



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

[joshualavarbutler@navajo.org](mailto:joshualavarbutler@navajo.org)

[joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com](mailto:joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com)

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

November 6, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Judiciary Committee seeks applicants for Judiciary Conduct Commission

*Commission tasked with enhancing public confidence in the Navajo Nation Judiciary*

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The Judiciary Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council is currently seeking applicants for appointments to serve on the Judiciary Conduct Commission, in accordance to Navajo Nation Code 7, §421-424.

The Committee encourages all individuals to apply for the appointments and a law-related background is not necessary or required. Applicants must have an interest in improving the judicial system of the Navajo Nation and its administration of justice by tribal court justices and judges.

According to Navajo Nation Code 7, §421-424, Navajo Nation law mandates the establishment, purpose and powers of the Judicial Conduct Commission. The Commission is established as an independent commission receiving administrative support and assistance from the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation. The Commission operates pursuant to a plan of operation, policies and procedures recommended by the Commission and approved by the Judiciary Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

The Commission is tasked with enhancing public confidence in the Navajo Nation Judiciary by providing a fair, impartial and expeditious forum to hear complaints and grievances against justices and judges of the Navajo Nation. The complaints and grievances may involve alleged violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct, personnel policies, and any other Navajo Nation laws or policies that set standards of ethics and conduct for justices and judges.

The Commission will also investigate or direct investigations of complaints or grievances against justices and judges, and will find and recommend appropriate sanctions, and will forward recommendations for suspension or removal of justices or judges to the Judiciary Committee and to the Chief Justice.

The Commission shall consist of five members serving staggered terms. One member shall be a sitting or retired federal or state court justice or judge in good standing in their respective jurisdiction — selected by the justices and judges of the Navajo Nation courts.

One member shall be a retired Navajo Nation justice or judge in good standing with the Navajo Nation Bar Association — selected by the justices and judges of the Navajo Nation courts.

Two members shall be regular or inactive members of the Navajo Nation Bar Association in good standing with no pending disciplinary proceedings against them and have not been formally reprimanded or suspended within a four consecutive year period prior to their selection — selected by the voting membership of the Navajo Nation Bar Association.

One member shall be a public member of the Navajo Nation, selected by the Judiciary Committee of the Navajo Nation Council from among applicants submitting letters of interest and resumes. The selected member should not be a current member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association, nor a sitting, retired, or removed justice or judge of the Navajo Nation or any other jurisdiction.

Interested applicants need to send their letter of interest and their resume by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 28, 2008. Submit requested documents to Darlene Womochil, legislative advisor for the Judiciary Committee at: P.O. Box 3390, Window Rock, AZ 86515.