



Contact: Karen Francis, *Judicial Liaison Officer*
Administrative Office of the Courts
JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE NAVAJO NATION
Office: 928-871-6920
Facsimile: 928-871-6761
E-mail: karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov
<http://www.navajocourts.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Wednesday, May 30, 2012

NEW JUDICIAL DISTRICT ESTABLISHED

The Law and Order Committee approved legislation sponsored by Dwight Witherspoon on May 29, 2012, to establish the Dził Yijiin Judicial District. The vote was 2 in favor and none opposed.

The new judicial district will be the eleventh judicial district of the Navajo Nation. The new judicial district will be located at Pinon, Arizona, and will serve Black Mesa, Blue Gap-Tachee, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Low Mountain, Pinon and Whippoorwill chapters. These chapters were a part of the Chinle Judicial District.

The Judicial Branch has worked with the communities in order to bring judicial services to the area. Because of the lack of services, a judge and a court clerk from Chinle Judicial District have been traveling to Pinon once a month for the past few years to hold hearings for juveniles there.

Chief Justice Herb Yazzie said, "This will improve the government capabilities for enhanced service delivery to this region which is isolated and in desperate need of improved services. Pinon Chapter and the other chapters in the new district continue to seek funds for the construction of a judicial complex to be located at Pinon. The Judicial Branch fully supports this effort." A district court judge for the new judicial district is now being sought.

###