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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2018**



### **JAYNE CONFIRMED PROBATIONARY CHIEF JUSTICE**

JoAnn Jayne was confirmed as probationary Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation by the Navajo Nation Council on January 24, 2018.

Jayne took the oath of office delivered by Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley immediately following the vote on her confirmation.

Jayne is Tábaqhá, born for Kinyaa'áanii. She was born in Shiprock, N.M., and grew up in Tohatchi, N.M. She has a bachelor of science degree in agricultural industry from Arizona State University, a master of science degree in watershed management from University of Arizona and a juris doctor degree from the University of Montana School of Law.

Jayne has owned her own business – Joey Jayne Law Office, P.L.L.C. – for 17 years. She served four consecutive terms in the Montana State House of Representatives where she served on the Appropriations Committee. She was also elected a state Justice Court judge in Lake County, Montana and has served as a judge in Blackfeet Tribal Court, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court, and the Crow Tribal Court.

Pursuant to 7 N.N.C. § 355(A), the President of the Navajo Nation appoints the Chief Justice with confirmation by the Council from among applicants recommended by the Judiciary Committee (now the Law and Order Committee).

Jayne was recommended as an applicant for the position of Chief Justice by the Law and Order Committee through Resolution No. LOCJN-08-17 and was appointed by President Russell Begaye on July 11, 2017. Law and Order Committee Chairman Edmund Yazzie presented the legislation to confirm Jayne’s probationary appointment to the Council.

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