



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judiciary Committee recommends to Council the permanent appointment and confirmation of Judge William J. Platero

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Friday, the Judiciary Committee unanimously passed two resolutions recommending the permanent appointment of Judge William J. Platero of the Tó'hajiilee District Court. On Sept., 30, the committee conducted Judge Platero's two-year probationary performance evaluation hearing with satisfactory remarks, including favorable testimony by Chief Justice Herb Yazzie.

The recommendation and confirmation of a Navajo Nation Justice or Judge is a two part process that requires the Judiciary Committee to recommend the permanent appointment of a probationary judge to the President and the confirmation of the permanent appointment by the Navajo Nation Council, 2 N.N.C. § 574 (F). During its 2010 Fall Session, the Council will consider the confirmation of Judge Platero for permanent appointment.

At the special meeting, the committee first passed the "recommending" resolution (Tracking No. 0657-10), which was delivered to the Office of the President for signature. Due to President Joe Shirley's absence, Vice President Ben Shelly signed off on the resolution in an effort to move forward with the appointment process. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (D), the "Vice President of the Nation, during the absence of the President, shall exercise the powers and execute the duties of the President of the Navajo Nation."

In a written statement, Vice President Shelly said he was honored to appoint Judge Platero to a permanent Navajo Nation District Court Judge.

"It is a pleasure and honor to appoint you as a permanent Navajo Nation District Court Judge," said Vice President Shelly. "Your appointment shall become effective upon confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council. I am confident that you will continue to perform your duties responsibly with integrity and impartiality."

After the appointment by Vice President Shelly, the committee passed the second resolution (Tracking No. 0658-10). The second resolution, which is on the Navajo Nation Council Fall Session agenda, recommends the Council to confirm Judge Platero to a permanent appointment.

"Honorable Judge Platero's permanent appointment to the bench will greatly benefit the Navajo Nation judicial system and serve the best interest of our Navajo people," said Kee Allen Begay, chairman for the Judiciary Committee.

The committee determined that Judge Platero is qualified and meets the requirements specified in 7 N.N.C. §§ 354-5 and that he conducts himself in a professional, humble manner and gives fair decisions.

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