

Notice to Grand Traverse Band Tribal Members Appointment of Appellate Judges

This notice serves to inform the membership of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of a Tribal Appellate Court vacancy.

Article V Section 9 of the GTB Tribal Constitution provides: "Vacancies in the Tribal Judiciary. Any vacancy in the Tribal Judiciary shall be filled by the Tribal Council in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term."

The Appellate term appointment will be for the balance of the unexpired term to October 14, 2020.

Additionally, under the Tribal Constitution, Article V which establishes the Tribal Judiciary, Section 1 states: "The judicial power of the Grand Traverse Band shall be vested in a tribal court system. The tribal court system shall be composed of a court of general jurisdiction, an appellate court, and such lower courts as the Tribal Appellate Court may establish."

Article V, Section (3)(b) addresses the composition of the Tribal Appellate Court. "The Tribal Appellate Court shall consist of three (3) judges. At least one of the three (3) judges shall be an attorney licensed to practice before the courts of a state in the United States." There is currently one (1) vacancy on the Tribal Appellate Court.

Article V Section (4)(b) states that "each judge of the Tribal Appellate Court shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of five (5) of the seven (7) members of the Tribal Council for a term of six (6) years."

The Tribal Constitution also establishes the eligibility and qualifications for the Appellate judges. Article V Section 5 states:

Any person shall be eligible to serve as a tribal court judge only if he/she:

- (a) is a member of the Grand Traverse Band who has attained the age of eighteen (18) and/or is an attorney licensed to practice before the courts of a state in the United States.
- (b) Is not presently a Tribal Council member or running to become a Tribal Council member; and
- (c) Has not been convicted, within ten (10) years of such appointment, of any felony by a court of competent jurisdiction."

In order for the vacancy to be filled, any interested and eligible individuals are required to submit a letter stating their desire to be appointed to the Appellate Court, along with a current resume. These items are to be submitted to the General Counsel, John Petoskey, as soon as possible. Tribal Council appointments will take place at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council on April 18, 2018.

If further information is needed or if there are any questions please contact the Legal Department at 231-534-7601.