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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **JUDICIAL BRANCH UPDATING STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation has begun work to update its strategic plan to best serve the public and the Navajo Nation. It has been more than 10 years since the branch last developed a written long term plan to guide its operations.

The Judicial Branch utilized external grant funds and the services of several organizations, including Indigenous Collaboration, a Native-owned corporation that provided facilitation for the two-day strategic planning session, and Casey Family Programs, a national foundation focused on child welfare and families.

Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council member Katrina Yazzie and Judicial Conduct Commission members Robert Yazzie and Judy Apachee joined Judicial Branch employees from all levels of the judicial system including the courts, Peacemaking Program, and Probation Services to work on the strategic plan.

The strategic planning work session enabled the branch to reflect on its history, set long term goals and priorities, identify obstacles and strategic actions, and come to a consensus on the components of a vision for the branch.

Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne told the group that since she was confirmed in January, 2018, many have asked her about her vision for the branch. She said she believes a vision does not come from a single individual but from a group.

“I don’t see it as a journey by myself. I see us all traveling together,” she said.

Chief Justice Jayne also encouraged the employees to share what has been developed with their colleagues.

The three components identified as central to the long term vision of the Judicial Branch include judicial independence, confidence in our traditional values and identity, and public trust and accountability. The participants broke out into six groups and identified specific and timely strategies to implement objectives moving the branch toward its vision. Jayne said that she envisions that the participants will provide regular updates to each other to be held accountable to the plans that are being made.

Once the strategic plan of the Judicial Branch is finalized and approved, it will be available to the public on the [www.navajocourts.org](http://www.navajocourts.org) website.

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