

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0009-20\_\_

SPONSOR: Edmund Yazzie

**TITLE: An Action Relating NAABIK'YATI And The Navajo Nation Council;  
Confirming The Probationary Appointment Of Hon. Tina Tsinigine As Associate  
Justice Of The Navajo Nation Supreme Court**

***Date posted:*** January 13, 2020 at 3:30 PM

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**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

**Tracking No.** 0009-20

**DATE:** January 9, 2020

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION - AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.; CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF HON. TINA TSINIGINE AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT**

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, will confirm the probationary appointment of Hon. Tina Tsinigine as Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 2300  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 11/18/20  
Eligible for Action: 1/19/20

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0009-20

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
CONFIRMING THE PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT OF HON. TINA TSINIGINE  
AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT

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 probationary appointment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 600 (A), 601 (B)(7)(a).
- 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 Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 700(A). Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(9), a proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council must be assigned to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee before it is considered by the Navajo Nation Council.

1 D. The Judicial Conduct Commission made its recommendation to the Navajo Nation  
2 President for Tina Tsinigine to be appointed as a probationary Associate Justice of the  
3 Navajo Nation Supreme Court. JCC-05-19.

4 E. The President of the Navajo Nation shall appoint the Chief Justice, Associate Justices,  
5 and District Court Judges with confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council from  
6 among those applicants recommended by the Law and Order [Judiciary] Committee  
7 of the Navajo Nation Council. The Navajo Nation Council shall confirm judicial  
8 appointments. 2 N.N.C. § 601 (B)(7)(b), 7 N.N.C. § 355(A).

9  
10 **Section Two. Findings**

11 A. The Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation shall consist of the Chief Justice of the  
12 Navajo Nation and two Associate Justices of the Supreme Court. 7 N.N.C. § 301(A).

13 B. The Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and all District  
14 Court Judges shall be appointed for a probationary period of two years and upon  
15 permanent appointment shall serve thereafter during good behavior. 7 N.N.C. §  
16 355(B).

17 C. Hon. Tina Tsinigine, currently a Navajo Nation District Court judge, is an enrolled  
18 member of the Navajo Nation and is an applicant for appointment as Associate  
19 Justice. Judge Tsinigine's application and qualifications have been reviewed by  
20 Judicial Conduct Commission, and she has been interviewed by Judicial Conduct  
21 Commission. *See* JCC-05-19, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

22 D. The Judicial Conduct Commission has determined that Judge Tsinigine meets the  
23 qualifications for appointment as Navajo Nation Associate Justice and has  
24 recommended her for probationary appointment to the Navajo Nation President. *Id.*

25 E. The Navajo Nation President, after an interview of the applicant, has appointed Judge  
26 Tsinigine as Navajo Nation Associate Justice, subject to confirmation by the Navajo  
27 Nation Council. *See* Appointment Letter and Qualification Documents attached  
28 hereto as **Exhibits B** and **C**, respectively.

1       **Section Three. Confirming Probationary Appointment**

2           The Navajo Nation confirms the Honorable Tina Tsinigine as a probationary  
3 Associate Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court for a period of two years from the  
4 date of this confirmation. 7 N.N.C. § 356(A).

5  
6       **Section Four. Navajo Nation Privacy Act**

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