

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FOURTH YEAR, 2022

AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF CECELIA TALLMAN AS NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Law and Order Committee as a Navajo Nation standing committee and as such gave the Law and Order Committee authority to recommend to the Navajo Nation President the permanent appointment of probationary judges. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9), 600(A), 601(B)(10).
- B. Pursuant to 7 N.N.C. § 355(A), the President of the Navajo Nation shall appoint the Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and District Court Judges with confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council from among those applicants recommended by the Law and Order [Judiciary] Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
- C. The probationary term for District Court Judges... shall be two (2) years from the date of confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. 7 N.N.C. § 356(A).
- D. The Law and Order Committee delegated its responsibility and authority to the Judicial Conduct Commission to screen applicants and to recommend the probationary appointment of judges and justices. LOCS-19-18.
- E. The Judicial Conduct Commission made its recommendation to the Navajo Nation President for Cecelia Tallman to be appointed as a probationary judge of the Navajo Nation. JCC-03-22.
- F. The Law and Order Committee has oversight over the administration of justice on the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 600(C)(1)
- G. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council that considers all proposed final actions by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
- H. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).

## SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. Cecelia Tallman is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is an applicant for appointment as a probationary Navajo Nation District Court judge.
- B. The Navajo Nation President appointed Cecelia Tallman as a probationary Navajo Nation District Court judge, subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. See Appointment Letter EXHIBIT A.
- C. The Judicial Conduct Commission reviewed Ms. Tallman's application, qualifications, and conducted an interview.
- D. The Judicial Conduct Commission has determined that Cecelia Tallman meets the qualifications for appointment as a probationary Navajo Nation District Court Judge and has recommended her for probationary appointment. See JCC-03-22, attached hereto as EXHIBIT B.

## SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

The Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms Ms. Cecelia Tallman as a probationary Navajo Nation District Court Judge.

## SECTION FOUR. NAVAJO NATION PRIVACY ACT RESTRICTIONS

Confidential information within application documents shall remain protected. Access to protected documents, will be made available to authorized persons pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 81 et seq., and therefore will not be publicly posted.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 23 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.



Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

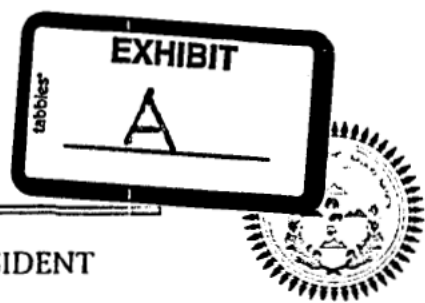
10.20.2022

DATE

Motion: Honorable Eugene Tso  
Second: Honorable Paul Begay, Jr.  
Speaker Seth Damon not voting

# THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



August 30, 2022

Cecelia Tallman  
PO Box  
Tuba City, AZ 86045

RE: Judicial Appointment

Dear Ms. Tallman,

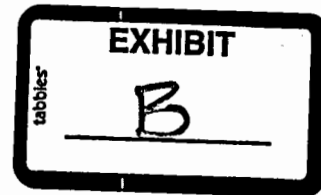
Thank you for your interest in serving as a Navajo Nation District Court judge. There are many fine Navajo judges who have come before you and we trust you will uphold the honor of the Navajo courts they have built over the decades. We appreciate the time you spent with us talking about your interest and experience in the legal system. Your work history gives you the unique perspective of the needs of our Navajo People as they navigate the judicial system and we hope you will use this experience in your decision making. Based on our discussion with you and review of your résumé it is our pleasure to recommend your appointment as a judge of the Navajo courts.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the Navajo Nation Council for final action. We wish you the best. God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jonathan Nez'.

Jonathan Nez, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION



Resolution No. JCC-03-2022

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

**Recommending to the Navajo Nation President that  
Cecelia Tallman Meets all the Qualifications for Appointment  
as a Navajo Nation Probationary District Court Judge**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has the power to accept applications for all judge positions and to determine the most qualified applicants for judge positions. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B)(7) and 7 N.N.C. § 355(A).
2. The Law and Order Committee recommends to the Navajo Nation president the most qualified candidates for appointment as probationary judges. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B)(7)(a). The president's appointment of a probationary judge is subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B)(7)(b).
3. On September 17, 2018, the Law and Order Committee delegated its power to accept applications for judge positions and to determine the most qualified applicants for judge positions to the Judicial Conduct Commission. Law and Order Committee Res. No. LOCS-19-18 (Sept. 17, 2018).
4. On September 17, 2018, the Law and Order Committee also delegated to the Judicial Conduct Commission its power to recommend to the Navajo Nation president all candidates for appointment as probationary Navajo Nation judges. Law and Order Committee Res. No. LOCS-19-18 (Sept. 17, 2018).
5. Pursuant to these delegations of power, the Judicial Conduct Commission has reviewed and determined the qualifications of Ms. Cecelia Tallman, who applied for a position as a Navajo Nation district court judge.
6. Pursuant to these delegations of power, the Judicial Conduct Commission also evaluated Ms. Cecelia Tallman's legal writing and analysis and interviewed her on August 6, 2022.
7. The Judicial Conduct Commission makes the following findings on Ms. Cecelia Tallman's qualifications based on her application materials, writing and analysis, and interview:
  - a. She earned a bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University;
  - b. She has over fourteen years of legal work experience as an advocate with the Navajo Nation Public Defender's Office. This work includes use of or knowledge of Navajo Nation, state, and federal laws. She also has over seventeen years of experience working with the Navajo Nation courts (including judges and court staff) as a paralegal, court clerk, and probation officer;

c. She is able to speak both Navajo (fluently) and English and has practical knowledge of Diné Fundamental Laws; and understands K'ee, the Navajo clan system, traditional ceremonies, and the traditional Navajo lifestyle; she has an excellent understanding and knowledge of Navajo customary laws and their application in the courts;

d. She has demonstrated good writing style and analytical ability;

e. She has demonstrated good managerial and supervisory abilities to perform the duties of a district court judge;

f. She is a member in good standing of the Navajo Nation Bar Association; and

g. She has met all the qualifications set forth at 7 N.N.C. § 354(A)(1) – (14).

8. The Judicial Conduct Commission is satisfied that Ms. Cecelia Tallman meets the qualifications for judicial appointment that are set forth at 7 N.N.C. § 354(A)(1) – (14) and should be recommended to the Navajo Nation president as qualified for appointment as a Navajo Nation probationary district court judge.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

The Judicial Conduct Commission recommends Ms. Cecelia Tallman to the Navajo Nation president as qualified for appointment as a Navajo Nation probationary district court judge.

#### CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing Judicial Conduct Commission resolution was duly considered and adopted at an official meeting at which a quorum was present, on this 11th day of August 2022, and the same was adopted by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent or abstaining.



Robert Yazzie, Chairman  
Judicial Conduct Commission

Motion: Manley Begay

Second: Rhonda Tuni

Application  
of  
Cecelia Tallman

Navajo Nation  
District Court Judge

CONFIDENTIAL

# NAVAJO NATION

1208

10/19/2022

Navajo Nation Council 2022 Fall Session

12:25:27 PM

<b>Amd# to Amd#</b>	<b>Legislation 0156-22: Confirming</b>	<b>PASSED</b>
MOT Tso, E	the Probationary Appointment of	
SEC Begay, P	Cecelia Tallman as Navajo Nation	
	District Court Judge	

**Yeas : 23**

**Nays : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 0**

**Yea : 23**

Begay, E	Daniels	Slater, C	Tso, E
Begay, K	Freeland, M	Smith	Walker, T
Begay, P	Halona, P	Stewart, W	Wauneka, E
Brown	Henio, J	Tso	Yazzie
Charles-Newton	James, V	Tso, C	Yellowhair
Crotty	Nez, R	Tso, D	

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 0**

**Presiding Speaker: Damon**