services, members of the Navajo Nation Bar Association, and the Judicial Navigators. Volunteer attorneys provided legal guidance and document preparation, while Judicial Navigators assisted participants throughout the process and connected them with available resources. The impact of the event was best captured by one participant, who shared in a post-event survey that Justice Day was "a long time coming, a breath of relief. Help is coming and we feel relieved." This feedback reflects the meaningful difference the initiative made in the lives of community members and reinforces the Judicial Branch's commitment to expanding access to justice, strengthening public confidence, and ensuring legal services remain accessible to the Navajo people.

T'áá Shí Ádáásht'í Bá Hooghan (Self-Help Center) Judicial Navigators

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation extends its sincere appreciation to the Navajo Nation Council for its investment in expanding access to justice through the establishment of T'áá Shí Ádáásht'í Bá Hooghan (Self-Help Center). This funding made it possible to hire four Judicial Navigators dedicated to assisting the public, with an initial focus on Probate and Quiet Title services. Following extensive training with Judicial Branch programs, district courts, and justice and community partners, the Judicial Navigators quickly began assisting community members through pro se clinics, one-on-one guidance, and referrals to available legal resources.

As renovation of the Self-Help Center continues toward its anticipated September opening, the Judicial Navigators are already making a meaningful impact by helping individuals understand court processes, complete Probate and Quiet Title forms, and access available services. Community members may also receive assistance year-round through the toll-free number: (855) 462-8256, or by email at selfhelp@navajo-nsn.gov. In August, the Judicial Navigators will host two Pro Se Clinics each week in chapters throughout the Navajo Nation, ensuring communities have greater access to justice regardless of their location. Their dedication reflects the Judicial Branch's commitment to bringing court services directly to the people and strengthening access to justice for future generations.

Niha Áłchíní Bééńlñiih (Remembering Our Children)

The Peacemaking Program successfully hosted the 2nd Annual Summer Youth Conference, “Niha Áłchíní Bééńlñiih-Remembering our Children” at the Chinle High School Gymnasium on June 24-25, 2026. A total of 146 youth participated in this meaningful gathering, where they received invaluable traditional knowledge, cultural teachings, and guidance centered on identity, resilience, and the importance of maintaining strong connections to their heritage. The conference provided a safe and engaging environment for youth to learn from respected knowledge keepers, build relationships with their peers, and strengthen their understanding of Navajo values and traditions.

The Peacemaking Program staff and all presenters, mentors, and community contributors who dedicated their time, energy, and wisdom to making this event a success are a great asset to their communities. Their commitment to sharing teachings, encouraging youth, and fostering cultural awareness played an important role in creating a memorable experience for all participants. Through their continued efforts, the program continues to empower the next generation by promoting healing, respect, and the preservation of traditional knowledge for years to come.

KEY TERMS IN THE JUDICIARY

CASE MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS

Pro Bono Clinic

An event where Navajo Nation Bar members volunteer their time to provide free legal services to individuals who qualify based on established eligibility criteria. Services may include legal advice and document preparation.

Pro Se Clinic

An event designed to assist individuals who choose to represent themselves in court without an attorney. The clinic provides guidance on court procedures, forms, and filing requirements but does not provide legal advice or representation.

Infographics

Visual tools that present information or data in a clear and easy-to-understand format using graphics, charts, icons, and concise text. They are used to educate the public about court services, legal processes, and judicial programs.

Stat Dashboard

An interactive display of judicial data and performance metrics that provides users with access to statistical information, trends, and reports. It supports transparency, informed decision-making, and monitoring of court operations.

Legal Information

General facts, resources, and educational materials about laws, court procedures, and available services. It is intended to help individuals understand the legal system but does not recommend specific actions or interpret how the law applies to a person's situation.

Legal Advice

Guidance provided by licensed legal counsel that applies the law to an individual's specific facts or circumstances and recommends a particular course of action. Legal advice establishes an attorney-client relationship only under appropriate legal and ethical standards and cannot be provided by court personnel or Judicial Navigators.



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 Diné 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 & Workforce Development

The Program strengthened operational capacity by filling the vacant Traditional Program Specialist (TPS) position in Window Rock and advancing recruitment efforts in Chinle, where a candidate was interviewed and the position is expected to be filled soon. Recruitment continues for the remaining TPS vacancies in Crownpoint and Dilkon, as well as the Office Technician position.

Youth Engagement & Community Outreach

The Program successfully hosted its 2nd Annual Summer Youth Conference on June 24–25, 2026, in partnership with Workforce Development. The conference welcomed 79 youth participants on the first day and 67 on the second, providing Diné traditional teachings, cultural activities, and educational programming that promoted leadership and cultural values.

Professional Development

The Program provided Diné Fundamental Law and Traditional Work Ethics presentations during Judicial Branch New Hire Orientations and conducted a two-day training on quarterly reporting and Peacemaker utilization, strengthening reporting consistency, program knowledge, and service delivery.

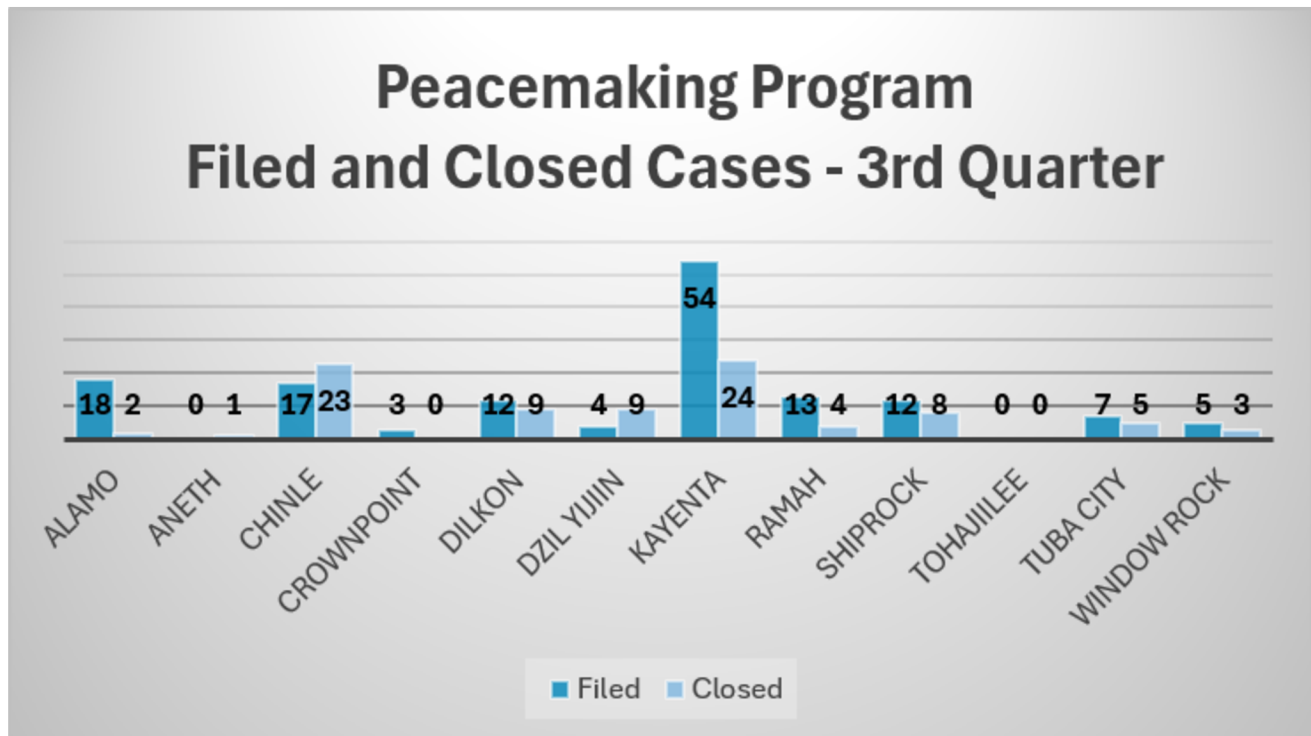
Service Delivery

During the quarter, the Program received 141 total cases, including 42 Peacemaking, 76 Life Value Engagement, and 23 Diné Family Group Conferencing cases. Of these, 134 were referrals and 7 were walk-ins, demonstrating continued community engagement and accessibility.

Quarterly Accomplishments

The Program strengthened workforce capacity, invested in staff development, expanded youth outreach through collaborative partnerships, and maintained consistent service delivery across the Navajo Nation. These accomplishments reflect the Program's continued commitment to supporting communities and advancing the mission of the Judicial Branch.

PEACEMAKING PROGRAM



100

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

This quarter, the Peacemaking Program received a total of 145 new filed cases. The Peacemaking Program closed 88 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 61%.

Probation and Parole Services

Navajo Nation Probation and Parole Services (PPS) 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

- Close out and procure final allocated budget for FY 2026
- Hire and orientate incoming probation staff
- Continue strategic alignment meetings, secure transparency and track case assignments.
- Facilitate and attend the annual PPS “Train the Trainer” Seminar.

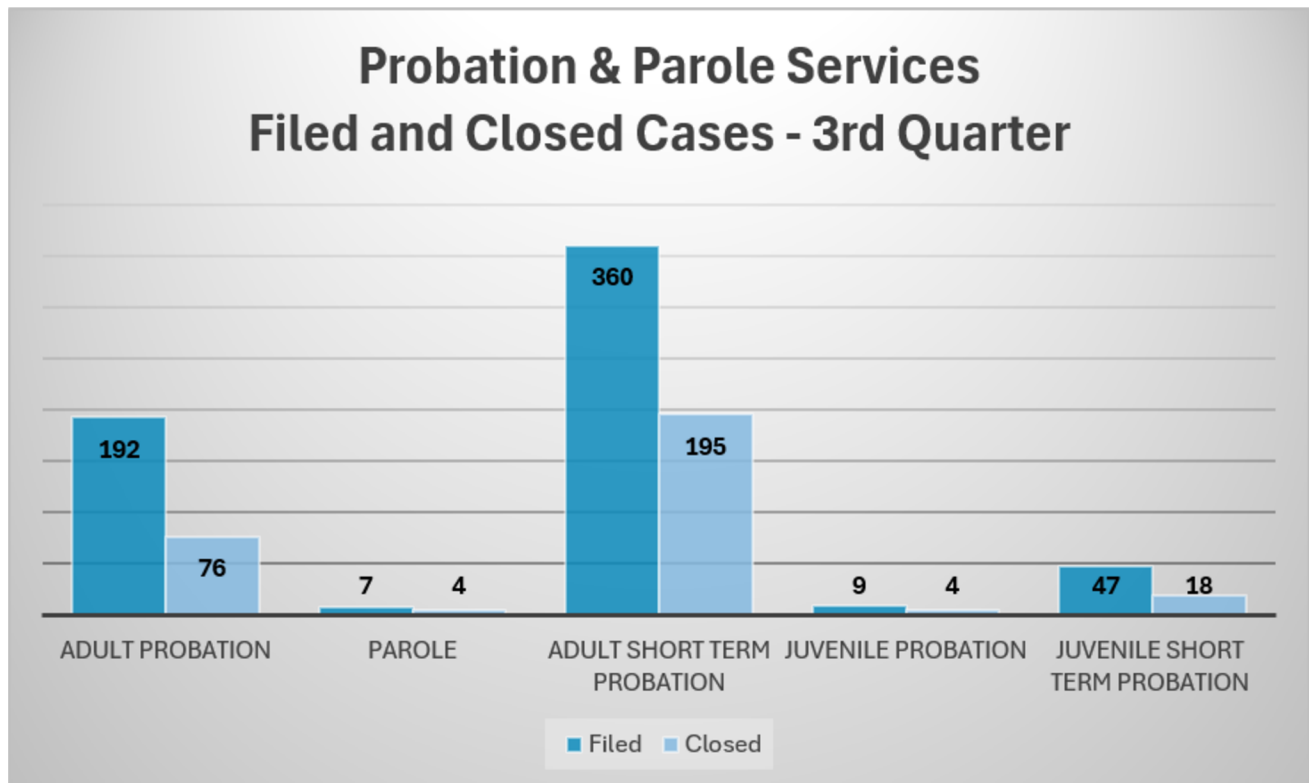
Objectives met from Previous Quarter

- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and PPS management team completed and submitted the FY2027 Budget and an Unmet Needs Budget.
- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and the PPS management team welcomed and oriented three new probation staff.
- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and Senior Probation Officers conducted and successfully completed the second bi-annual case reviews.
- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and PPS management team coordinated and are prepared to proceed with the annual “Train the Trainer” Seminar for Probation staff.

Significant Accomplishments

- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and PPS management team oriented the Judicial Branch Navigators regarding indigency applications and their duties and responsibilities.
- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and the PPS management team interviewed three prospective PPS applicants from Kayenta, Crownpoint and Shiprock.
- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and PPS management team planned and coordinated to expedite approximately 40% of budget expenses for the third quarter.
- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair, PPS management team and support staff worked diligently on revisions to the Standard Operating Procedures – Juvenile section of the manual.
- Planning a training session using the Office Technician training curriculum for OT’s and PPS.
- Chief Probation Officer Yellowhair and PPS management oversee the daily operations of PPS while actively cultivating a working environment that encourages new ideas for growth and efficiency.

PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES



896

PENDING CASES

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

48%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, Probation and Parole Services received a total of 615 new filed cases. Probation and Parole Services closed 297 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 48%.

Role of the Supreme Court

- Appellate jurisdiction over trial court decision
- 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 Nation Bar Association
- Authority to approve all new and revised rules, pleadings, and forms of the Navajo Nation courts

Role of the Judicial District Courts

Each Judicial District includes two courts: a District Court and a Family Court. Although both courts operate within the same Judicial District, each has distinct jurisdiction, authority, and responsibilities for resolving different types of legal matters.

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:

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



Supreme Court

Honorable Eleanor Shirley, Interim Chief Justice

Honorable William J.J. Platero, Acting Associate Justice *(Temporarily assigned)*

Honorable Robert Yazzie
Recalled Justice

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.



Strengthening Legal Services

This quarter, the Supreme Court swore in and admitted 11 individuals to the NN Bar Association, strengthening the legal profession and enhancing the delivery of legal services throughout the Navajo Nation. The Supreme Court also opened 95 cases, closed 27 cases, and maintained an active caseload of 288 matters.

Strengthening Government Leadership and Intergovernmental Collaboration

This quarter, Chief Justice Shirley administered the oath of office to seven elected officials representing all five agencies, reaffirming the Court's role in supporting the orderly transition of leadership and the rule of law. Chief Justice Shirley also appointed Helen Brown, Compliance Officer as the Judicial Branch Representative to the Navajo Nation Insurance Commission, strengthening intergovernmental collaboration.

Enhancing Judicial Administration

The Judicial Branch welcomed Shaniya Logg as the Government Affairs Director, expanding the branch's capacity to support governmental affairs. Chief Justice Shirley also issued Administrative Order No. 22-2026, amending the Judicial Branch's performance management step increase procedures to provide supervisors with clear guidance for employees serving in acting-status positions for more than six months.

Expanding Public Access to Justice

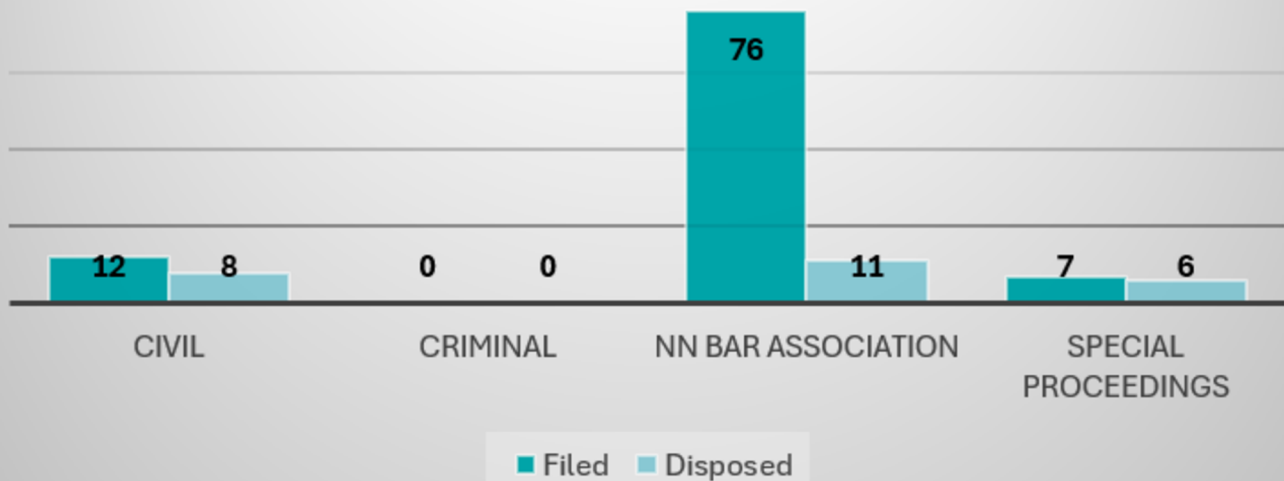
The Office of the Chief Justice and Judicial Navigators successfully supported Pro Se Probate and Quiet Title Clinics in the Piñon, Aneth, and Ramah Judicial Districts, expanding access to court services for community members. The Supreme Court also completed the digitization and archival of 7,866 opinions, memorandum decisions, and orders issued between March 1984 and June 2026, preserving decades of Judicial Branch records and improving public access to legal resources.

Strengthening Access to Justice

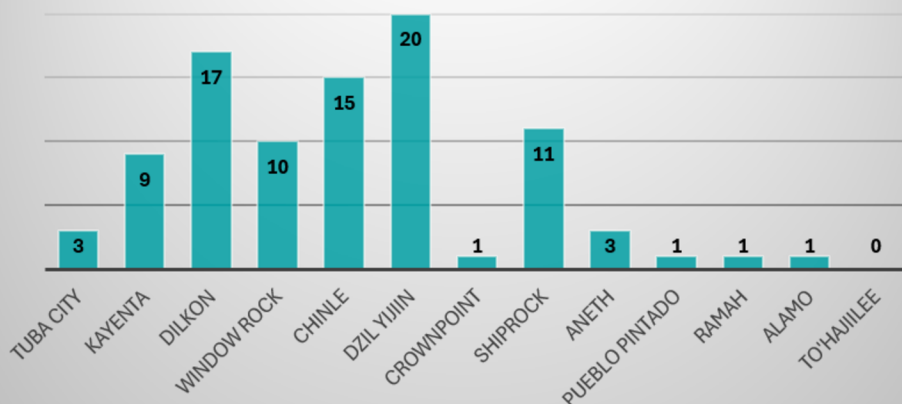
The Office of Pro Bono Services reviewed and assigned 92 pro bono appointments during the quarter, connecting eligible individuals with legal representation and reinforcing the Judicial Branch's commitment to accessible and equitable justice services.

SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Filed & Disposed Cases - 3rd Quarter



Pro Bono Appointments by District



92

PRO BONO APPOINTMENTS

This quarter, the Supreme Court facilitated 92 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

Lauren A. Billy, Court Administrator

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 the 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 Operational Support

Warren Vicente successfully completed his 90-day introductory period and attained permanent status as the Alamo District Court Custodian. The Court Administrator and Staff Attorney completed interviews and submitted a hiring recommendation for the vacant Office Technician position in Crownpoint. To ensure uninterrupted court operations, Alamo District Court personnel continued providing rotational support to the Tó'hajiilee District Court, maintaining essential services while recruitment efforts remain ongoing.

Community Outreach and Public Engagement

The Alamo District Court successfully hosted its annual Justice Day celebration, bringing together community members, partners, and court leadership to promote public understanding of the judicial system. Through educational presentations, distinguished guest speakers, and a community Fun Run/Walk, the event strengthened public engagement, fostered community partnerships, and highlighted the Court's commitment to accessible and community-centered justice.

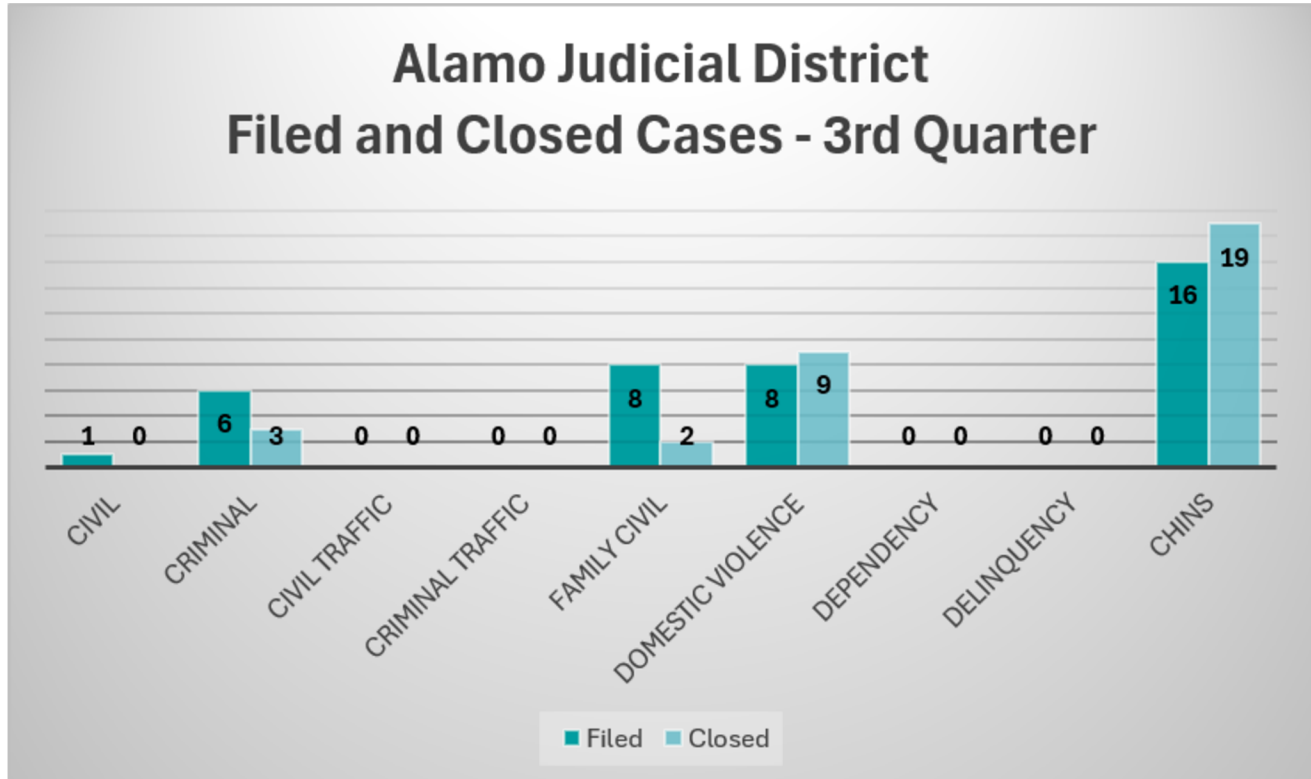
Professional Development and Leadership

Staff Attorneys conducted case management refresher training for Court Clerks, reinforcing filing procedures, case processing, and timely case management practices. Additionally, the Alamo Court Administrator successfully completed the National Judicial College's Court Administration Academy, further strengthening court leadership and administrative expertise.

Quarterly Accomplishments

The Alamo District Court strengthened operations through strategic staffing, cross-district collaboration, professional development, and community outreach. These efforts enhanced service continuity, improved operational efficiency, and reinforced the Court's commitment to serving the public.

ALAMO DISTRICT AND FAMILY COURTS



31

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.

85%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Alamo Judicial District Court received a total of 39 new case filings across civil, criminal, family civil, domestic violence, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 33 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 85%.

Tó'hajiilee District and Family Courts

Honorable Leonard Livingston

Temporarily assigned

Lauren A. Billy, 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 the 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 Tó'hajiilee District Court experienced a Court Clerk vacancy, and the position is currently being advertised, with interviews anticipated during the fourth quarter. To address the ongoing vacancies in two Court Clerk positions, Alamo District Court Clerks and the Office Technician have been rotating assignments to provide clerking and operational support at the Tó'hajiilee District Court. These collaborative staffing efforts have ensured continuity of court operations and uninterrupted access to judicial services while recruitment efforts continue.

Annual Justice Day Festivities

The Tó'hajiilee District Court successfully hosted their annual Justice Day celebration to promote public awareness of the judicial system and strengthen community engagement. This event featured distinguished guest speakers and community Fun Run/Walk that encouraged public participation and healthy lifestyles.

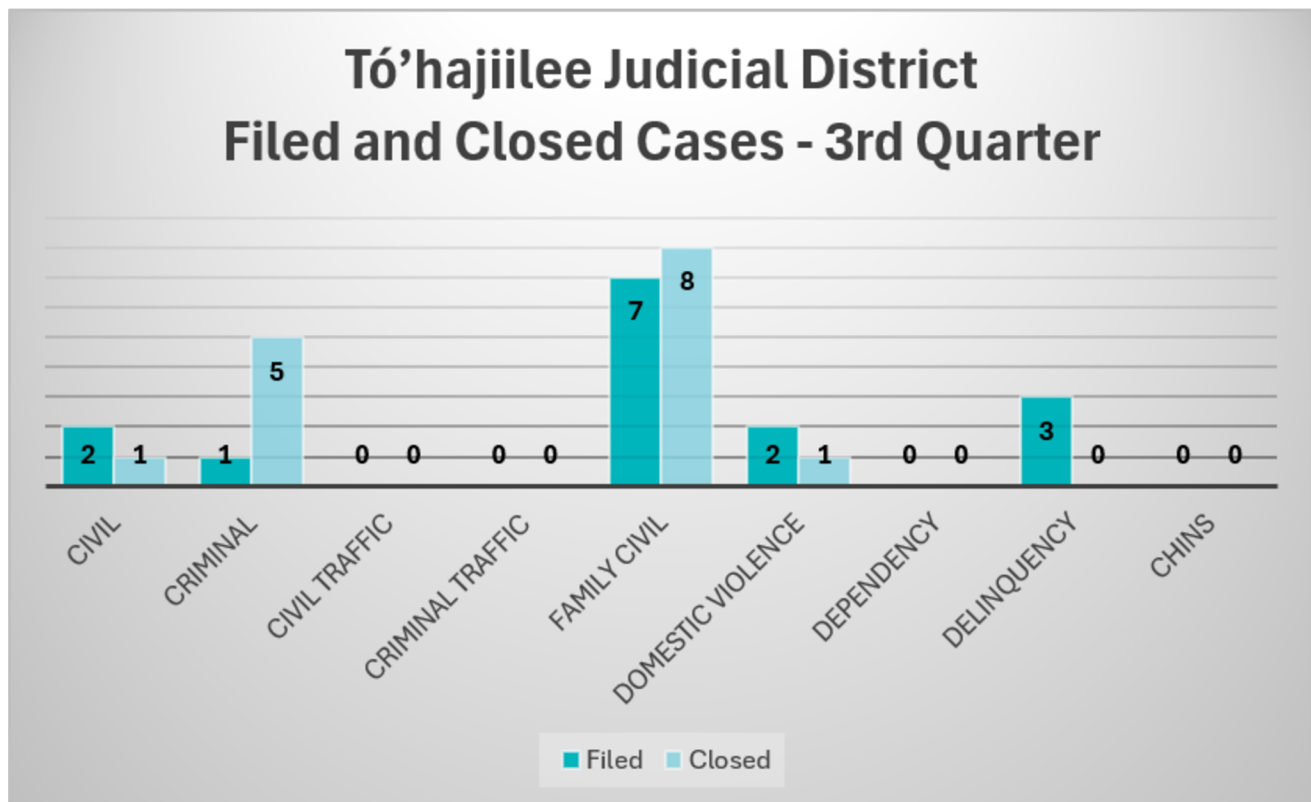
Professional Development

Tó'hajiilee District Court Staff Attorneys conducted case management refresher trainings for the Court Clerks to reinforce case processing procedures, filing requirements, and timely case management practices. The training enhanced staff knowledge and promoted consistency and efficiency in court operations.

Overall Performance

Despite ongoing District Court vacancies, the Tó'hajiilee District Court continues to provide dedicated services to the community while advancing professional development efforts. The Court also continues to strengthen collaboration with Probation Services to address transportation challenges and support effective judicial services.

TÓ'HAJIILEE 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.

100%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Tó'hajiilee District and Family Court received a total of 15 new case filings across civil, criminal, family civil, domestic violence, and delinquency matters. The Court closed 15 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 100%.

Aneth Judicial District

Honorable Irene Black

Bryan Parrish, 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 the 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 Improvement

The programming and design phase for the Aneth Court building are now complete. Keyah, LLC. is currently working with NTUA to finalize the necessary approvals and cost estimates, paving the way to begin construction soon.

Resolving Case Backlog

The court is dedicated to reducing the case backlog for Probate and Quiet title cases. Despite the presiding Judge encountering scheduling conflicts, the Aneth District Court team remains fully focused on prioritizing case resolutions.

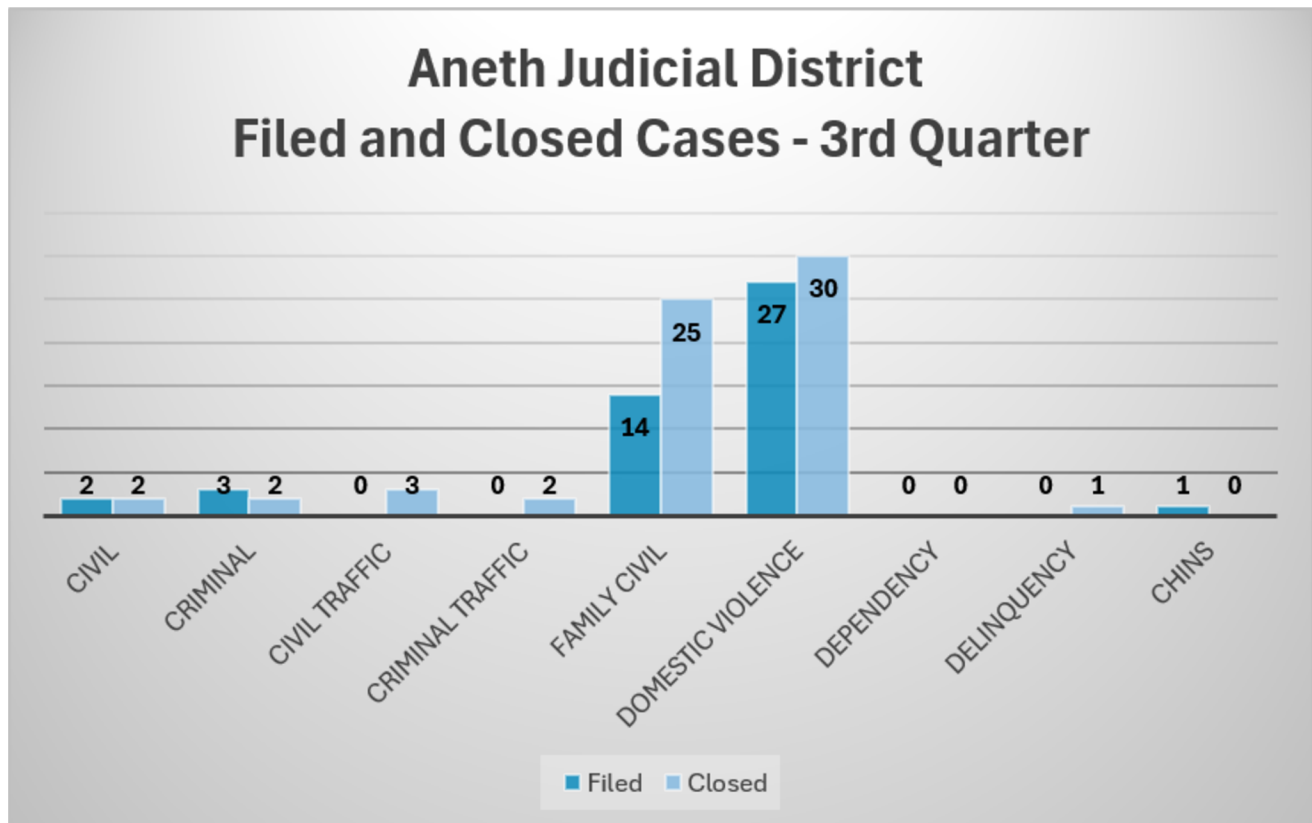
Expanding Access to Justice

The Aneth District Court made significant progress in expanding access to justice through a series of Pro Se Probate and Quiet Title Clinics led by Staff Attorney Mahlon Wigton. Clinics were successfully conducted in Aneth, Teec Nos Pos, Tolikan, and Red Mesa Chapters, providing community members with legal information, court forms, and direct assistance in navigating the probate and quiet title process. The initiative has strengthened public access to court services, increased outreach to rural communities, and supports the Judicial Branch's commitment to making justice more accessible. The final clinic sessions are scheduled for July 10 and July 24, 2026, at the Mexican Water Chapter.

Objectives for Next Quarter

- The court is working on reconciling expenditures for the FY2026 budget. Concurrently, the Aneth Court Administrator and Judge are diligently working to finalize the court's budget for the upcoming FY2027.
- The District hopes to collaborate with the Aneth Chapter to seek potential avenues for cost sharing of infrastructure into the 24-acre site.
- The District Court will continuously review physical files to maintain consistency with JustWare records. They provide direct support to the presiding judge to streamline docketing matters whenever she is in Aneth, Utah.

ANETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



340

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.

138%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Aneth District and Family Court received a total of 47 new case filings across civil, criminal, family civil, domestic violence, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 65 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 138%.

Chinle Judicial District

Honorable Cynthia Thompson
Vanessa Mescal, 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 the 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

Judge Thompson and the Court Administrator attended the annual Navajo Nation Bar Association conference, completing continuing legal education on a range of legal topics, including child support, domestic violence, habeas corpus, and artificial intelligence in the legal profession. The Court Administrator was also selected for the D365 Finance & Supply Chain Management Train-the-Trainer Program to support the Navajo Nation's upcoming financial system implementation. As part of this role, the Court Administrator will help train department users during the system rollout.

Community Impact

Chinle Judicial District successfully hosted Chinle Justice Day, bringing together students, community members, and partner agencies for public education and outreach. Court staff presented educational sessions, supported DNA Legal Services' pro se legal assistance clinic, while participating agencies shared resources and community services. Judge Thompson led the Save Our Student initiative, focusing on expanding treatment resources, strengthening collaboration among service providers, students, and parents, and planning a community conference to promote student well-being and parental engagement.

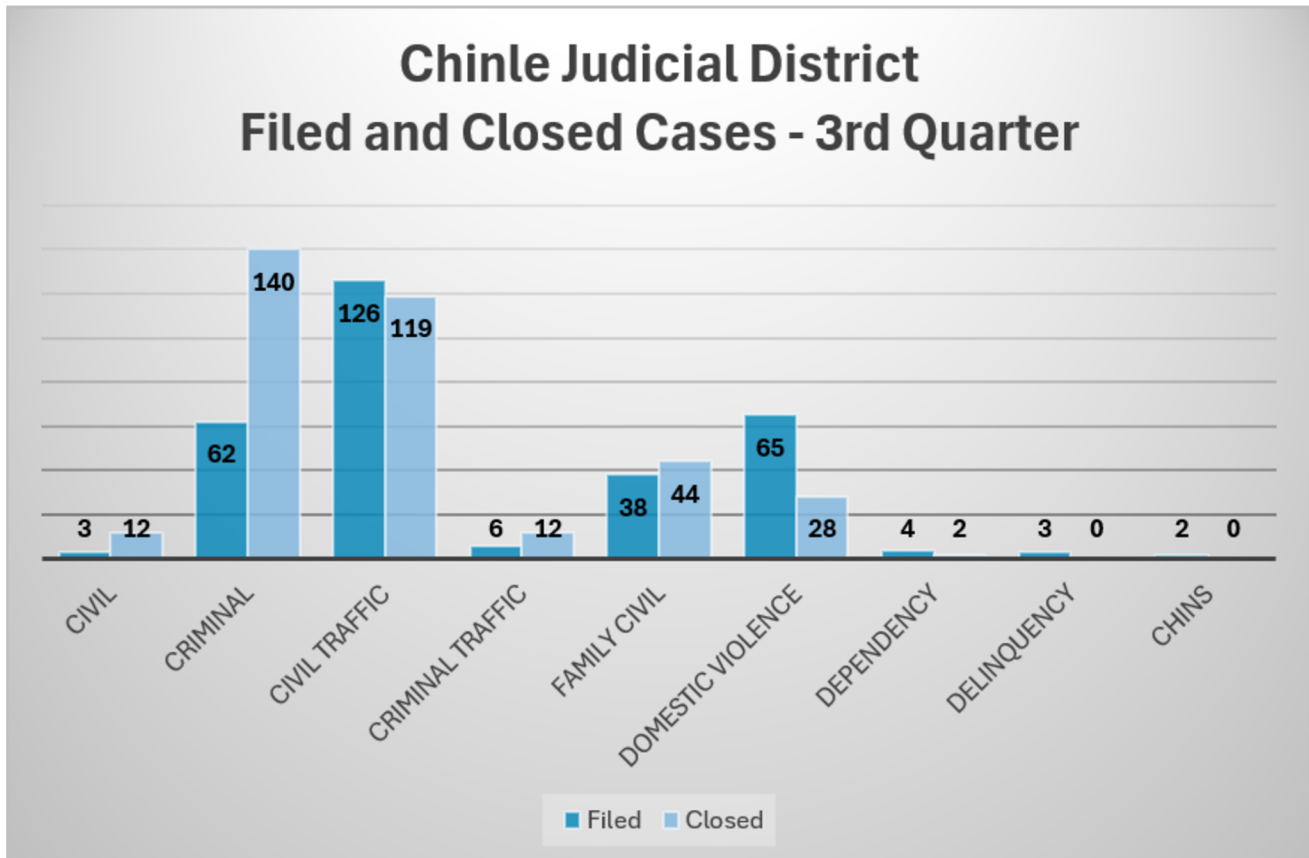
Budget Planning Underway

Preparations for the FY2027 budget commenced during the quarter. The court's operational needs were presented to the Interim Chief Justice, projected budget estimates based on the previous three fiscal years' expenditures were submitted to the Fiscal Department, and an unmet needs budget request was completed.

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.

CHINLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT



845

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.

116%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Chinle District and Family Court received a total of 309 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, criminal traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, delinquency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 357 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 116%.

Crownpoint Judicial District

Honorable Leonard Livingston
Jamie S. Mike, 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 the 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

The Crownpoint Judicial District filled two vacant positions, hiring an Office Technician and a District Court Clerk. Court staff participated in a variety of professional development sessions aimed at enhancing court operations and improving access to justice. Training topics included computer systems, general office safety, and community awareness on Narcan administration and opioid overdose response.

Court Operations

The Crownpoint Judicial District successfully closed **380** court cases, demonstrating continued efficiency in case management. The Judicial Hearing Officer conducted in-person hearings for Domestic Violence resulting in the closure of **95** cases.

Community Outreach

The Crownpoint District Court scheduled the Probate and Quiet Title education in the Eastern Navajo communities for the next quarter. Radio ads are being aired locally.

Challenges and Infrastructure Needs

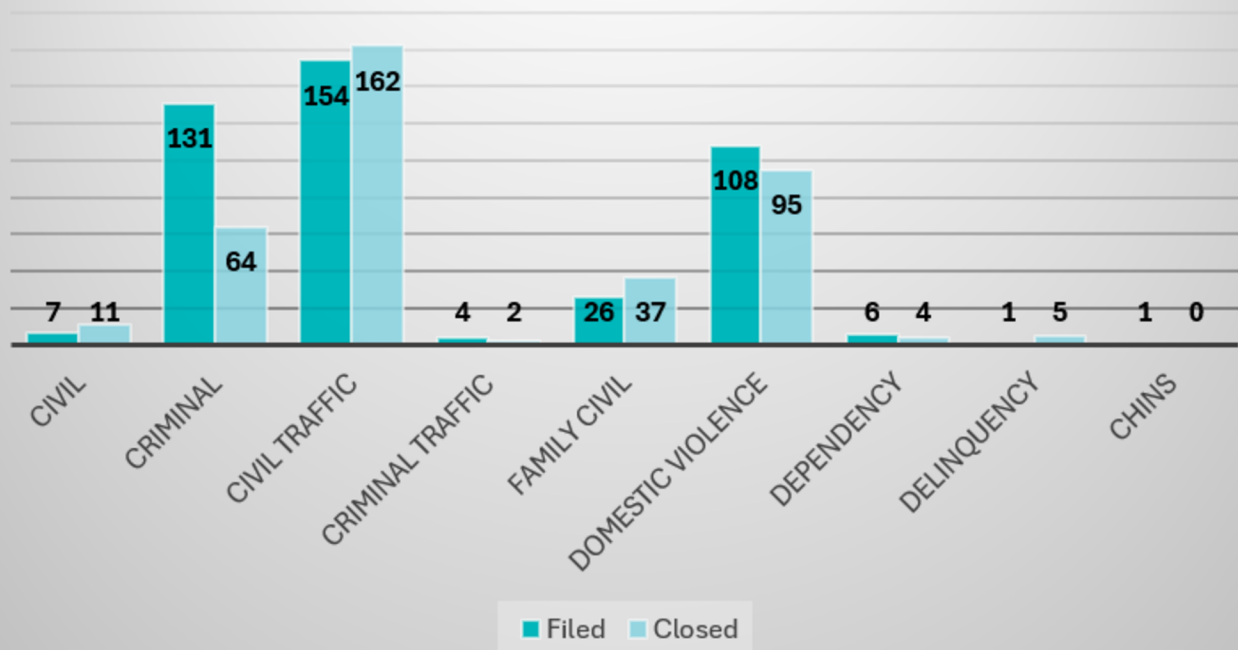
The Crownpoint Judicial District continues to work with BIA Facility Maintenance to address facility-related work orders and maintenance needs. The court continues to experience internet connectivity issues, requiring reliable backup solutions to ensure uninterrupted operations, and upgraded courtroom audio equipment is needed to improve communication and accessibility. Additionally, the demolition of the old Crownpoint Courthouse and Judicial Housing Complex remains a critical infrastructure priority to reduce liability and support future development.

Looking Ahead

The Crownpoint Judicial District continues to maintain close coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for funding, expenditures, and operational priorities. This supports key initiatives including facility and infrastructure projects, hiring and retention efforts, and increased case closures. The court also continues to strengthen partnerships with justice system stakeholders while supporting mandatory staff training and ongoing probate and quiet title education within the district.

CROWNPOINT JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**Crownpoint Judicial District
Filed and Closed Cases - 3rd Quarter**



1,112

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.

87%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Crownpoint Judicial District Court received a total of 436 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, criminal traffic, family civil, domestic violence, and dependency matters. The Court closed 380 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 87%.

Dilkon Judicial District

Honorable Victor Clyde

Darlene LaFrance, 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 the 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

The Dilkon Judicial District continues to reduce its case backlog through proactive case management, including probate and quiet title matters, in alignment with the Chief Justice's directives. The court closed more cases than were filed, demonstrating continued progress toward improving case processing efficiency.

Professional Development

Court staff participated in quarterly in-service training focused on probate and quiet title procedures, and Pro Se forms, including updates from NN Land Management. Judge Clyde attended a judicial conference, administered several Oaths of Office, and presented at the Social Service Conference. Staff also completed training on Dayforce, budget processes, new employee orientation, and other Judicial Branch professional development initiatives.

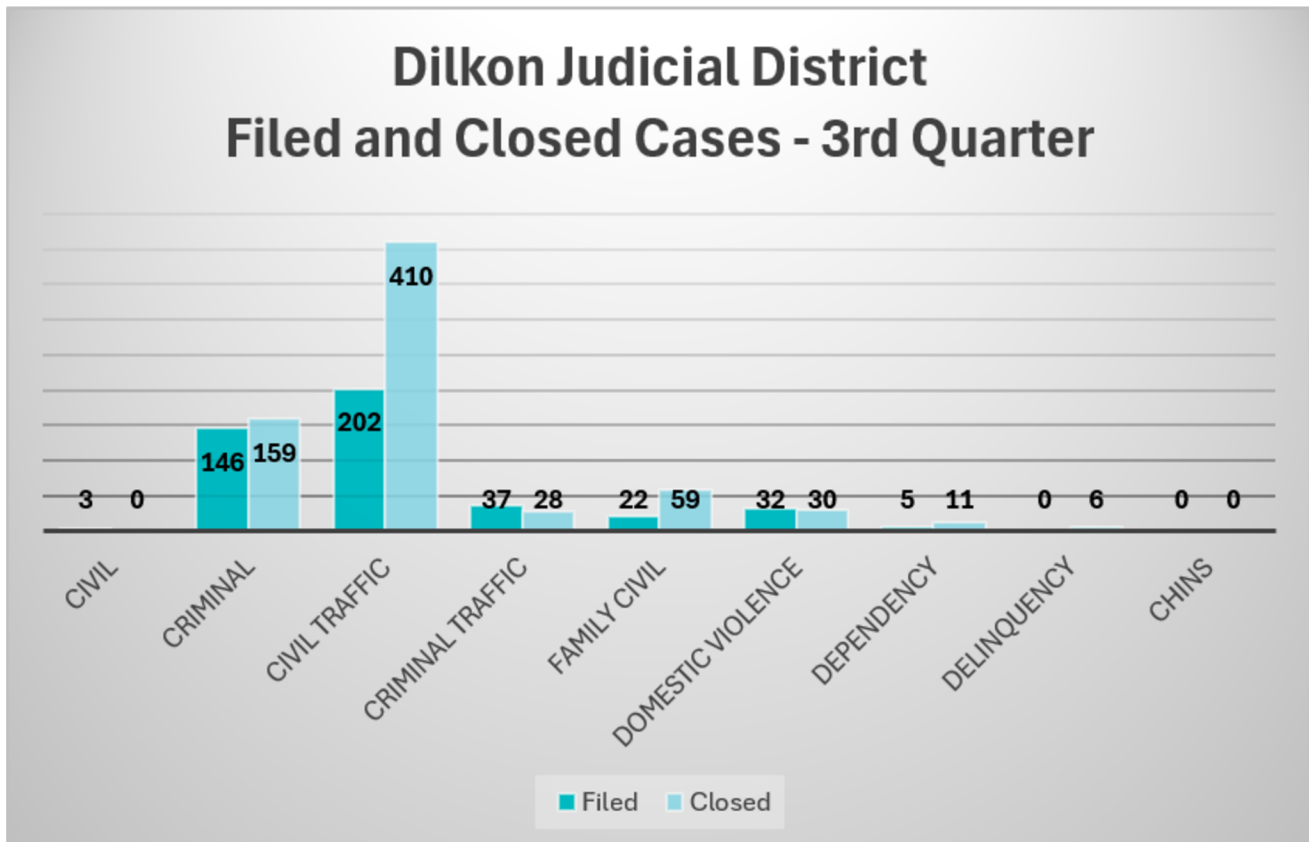
Judicial Administration and Dayforce

Effective April 6, 2026, under Administrative Order, Judge Clyde began serving both Dilkon and Ramah Judicial Districts. The court also continues working through challenges associated with the implementation of the Dayforce system, which has affected local administrative processes. Despite the challenge, staff remain committed to ensuring a smooth transition as the system moves toward full implementation.

Facility Improvements

The courthouse roof replacement remains ongoing, with partial completion achieved during the quarter. While four of the planned thirteen HVAC units have been installed, additional funding is needed to complete the remaining work. Completing these facility improvements remains a significant infrastructure priority for the district.

DILKON JUDICIAL DISTRICT



2,054 157%

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.

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Dilkon Judicial District Court received a total of 447 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, criminal traffic, family civil, domestic violence, and dependency matters. The Court closed 703 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 157%.

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 the 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.

Expanding Judicial Services

The Dził Yíjín Judicial District continued providing accessible judicial services through in-person, videoconference, and telephonic hearings, ensuring timely access to the courts. The Presiding Judge also supported court-wide operations by assisting other judicial districts through assignments from the Chief Justice. In addition, the Judicial Hearing Officer continued presiding over Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) hearings, enhancing the district's ability to manage cases efficiently.

Professional Development and Leadership

Court staff participated in professional development opportunities, including the DNR Expo Conference, Justice and Law Day events, and Human Resources' New Employee Orientation. The Court Administrator also successfully completed the National Judicial College's Court Administration Academy, strengthening leadership capacity and advancing best practices in judicial administration.

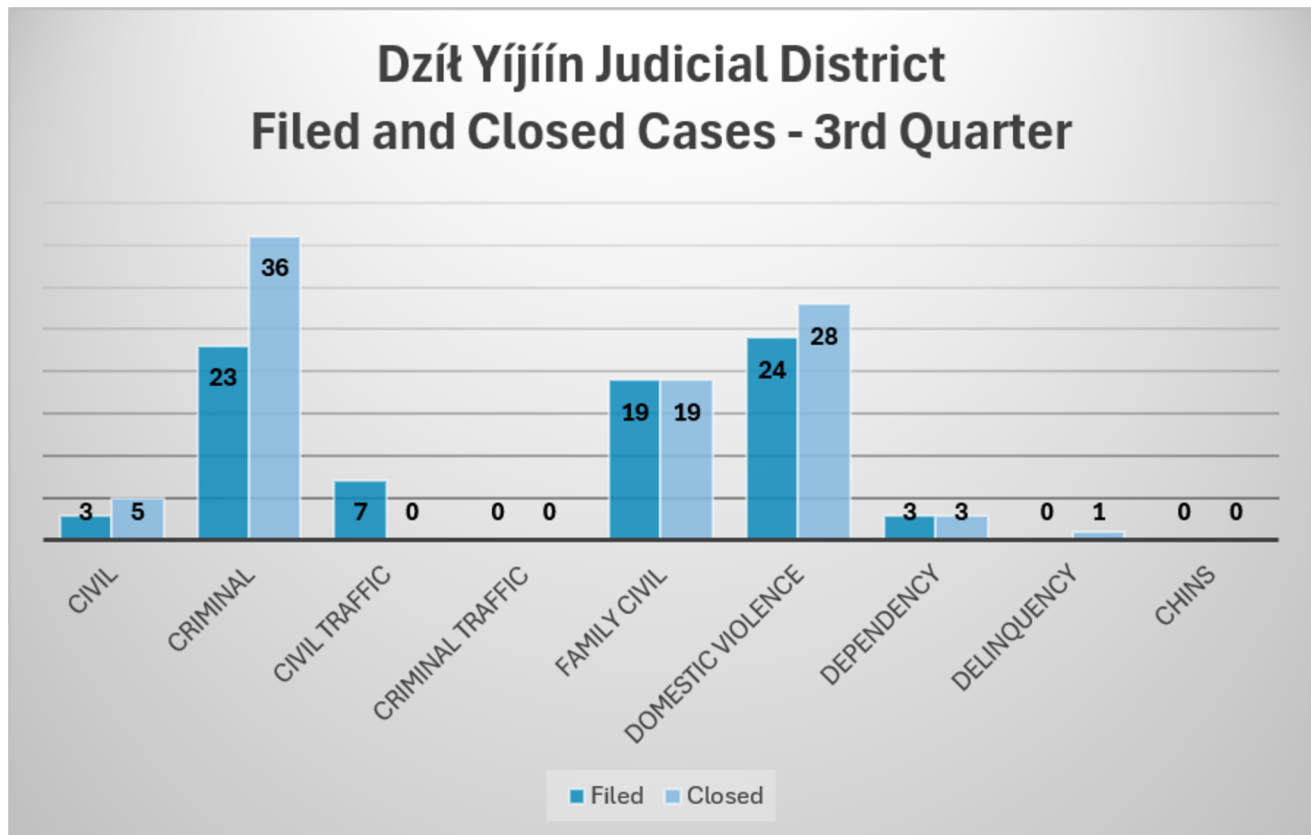
Operational Excellence

The Court Administrator continued providing effective leadership in daily court operations, case management, financial oversight, budget development, and staff coordination. She collaborated with the Chief Justice on strategic planning, participated in management meetings, and coordinated a Probate and Quiet Title Pro Se Clinic in partnership with DNA People's Legal Services, expanding access to justice for community members.

Facility and Security Enhancements

The District Court completed the installation of perimeter fencing around the courthouse, a significant infrastructure improvement that enhanced the safety and security of staff, visitors, court property, and judicial facilities.

DZİŁ YÍJÍÍN JUDICIAL DISTRICT



228

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.

116%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Dzıl Yíjín Judicial District Court received a total of 79 new case filings across civil, criminal, family civil, domestic violence, and dependency matters. The Court closed 92 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 116%.

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 the 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.

Community Outreach and Public Education

The Kayenta Judicial District hosted a successful Justice Day in April, focused on public education and awareness of judicial services. The event featured legal information sessions, homesite lease and probate presentations, service provider booths, and a free community luncheon. The event strengthened connections between the court, community members, and available service providers.

Professional Development

Four district court clerks participated in the 2026 Arizona Courts Association Spring Conference in Tucson, Arizona, to enhance their professional skills and court knowledge. Training topics included court operations, effective communication, conflict management, and e-filing practices. Judge Stover and Judicial Hearing Officer Dorothea Denetsosie also attended the 2026 Navajo Nation Bar Association Annual Conference for networking, continuing legal education, and professional development.

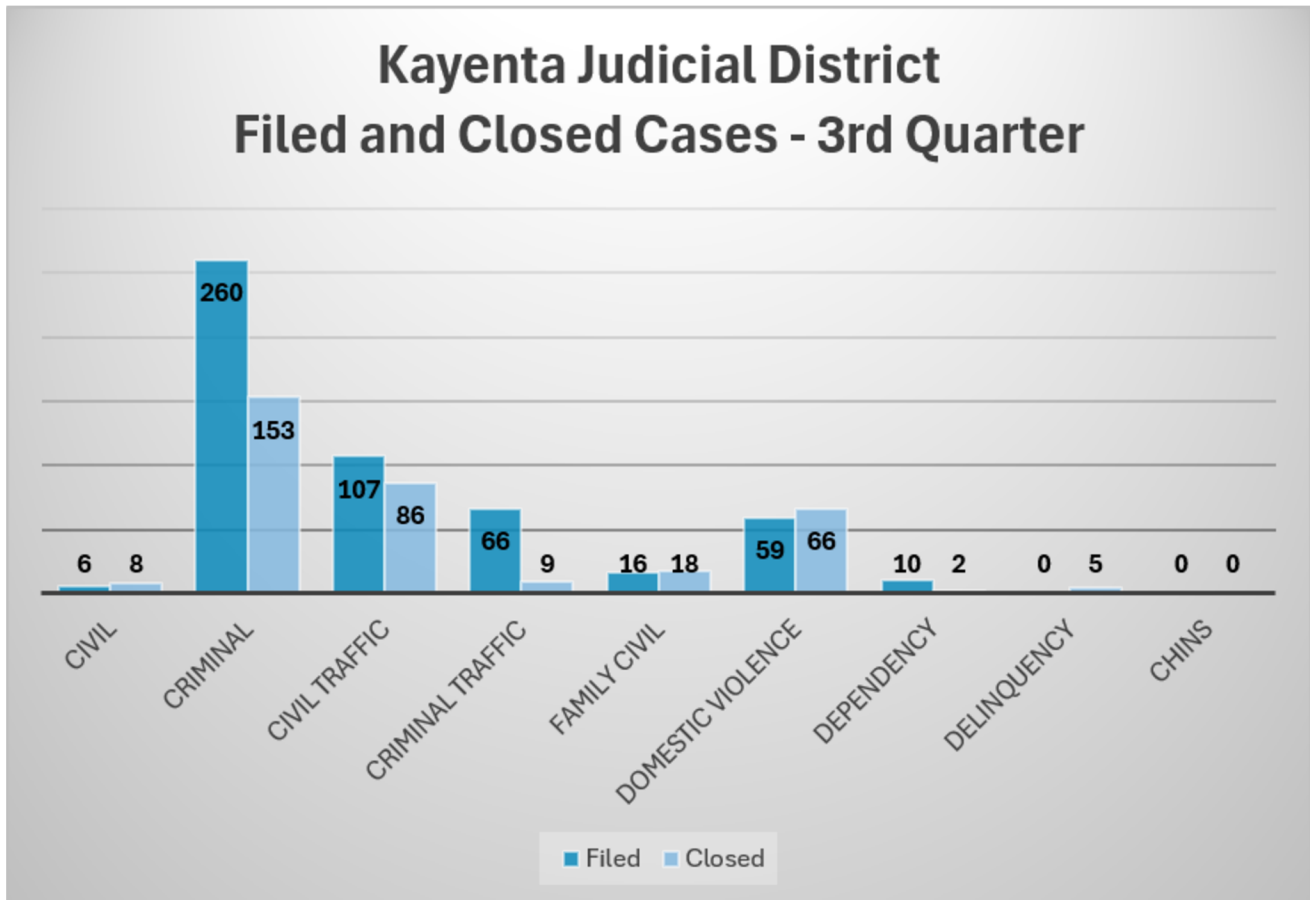
Court Facility Construction Project

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

Judicial Updates and Leadership Development

Judge Stover participated in the quarterly judicial conference, receiving updates on Judicial Branch initiatives. The conference provided an opportunity to remain informed on operational priorities and continued improvements within the court system.

KAYENTA JUDICIAL DISTRICT



1,756

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.

66%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Kayenta Judicial District Court received a total of 881 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, criminal traffic, family civil, domestic violence, and dependency matters. The Court closed 347 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 66%.

Ramah Judicial District

Honorable Victor J. Clyde
Jennifer Jim-Cly, Acting 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 the 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 and Case Management

This quarter, Judge Clyde of the Dilkon Judicial District was assigned to serve the Ramah Judicial District, with a focus on improving case management and scheduling hearings efficiently to avoid conflicts between the two districts. The court continues to conduct in-person, virtual, and telephonic hearings while working closely with court staff to prioritize case processing and service delivery. Ramah District Court continues to receive and process family and district court cases and also conducted Oath of Office ceremonies for the local Police Department and Department of Corrections.

Workforce Contributions

The District filled its Office Technician position with the help of other Eastern Judicial Districts, demonstrating strong inter-court cooperation. The district continues efforts to fill the vacant Court Administrator position. Justice Day was held at the Ramah Chapter and included community resource presentations, behavioral health services, public safety information, and the district's first Probate and Quiet Title Pro Se Clinic, expanding access to legal resources for the community.

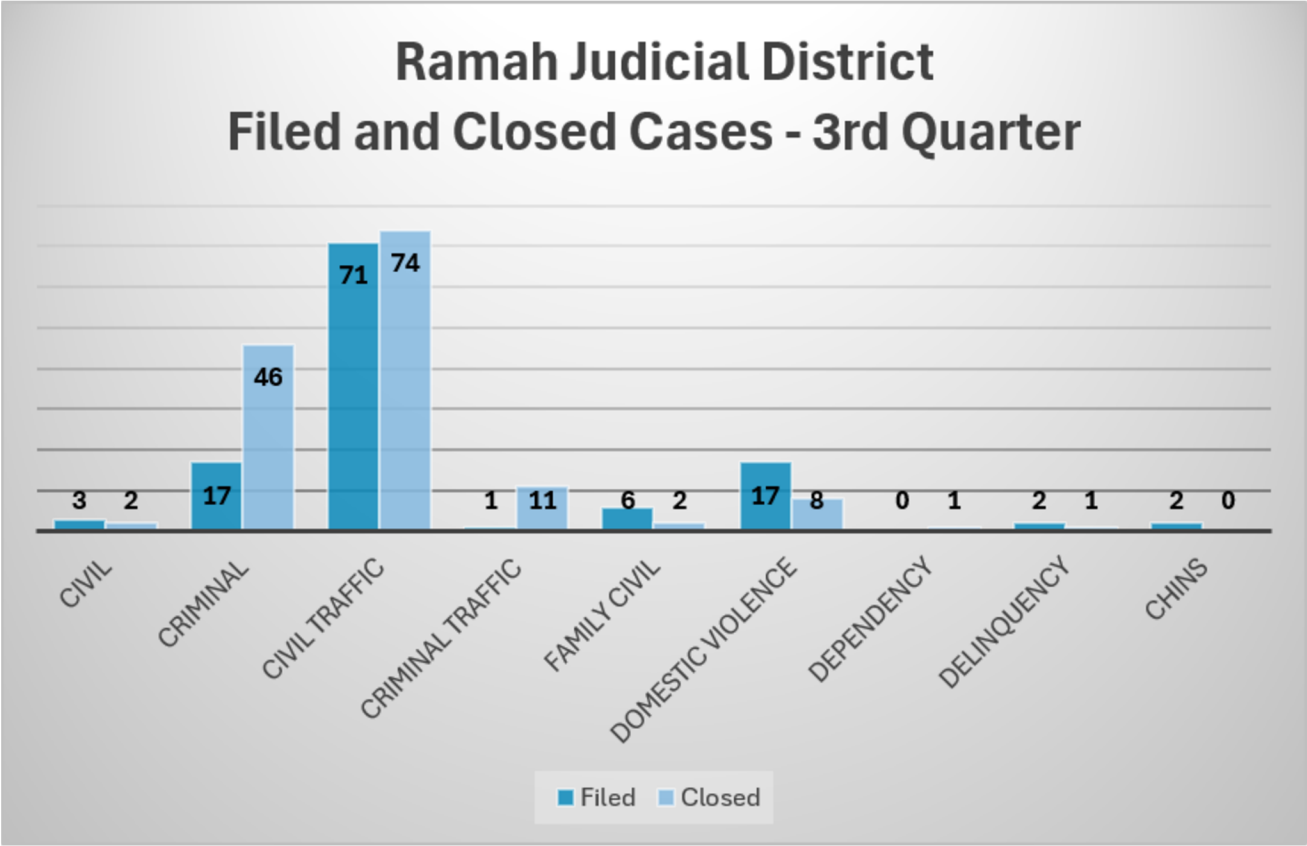
Facility Planning and Development

The District Court's New Building Project is advancing with monthly meetings indicating it is now in the design phase. Two floor plans have been presented, and planning and design efforts will continue.

Operational Priorities

The District's goals are to continue to focus on moving forward with improving, repairing, and addressing the needs of the current building through facility maintenance projects. Continuous steady progress in reducing case backlogs and meeting the Ramah Court employees' goals, training, and development needs to ensure continuity and effective judicial services for the community.

RAMAH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



944

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.

122%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Ramah Judicial District Court received a total of 119 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, traffic, criminal traffic, family civil, domestic violence, delinquency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 145 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 122%.

Shiprock Judicial District

Honorable Genevieve Woody
Ethel Laughing, 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 the 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 Performance

The Shiprock Judicial District received 342 new case filings and adjudicated 607 cases during the quarter, reflecting a significant increase in case dispositions. The District's continued focus on efficient case management contributed to reducing the caseload and improving overall court performance.

Public Access to Court Services

The court continued providing comprehensive judicial services to communities throughout the Northern Agency through in-person assistance, telephone and fax services, online payments, filing services, and secure document drop-off options. These services help ensure continued public access to the court and judicial services. The District tracks the number of in-person services through a Visitor's Log located at the Judicial District.

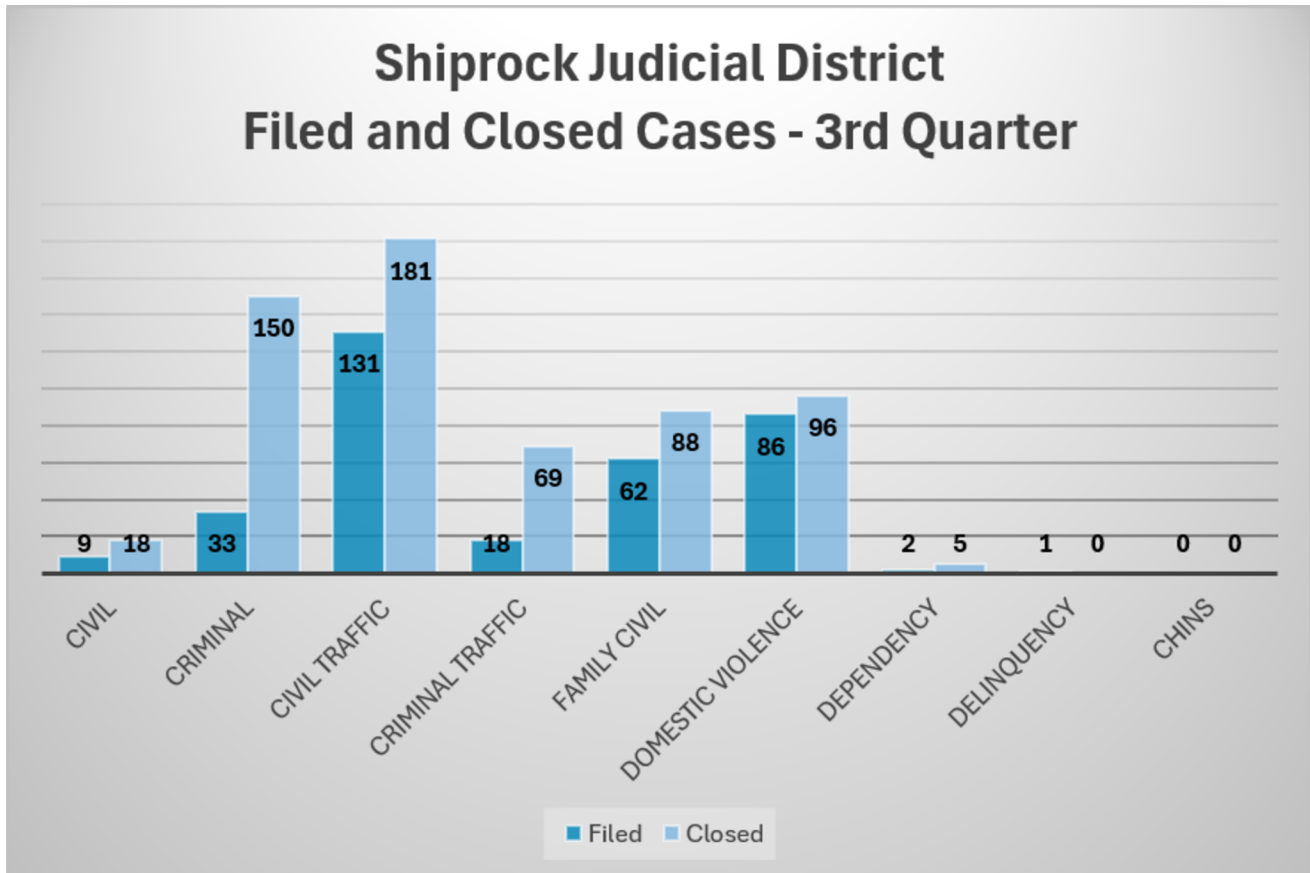
Financial Collections and Court Revenue

During the quarter, the district collected \$17,468.85 in fines and fees, received \$300.00 in bond payments, processed \$1,766.00 in restitution payments, and credited \$2,639.50 in community service completed in lieu of fines. The total value of collections and credits for the quarter was \$22,674.35.

Professional Development

Judge Genevieve Woody and Staff Attorney Derrick Burbank attended the 2026 Navajo Nation Bar's Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference provided continuing legal education and professional development opportunities to support effective judicial services.

SHIPROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT



544

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.

177%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Shiprock Judicial District Court received a total of 342 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, traffic, criminal traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, and delinquency matters. The Court closed 607 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 177%.

Tuba City Judicial District

Honorable Cecelia Tallman

Sheila Begishie, 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 the 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.

Community Outreach & Public Engagement

The Court partnered with local justice agencies to successfully host Public Safety and Justice Day, promoting public awareness of the judicial system through educational presentations, court resources, and community engagement. During the event, Staff Attorney Alisha Thompson was recognized for her exemplary service and dedication to the community.

Strategic Planning & Court Administration

The Court Administrator successfully coordinated development of the FY2027 budget in collaboration with AOC Fiscal staff and court leadership. The completed budget was submitted to the Fiscal Unit and presented to the Chief Justice, supporting the Judicial Branch's strategic and fiscal planning.

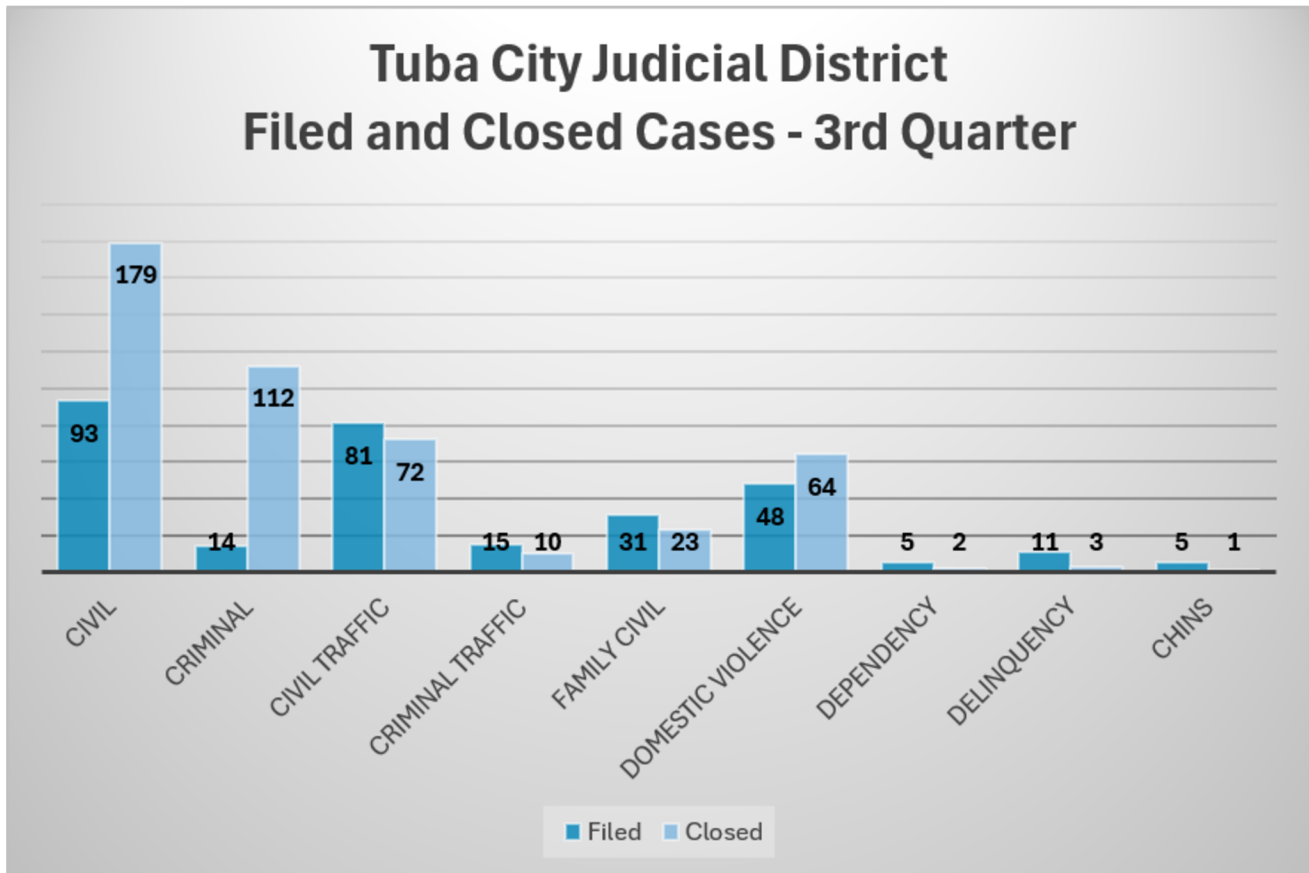
Expanding Access to Justice

In partnership with the Coconino County Superior Court, the District hosted the Justice Bus, expanding access to court services and legal resources for residents of Tuba City and surrounding communities. The Court also continued planning Probate and Quiet Title Pro Se presentations and mobile court services in coordination with local chapter houses, strengthening outreach to underserved communities.

Operational Continuity

The Court continued recruitment efforts while maintaining uninterrupted court operations through cross-training, shared staff responsibilities, and strong collaboration among court clerks, bailiffs, the Document Technician, and the Court Administrator. These efforts ensured consistent customer service and effective case management despite staffing challenges.

TUBA CITY JUDICIAL DISTRICT



1,426

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.

154%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Tuba City Judicial District Court received a total of 303 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, criminal traffic, family civil, domestic violence, dependency, delinquency, and CHINS matters. The Court closed 466 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 154%.

Window Rock Judicial District

Honorable Malcolm P. Begay
Kendra Watchman, 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 the 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 Services

The Window Rock Judicial District continues to conduct in-person hearings for all cases on its docket. Judge Malcolm Begay presides over most matters, while Judicial Hearing Officer Lisa Stephens primarily handles domestic violence cases, allowing the court to effectively manage a high volume of domestic violence, criminal, and dependency cases.

Staffing Updates

During the third quarter, the Window Rock Judicial District filled two positions with the addition of a Judicial Hearing Officer and a Temporary Document Technician. These appointments have strengthened the court's capacity to manage hearings and support case processing. The District happily welcomes their new employees.

Court Revenues

The Window Rock Judicial District collected \$21,372.25 in fines and fees during the third quarter. These collections reflect the court's continued financial accountability and operational activity.

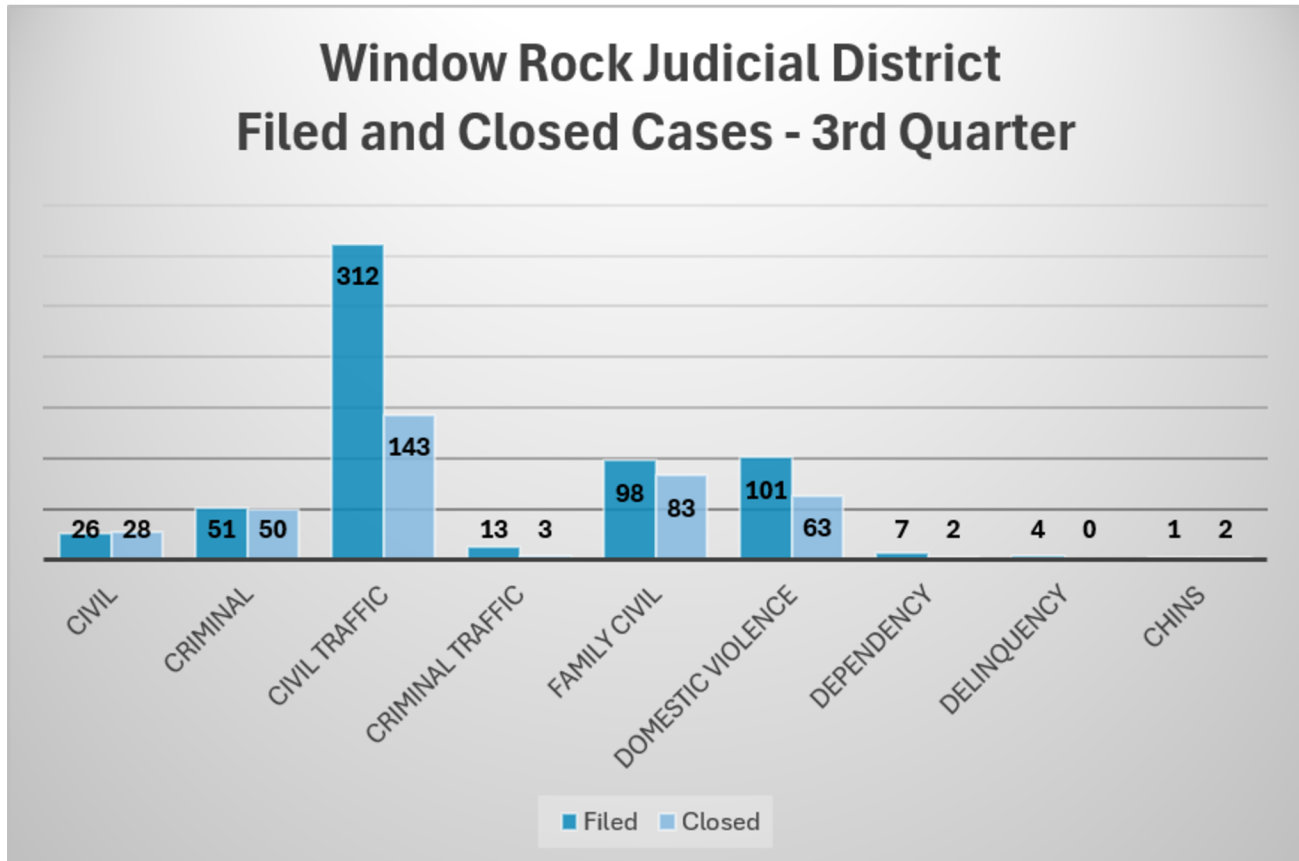
Court Activity

During the quarter, the court conducted 347 Family Court hearings and 485 District Court hearings. The volume of hearings demonstrates the district's continued commitment to timely case resolution and public service.

Staff Training and Development

Court staff completed QPR suicide prevention training and Mental Health & Wellness training provided by the Department of Behavioral Health. These trainings support employee well-being while strengthening the court's ability to serve the community effectively.

WINDOW ROCK JUDICIAL DISTRICT



2,629 61%

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.

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Window Rock Judicial District Court received a total of 613 new case filings across all case matters. The Court closed 374 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 61%.

Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court

Honorable Leonard Livingston
Jamie S. Mike, Court Administrator

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 the 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

Despite the continued closure of the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court building, the court successfully closed 15 cases during the third quarter. Domestic violence hearings continued in person at the Crownpoint District Court, resulting in the closure of 1 case.

Court Administration

To support Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court operations, the Crownpoint Judicial District continued coordinating with the AOC on financial management, personnel hiring, and vendor coordination. These efforts promote transparency, accountability, and operational readiness.

Facility Maintenance

Judicial Branch maintenance staff continue addressing preventive maintenance and building repairs in preparation for reopening the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court. Limited staffing continues to delay completion of the remaining work, while financial documents are being processed to procure necessary materials and services.

Staffing and Court Operations

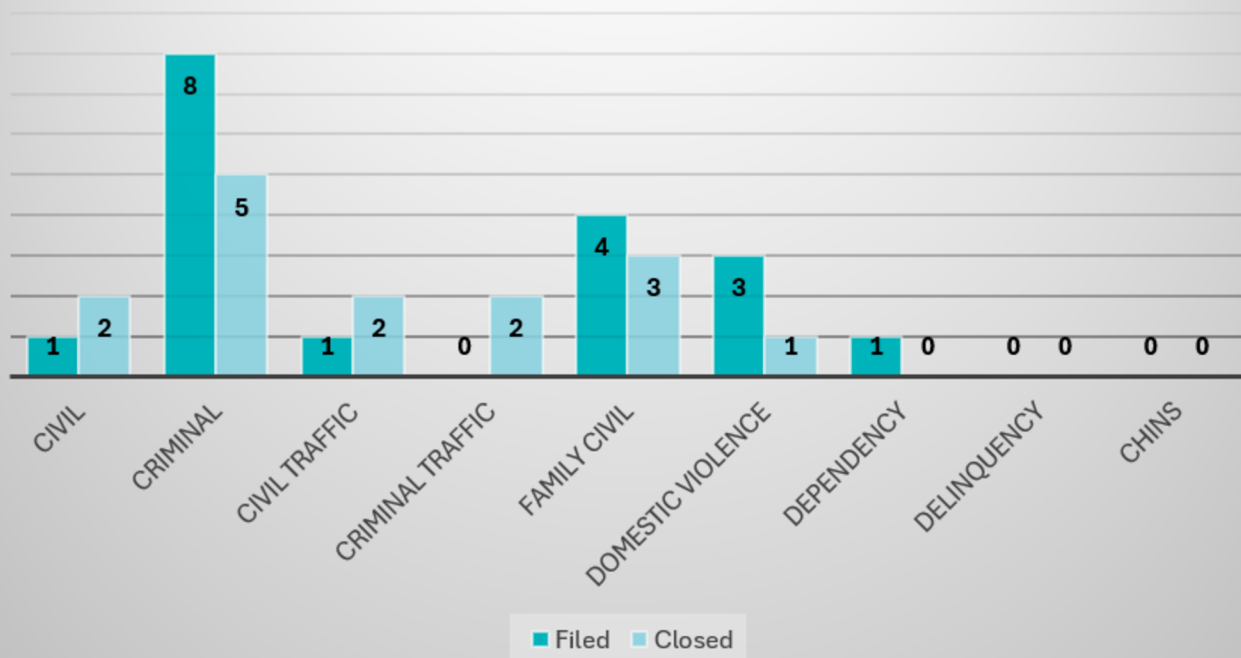
Recruitment for Circuit Court Clerk and District Court Judge positions remains ongoing. In the meantime, the Crownpoint Judicial District Court continues processing Pueblo Pintado cases and new filings to ensure uninterrupted judicial services.

Goals for the Upcoming Quarter

- Staff recruitment and onboarding
- Installation of security camera systems to enhance court safety
- Acquisition of updated equipment to improve courtroom operation.
- Mandatory Staff Trainings for Employee Safety and Court Operations
- Continuing Probate & Quiet Title Education are being provided by the Crownpoint District Court staff.

PUEBLO PINTADO CIRCUIT COURT

**Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court
Filed and Closed Cases - 3rd Quarter**



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.

83%

CLEARANCE RATE

This quarter, the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court received a total of 18 new case filings across civil, criminal, civil traffic, family civil, domestic violence, and dependency matters. The Court closed 15 cases, resulting in a case clearance rate of 83%.

Administrative Office of the Courts

At a Glance

The Judicial Branch's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) 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 AOC's primary role is to provide administrative support for all Navajo Nation Judicial Districts, Peacemaking Program, 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

Fiscal Services 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

Information Technology (IT) 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

Facilities and Maintenance 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 and 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 Human Resources Unit supports the organization by recruiting, developing, and retaining a highly qualified workforce. The team partners with employees and leadership to provide responsive employee resource services that promote a respectful, professional, and productive workplace.

Key services supported:

- Training & Professional Development
- New Employee Onboarding
- Employee Relations
- Recruitment and Hiring
- Policy Advancement

From recruiting talented candidates to supporting employees throughout their careers, the Human Resources Unit is committed to delivering effective, employee-focused services that help the Judicial Branch achieve its mission.

Recruitment & Staffing

Human Resources processed 54 employment applications, and all were referred to courts and programs for further review. 14 positions were filled, 15 employees completed introductory status, and Human Resources continues to process all employment matters for the Judicial Branch.

Training & Policy Development

Human Resources conducted monthly new hire orientations covering Judicial Branch history, Navajo Fundamental Law, workplace policies, ethics, customer service, and fiscal procedures. The Sick Leave Donation Procedures were completed and submitted for review but is finalizing administrative forms before completion. These will be implemented through the Dayforce system.

Dayforce Implementation

Human Resources continued working closely with AXL and Department of Personnel Management to configure the Dayforce Human Resource system to meet Judicial Branch policy requirements while participating in weekly implementation meetings. The Dayforce go-live date was postponed from April 1, 2026, to October 1, 2026, with manager and employee training scheduled for the fourth quarter.

Administrative & Budget Support

Human Resources continues to provide customer service, payroll support, and participation in interbranch ERP planning efforts. The unit also assisted with BIA grant spend-down planning and played a key role in preparing the FY 2027 budget, including personnel projections, step increases, and vacancy planning.

Fiscal Services

Fiscal at a Glance

The Judicial Branch Fiscal Unit provides comprehensive financial, budget, procurement, and fund management services that support the operations of the entire Judicial Branch. The team is committed to ensuring responsible stewardship of resources while delivering efficient, accurate, and accountable financial services.

Key services supported:

- Financial Management
- Budget Development & Administration
- Procurement Services
- Fund Management (including External Funds)

The Fiscal Unit works closely with judges, court administrators, office technicians, probation staff, peacemaking personnel, and Judicial Branch programs to provide timely financial guidance and support. Through collaboration, established fiscal practices, and efficient customer service, the team helps ensure that courts and programs have the resources they need to effectively serve the public.

FY 2027 Budget Development

This quarter, the Finance Team assisted in the development of the FY2027 Budget by conducting site visits and budget assessments at all 11 Judicial Districts, Peacemaking Program, and Probation and Parole Services. Court Administrators and Program Managers presented their proposed budgets to Chief Justice Shirley on June 2–3, 2026, allowing time for review, discussion, and budget adjustments.

Budget Presentation and Legislative Review

Chief Justice Shirley presented the Judicial Branch FY 2027 Budget to the Law & Order Committee on July 1–6, 2026, including an amendment to correct minor errors and update vacancy information. The approved allocation under Resolution BFAP-09-26 totals \$16,365,207, including the General Fund, Probate Quiet Title, Indirect Cost, and Fixed Cost budgets, with additional presentations scheduled before the Budget & Finance Committee in July.

Financial Systems and Grant Administration

Finance has begun preparing the Judicial Branch's five-year Model 108 Agreement under the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 93-638 Contract for FY 2027–2031, with the Scope of Work submitted for legal review. The transition from FMIS to the new Dynamics 365 Financial System remains on schedule, with FMIS continuing through October 1, 2026, and Dynamics 365 training to begin soon.

Operational Updates and Revenue

The Administrative Office of the Courts has successfully implemented its new Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system. During the third quarter of FY 2026, the Judicial Branch collected \$122,348.98 in fines and fees, all of which were deposited into the Navajo Nation General Fund.

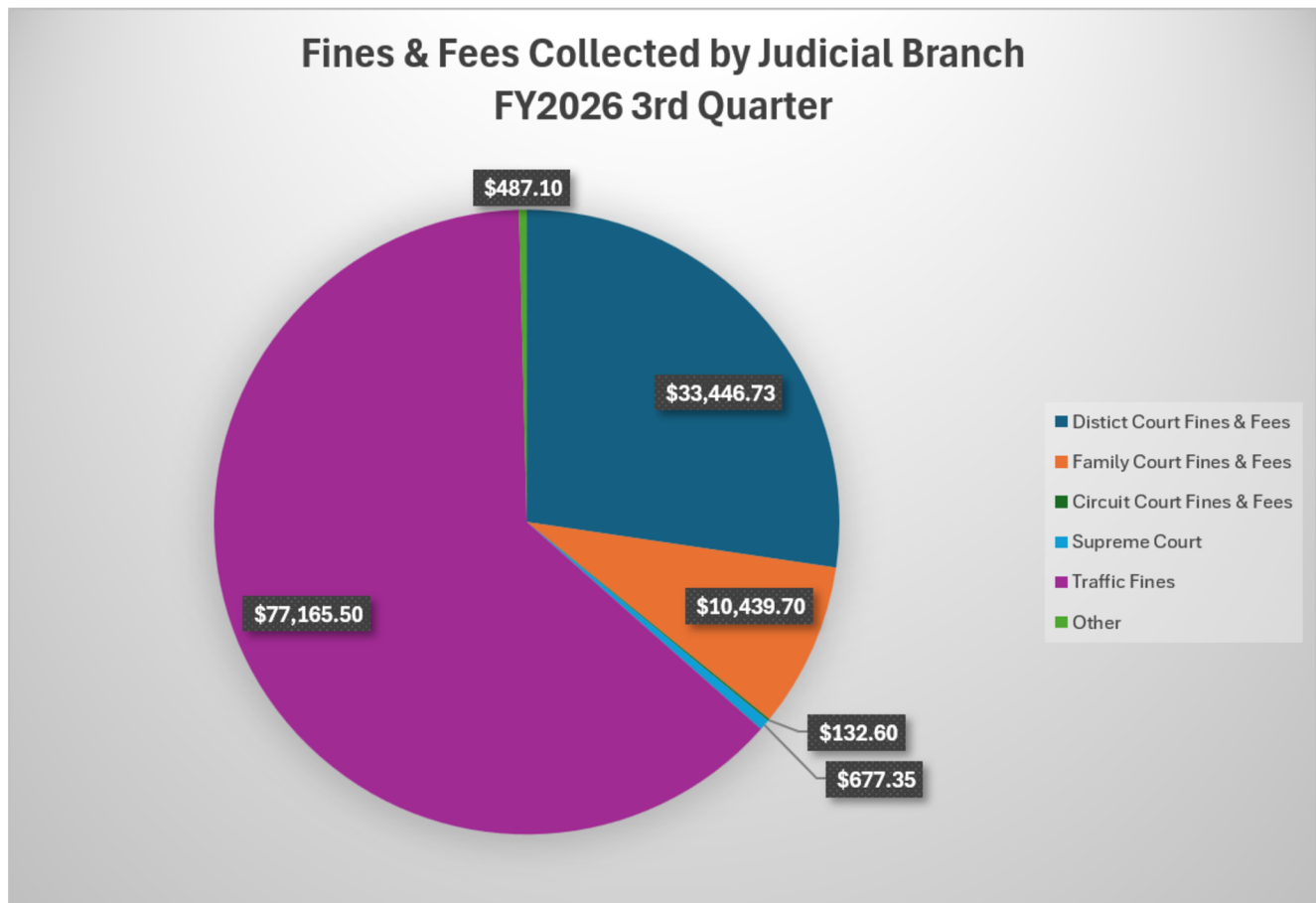
Fiscal Year-End

The Office of the Controller will soon begin the FY 2026 Year-End Closeout process. The Finance Unit will begin compiling and finalizing all budget transactions.

Fines and Fees

During the third quarter of FY 2026, the Judicial Branch collected a total of **\$122,348.98** 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 Information Technology (IT) Unit provides reliable technology solutions and technical support that enable courts and programs across the Judicial Branch to operate efficiently, securely, and effectively. The IT team is dedicated to maintaining the technology infrastructure that supports the administration of justice throughout the Navajo Nation.

Key services supported:

- Case Management Systems
- Network and Server Administration
- Computer Hardware & Software Support
- Cybersecurity and Data Protection
- Technology Training and User Support

The IT staff work closely with Judicial Branch staff to ensure secure access to critical systems, dependable technical support, and reliable technology services. Through collaboration and responsive service, the team helps strengthen court operations and supports the Judicial Branch's mission of delivering accessible and effective justice.

Quarterly Overview

This quarter, the Information Technology Department provided secure, reliable, and efficient technology services to support Judicial Branch district courts, programs, and the public. Efforts focused on infrastructure, cybersecurity, system reliability, case management support, and daily court operations.

Key Accomplishments

The Information Technology Unit maintained court technology, supported the JustWare case management system, developed the FY2027 IT budget and various funding proposal, and assisted with future courthouse technology planning. These efforts ensured uninterrupted judicial operations and reliable technology services across all districts.

Ongoing Operations

The department continued to provide responsive technical support, complete new employee onboarding, maintain network and communication systems, and collaborate with NNDIT to address connectivity and infrastructure issues. Staff also supported procurement activities, budget planning, and contributed IT updates for the Judicial Branch newsletter.

Next Quarter Priorities

Upcoming objectives include replacing all laptops and docking stations, implementing JustWare for Judicial Navigators, supporting the Self-Help Building IT infrastructure, and maintaining accurate technology inventory records. The IT Unit will also continue addressing service requests, JustWare enhancements, and ongoing technical support for all courts and programs.

Summary

The IT Department remains committed to delivering dependable, secure, and efficient technology services. Despite infrastructure changes and staffing limitations, the department maintained consistent service delivery while preparing for future technology initiatives.

Facilities and Maintenance

Facilities & Maintenance at a Glance

The Judicial Branch Facilities Unit is responsible for planning, developing, maintaining, and improving court facilities across the Districts. The team works to provide safe, functional, and sustainable environments that support the effective administration of justice.

Scope of Work:

- Planning and managing new construction projects
- Overseeing facility renovations and building improvements
- Infrastructure development and site improvements
- Building code, safety, and regulatory compliance
- Supporting long-term sustainability of Judicial Branch facilities

Through their diligent 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.

Active Construction Projects

Construction of the Kayenta Judicial Complex continues with both exterior and interior work progressing, including installation of underground utilities such as sewer and water lines. The concrete slab has been completed, exterior metal wall framing is ready to begin, and the project is approximately 75% complete. Construction also continues on the Self-Help Building, which is currently 45% complete.

Projects in Design and Pre-Construction

The Window Rock Peacemaking Building Judicial Complex (design progress 70%), Aneth Judicial Complex (design progress 50%), Ramah Judicial Complex (design progress 30%), and the AOC Central Warehouse Building remain in various stages of design and pre-construction. The Project Manager continues coordinating with A/E consultants, AOC, procurement staff, and project stakeholders to finalize designs, update building code requirements, establish project budgets, and prepare for future construction.

Master Site Planning

The Shiprock Judicial District - Master Site Plan construction documents are 100% complete and are awaiting construction funding. The Window Rock Judicial District - Master Site Plan is currently in the 75% Design Development phase and is pending additional design and construction funding.

Completed Renovation Projects

The Dilkon Judicial District roof repair, including the replacement of four HVAC units, is 98% complete, with only the final retainage payment pending. The Pinon Judicial District perimeter fence has also reached 98% completion, with final project closeout and retainage payment pending.

Overall Program Status

The Judicial Branch continues to advance multiple capital improvement projects through planning, design, construction, and project closeout. Ongoing coordination among the Project Manager, AOC, consultants, procurement staff, and stakeholders remains essential to maintaining project schedules, securing funding, and supporting future judicial facilities across the Navajo Nation.

Key Terms from prior quarterly reports

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.

Continuance

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

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.

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.

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.

Key Terms from prior quarterly reports continued

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.

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.

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.

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APRIL 1, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2026

JULY 2026

