

# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts



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## **Judge Dale Nielson Appointed Presiding Judge for Navajo County**

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court has appointed the [Honorable Dale Nielson](#) to the post of Presiding Judge for the Superior Court in Navajo County, effective January 4, 2021. Judge Nielson served on the Navajo County Superior Court bench from 2001 to 2008, including a five-year term as presiding judge, and returned to the bench where he has served since 2015. His new appointment will follow the retirement of current Presiding Judge Robert J. Higgins and will continue through December 31, 2023.

Presiding Judges in Arizona serve as the chief executive officer of the county courts, having administrative authority over the courts, judicial officers, and court employees in their county. The Presiding Judge oversees case assignments, court calendars, financial management, and helps set the court's strategic agenda. They also monitor the performance of the courts to ensure that cases are processed timely. Judge Nielson will receive no additional compensation for his duties and responsibilities as Presiding Judge.

Judge Nielson's work in Navajo County courts began as a juvenile probation officer. After graduating from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, he worked as a deputy county attorney, a legal defender, and served on the Navajo County Superior Court bench. He then worked in private practice and as a public defender before returning to the bench in 2015.

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To learn more about Navajo County's courts, visit <https://www.navajocountyaz.gov/Departments/Superior-Court>.

To learn more about Arizona's judicial branch, visit [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov).

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