



Aadahwiinit'jiií Bik'eh Da'íníish Bee Nahaz'áanii Hasht'eéhoo'níif

HARMONIZATION PROJECT

A Project of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

P.O. Box 520, Window Rock, AZ 86515

<http://www.navajocourts.org/indexharmony.htm>

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CALL FOR INPUT

Outside Review

The Harmonization Project, begun in August 2007, has been given the task of exploring ways to harmonize court procedures with Diné Fundamental Law. In conducting these explorations, it is important to understand any boundaries or constraints that may place limitations on the possible changes. Those constraints may come from Diné Fundamental Law, from the Navajo Bill of Rights, and/or from federal law.

Paul Spruhan, Lawrence Ruzow, and Melissa Tatum have submitted a draft report discussing the boundaries imposed by laws outside the Navajo Nation, or "outside constraints." The report, [Navajo Nation Proceedings and Outside Review](#), may be found on the harmonization project website.

Your comments on this report will be of very great assistance. Please submit your input by mail or email to Paul Spruhan at paulspruhan@navajo.org.

Testament of Culture

Civil procedure has been called an important testament of a culture. The harmonization project is exploring access, community participation, the goals of litigation (including *hozho*), conduct of proceedings, and the roles of judge, parties, and advocates toward cultural ownership of the courts for the Navajo people.

As we explore varied tribal, other domestic, and international systems, your input is vital as practitioners in our courts and advocates for Navajo people.

Please submit your input by mail or email to Josephine Foo, project coordinator at josephinefoo@navajo.org.

Business Court

The project has begun to address the need for a Navajo Nation Business Court. The availability of such a court would ensure efficiency, predictability, and stability to the business community to improve economic development. At the last meeting, it was agreed to proceed with an operating statement to be used in conjunction with the Navajo Rules of Civil Procedure. The court would be used by business entities only, including sole proprietorships. It is undecided if it will be a judge or a panel. The court may have a centralized location.

Your comments and suggestions on a business court are very welcome. Again, please submit to the project coordinator.