

Navajo woman appointed to bench

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DOJ legal staff candidate confirmed as district court judge

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation Department of Justice (DOJ) attorney candidate, Neomi M. Gilmore, has been confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council as a district court judge Dec. 19. A 2014 graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law, Ms. Gilmore is Navajo and Ute. She is Nooda'i dine, born for Bit'ahnii, her maternal grandparents are To'dich'ii'nii and her paternal grandparents are To'aheedliinii. She is originally from Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes, N.M.).

She completed the American Indian Law Center's Pre-Law Summer Institute in 2010, and graduated with her B.A. in Sociology, with a minor in Political Science from the University of New Mexico in 2006. Since 2017, Ms. Gilmore has worked at DOJ assisting the Nation's 110 Chapters and Administrative Service Centers. She previously worked at the New Mexico Legal Aid Gallup office as a Tribal Law Counselor, and served as a law clerk intern for NMLA's Santa Ana office, the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation, and the Navajo Nation's Office of the Chief Prosecutor.

Ms. Gilmore also previously served as the Director of *Native Youth Take Charge*, a youth initiative to inspire Native American youth in rural areas of the Navajo Nation to continue their educational endeavors. Her publications include *Native Youth Take Charge, AM. INDIAN GRADUATE*, Spring 2012. Ms. Gilmore has also participated as a research assistant in a study for the New Mexico Public Education Department, *Indian Education in New Mexico 2025*, in the fall of 2008.

In addition to Ms. Gilmore, DOJ Principal Tribal Court Advocate Malcolm Laughing was also confirmed as a district court judge.

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