

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS RESEARCH ISSUES REGARDING NAVAJO LAW

Whereas, the Navajo Nation Bar Association, Inc. Board of Bar Commissioners has the power under Section IX(G) of the Navajo Nation Bar Association Bylaws to "designate ad hoc committees as may from time to time be necessary or appropriate to fulfilling the Board's duties and responsibilities."

Whereas, legal research is a critical component to the practice of law for all attorneys and advocates licensed to practice on the Navajo Nation; and

Whereas, the Navajo Nation has an enormous body of law that derives from legislative, judicial and administrative agency decision sources;

Whereas, laws relied upon by advocates and attorneys affect the lives of people and outcomes of cases depend on the laws that are argued in the courts and other legal forums everyday;

Whereas, laws should be easily accessible in one place by attorneys who need to be informed as to which issues are being decided on by the legislature, courts and administrative bodies on the Navajo Nation;

Whereas, Navajo Nation laws often change and are amended from time to time without effective notice or public notice;

Whereas, it is crucial that these laws are being updated and reported to the proper channels responsible for dissemination such as Westlaw, Dibbs and/or NNBA log-in profiles to ensure that Navajo Nation practicing attorneys are able to access any changes in the law and are using the correct, current laws in practice;

Whereas, the Board of Bar Commissioner recognizes the need to form an Ad Hoc Committee to coordinate with the appropriate branches of government to organize a streamlined system for ensuring that laws are properly compiled and disseminated in the form of legal code updates, legislation, case law, administrative decisions, DOJ opinions and rulings.

Be It Resolved, the Navajo Nation Board of Bar Commissioners wishes to form a Research Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations to develop a research system that can work efficiently and effectively and improve research functionality for NNBA members engaged in the practice of law on the Navajo Nation;

Be It Futher Resolved, the Research Ad Hoc Committee shall share recommendations for solutions with Navajo Nation leadership for each branch of government to propose action;

NAVAJO NATION BAR ASSOCIATION, INC. POST OFFICE BOX 690 WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515

Be It Further Resolved, the Board of Bar Commissioners Research Ad Hoc Committee Chair and members shall be identified at the next quarterly meeting of the Board of Bar Commissioners; and

Be it Further Resolved, three members of the Ad Hoc committees shall be nominated for selection by the Rules, Training, and CLE Committee;

Be it Further Resolved, three members shall be nominated and selected from each of the three branches of government to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee as point of contact;

Be it Further Resolved, that at least one member of the committee shall possess research, database or library expertise;

Be it Finally Resolved, that the Board approves the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee and shall specify duties and powers of the ad hoc committee, length of terms for the Chair and regular members and the length of time that the ad hoc committee is authorized to act at the next meeting of the Board of Bar Commissioners

Votes:

10 In favor

0 Not in favor

0 Abstain

Resolution Approved By:

Julia Guarino, Navajo Bar Association Secretary

Date: October 11, 2019