



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 17, 2025**

## **Law and Order Committee reviews Fiscal Year 2025 budget request from Navajo Nation Judicial Branch**



**Law and Order Committee (L to R): Council Delegates Nathan Notah, Arbin Mitchell, Steven Arviso, LOC Chairwoman Eugenia Charles-Newton, and Herman Daniels, Jr.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The Law and Order Committee (LOC) reviewed a detailed report on the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025) budget for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, presented by Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne which detailed the Judicial Branch’s budget request for FY 2025.

Chairwoman Eugenia Charles-Newton emphasized the importance of the Judicial Branch services to the Diné people living on the Navajo Nation. She explained that the judicial services are critical to the Navajo Nation to process criminal cases and to uphold Navajo Nation laws across the nation.

LOC members expressed concerns about the Judicial Branch’s exceeding the Budget and Finance Committee’s proposed budget of \$18,094,114. The Judicial Branch requested a FY2025 budget of \$20,964,895, approximately \$2 million more than the BFC’s proposed budget.

During the meeting, LOC emphasized the importance of adhering to the Budget and Finance Committee’s proposed amount while maximizing available resources, including the \$400,000 designated in object code 7250 under Program 7110 in the Budget Instruction Manual.

Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne also highlighted the judicial branch’s ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency through reorganization and technological advancements. These initiatives aim to streamline processes, improve judicial independence, and ensure equitable access to justice for all Diné citizens.

Additionally, the committee approved a schedule for public hearings on the confirmation of Chief Justice Jayne. Hearings will be held across all seven judicial districts to ensure community participation and transparency. The first hearing is scheduled for February 19, 2025, at the Tuba City District Court starting at 9:00 AM.

“These hearings represent our commitment to judicial accountability and public engagement,” said Delegate Arbin Mitchell. “We invite our citizens to voice their perspectives and be part of this important process.”

The LOC remains dedicated to ensuring that the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch operates efficiently within budgetary parameters, while maintaining its mission to uphold justice across the Navajo Nation.

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