

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2019

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF LETITIA STOVER 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. 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.
- C. The Judicial Conduct Commission made its recommendation to the Navajo Nation President for Letitia Stover to be appointed as a probationary judge of the Navajo Nation. JCC-03-19.
- D. 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. The Navajo Nation Council shall confirm judicial appointments. 7 N.N.C. § 355 (A).
- E. References in the Navajo Nation Code and other official documents to the Government Services and Intergovernmental Relations Committee shall mean Naabik'íyáti' Committee, unless the amendments enacted herein for the context of previous law indicates otherwise. See CO-45-12.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. Letitia Stover is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is an applicant for appointment as District Court Judge. Ms. Stover's application and qualifications have been reviewed by the Judicial Conduct Commission, and she has been interviewed by the Judicial Conduct Commission. See JCC-03-19, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- B. The Judicial Conduct Commission has determined that Letitia Stover meets the qualifications for appointment as Navajo Nation Judge and has recommended her for probationary appointment to the Navajo Nation President. *Id.*
- C. The Navajo Nation President has appointed Letitia Stover as Navajo Nation Judge, subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. See Appointment Letter and Qualification Documents attached hereto as **Exhibits B and C**, respectively.

SECTION THREE. CONFIRMING PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

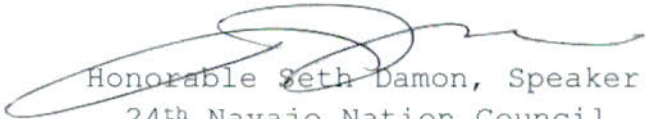
The Navajo Nation confirms Ms. Letitia Stover as a probationary Navajo Nation Judge.

SECTION FOUR. NAVAJO NATION PRIVACY ACT

Confidential information within application documents shall remain protected except upon its authorized disclosure by the appointee. 2 N.N.C. § 81 et seq. (2009).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24th 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 17 in Favor, and 01 Opposed, on this 19th day of December 2019.


Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

12/27/19
DATE

Motion: Honorable Mark A. Freeland

Second: Honorable Eugene Tso

Speaker Seth Damon not voting



JCC-03-19

**RESOLUTION OF THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION**

**RECOMMENDING TO THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT THE PROBATIONARY
APPOINTMENT OF LETITIA STOVER AS NAVAJO NATION DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE**

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY.

- A. Navajo Nation District Court Judges are selected by appointment and confirmation. See generally, 7 N.N.C. §355. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council initially determines the qualifications of all applicants for judgeships. 2 N.N.C. §601(B)(7) and 7 N.N.C. §355(A). The names of those deemed qualified are forwarded to the President of the Navajo Nation for appointment. The appointments of the President are subject to Navajo Nation Council confirmation.
- B. The Law and Order Committee has delegated the responsibility and authority to the Judicial Conduct Commission regarding the screening of applicants for and recommendation of probationary appointment of judges and justices of the Navajo Nation by Resolution LOCS-19-18.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS.

- A. To improve the quality and effectiveness of the justice system, the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch needs to have a fully seated judiciary; however, there are nine vacancies for Navajo Nation District Court Judge position.
- B. While the Navajo Nation Code, Title 2, states that Navajo Nation President shall appoint District Court Judges "only from among those named in the panel submitted" by the Law and Order Committee, in order to address the Navajo Nation's immediate need for judges, the Judicial Conduct Commission contends that submitting one applicant to the Navajo Nation President is sufficient because of the dire need for judges.
- C. The applicant took the writing test as required by Title 7.
- D. The Judicial Conduct Commission conducted the interview of the applicant on September 21, 2019.
- E. The Judicial Conduct Commission reviewed the applicant's qualifications for judicial appointment.
- F. The Judicial Conduct Commission determines that Letitia Stover meets the qualifications for appointment as a probationary Navajo Nation District Court Judge and is qualified for the position of Navajo Nation Judge.

SECTION THREE. RECOMMENDATION FOR PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

- A. The Judicial Conduct Commission recommends to the Navajo Nation President that Letitia Stover be appointed as District Court Judge, subject to the Navajo Nation Council's confirmation. 2 N.N.C. §601(B)(7)(2012)

SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVE.

The Office of Human Resources shall immediately submit to the Navajo Nation President all documents provided by the applicant recommended for appointment. Confidential information within application documents shall remain protected except upon authorized disclosure by the applicant. 2 N.N.C. § 81 et seq. (2009)

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Judicial Conduct Commission at a duly called meeting at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino and Resort Conference Room, Twin Arrows, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 2 in favor and 1 opposed this 21st day of September 2019.


Robert Yazzie, *Chairman*
Judicial Conduct Commission

Motion: Manley Begay
Second: Rhonda Tuni

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



November 4, 2019

Letitia Stover
PO Box
Kayenta, AZ 86033

RE: Judicial Appointment

Dear Ms. Stover,

Thank you for your interest in serving as a Navajo Nation 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 with the Navajo courts gives you a perspective of the daily needs of our Navajo People who come to the courts for guidance, we trust you will look to your experience in deciding how best to address the needs of our People. 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.

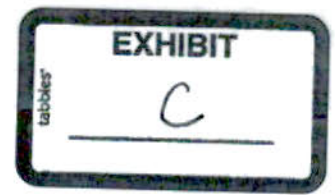
Sincerely,

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

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION



September 25, 2019

Office of the Navajo Nation President and Vice President
100 Parkway
Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nez:

I am interested in the District Court Judge Position advertised on your website. My resume is attached, and given my experience and capabilities I would appreciate your consideration for this position. I hope to provide you with my personal and professional insight.

I would like to highlight some of my educational experiences to demonstrate my interest in the law. I graduated with an LL.M in the Indigenous Policy and Law Program from the University of Arizona. Previous to receiving my LL.M., I received my J.D. degree at the University of South Dakota School of Law. I also pursued a M.A. in Political Science.

My interest in the judge position stems predominantly from my present position as a staff attorney. I was able to gain insight into the position and learn that it provides a distinctive intellectual challenge and an invaluable inside perspective into how law is interpreted, shaped, and applied on the Navajo Nation. My diverse experience would make me a unique addition. For example, I am a former teacher with a rural upbringing, which helps me bring a different perspective to legal problems than many of my peers. These experiences have been instrumental in my desire to work in the legal field, and more specifically in Indian Country.

I believe I have the skills and experience necessary to succeed as a judge. As a staff attorney I advised the district court judge, provided legal research, advised the court on orders, drafted rules and policies, completed community outreach, and organized court events such as criminal justice summits, legal clinics, Amnesty day. In law school, I participated in several moot court competitions and in the summers I had an opportunity to work for Navajo Hopi Legal Services and Office of Senator McCain where I researched various legal topics. While pursuing my LL.M., I have had the opportunity to write legal memos for the Navajo Nation Supreme Court and assist with summarizing cases to be published in a tribal reporter.

I appreciate your taking the time to review my credentials and experience. Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Letitia Stover".

Letitia Stover,

NAVAJO NATION

219

12/19/2019

SPECIAL SESSION

06:13:16 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation No. 0364-19

PASSED

MOT Freeland, M

Confirming the Probationary

SEC Tso, E

Appointment of Letitia Stover

as NN District Court Judge

Yea : 17

Nay : 1

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 5

Yea : 17

Begay, E

Freeland, M

Stewart, W

Tso, E

Begay, P

Halona, P

Tso

Walker, T

Brown

James, V

Tso, C

Wauneka, E

Crotty

Nez, R

Tso, D

Yellowhair

Daniels

Nay : 1

Charles-Newton

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 5

Begay, K

Slater, C

Smith

Yazzie

Henio, J

Presiding Speaker: Damon