

2015 Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative Report for the District of Guam

Update of Local Rules of Practice

Court committees, each consisting of attorneys and court staff members, completed the update of several sets of local rules over the last year. Updated Bankruptcy Rules were issued on August 1, 2014, updated Civil and Tax Rules on February 15, 2015, and new Criminal Rules were made effective on March 1, 2015. An updated version of the court's General Rules has been drafted and will be issued for comment by the public and the bar by June 2015.

2015 District Conference

The District Court of Guam and the Guam Bar Association held the Annual District Conference and the Guam Bar Association's Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa, Tumon, Guam.

The Conference, co-sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the NMI, the CNMI Supreme Court, and the CNMI Bar Association, was entitled, "*Warriors or Lawyers? Ethics and Professionalism*," and included a keynote speech on ethics and professionalism by Circuit Judge M.

Margaret McKeown, of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Retired Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, Attorney General-Elect, was the keynote speaker for the Guam Bar Association Annual Meeting, which was

held during the lunch hour, along with the swearing-in of the newly elected Guam Bar Association Board members, and the presentation of the court's Cristobal C. Duenas Excellence Award to



Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown

local attorney Cynthia V. Ecube.

Other topics included, "*Am I too Busy? Don't Crack! Strategies for Judges and Lawyers*," a panel discussion on time and stress management for practicing attorneys; and "*Ethical Issues Facing the Military and Local Communities*" by Harry W. Elliot IV, legal counsel for Joint Region Marianas. Judge McKeown also facilitated two special roundtable discussions, one for lawyers and one for judges.

Participating attorneys earned up to seven and a half hours of continuing legal education credits.



Rodney J. Jacob
9th Circuit LRCC Representative

Updated Jury Plan

The court updated its Jury Plan in May 2015, and is awaiting its approval by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council.

These are the salient changes:

- Certain occupational classes or groups of people have been removed from the list of those to be granted excuses prior to appearing for jury selection.
- In any two-year year period, no person shall be required to serve or attend court for prospective jury service as a petit juror for a total of more than thirty (30) days, except when necessary to complete jury service in a particular case.
- Notice of persons who identify themselves as non-citizens through the juror qualification process will be

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provided to appropriate election officials for verifying voter registration eligibility.

Federal Public Defender Sworn-In

John T. Gorman, Guam's Federal Public Defender, was sworn in for his fourth term April 23, 2015 at the District Court of Guam by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

Mr. Gorman was reappointed to a fourth term by the Chief Judge Sydney Thomas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on March 20, 2015.



Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Federal Public Defender John T. Gorman, and Fides Gorman

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Guam was established in 1994, and is dedicated to the defense of indigent clients charged with federal offenses. Mr. Gorman was first appointed the Federal Public Defender by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Court in 2003. From 1997 to 2003, he was the Senior Trial Attorney in the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

Adoption of Electronic CJA Voucher processing

The court implemented the CJA eVoucher Program in December 2014. The CJA eVoucher Program allows court-appointed CJA attorneys and expert service providers the opportunity to create, update and submit their CJA vouchers electronically at any time during the representation process. This billing tool provides attorneys and service providers the ability to log their hours on a daily basis and to simply submit their voucher once the case is closed, or the services are provided. The program eliminates the calculation errors associated with manual billing and internal audit processes, and reduces audit review times for court staff. The CJA eVoucher Program is available to customers and internal staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week and overall feedback of the program is favorable.

Congressional Swearing-In

The Judicial Council of the United States, in an effort to strengthen relations between the Judiciary and Congress, encourages courts to hold non-partisan swearing-in ceremonies for all the newly elected and re-elected members of your congressional delegation. Guam Congressional Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo was ceremonially sworn-in by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on January 15, 2015 in a ceremony held at the Latte

of Freedom at the R.J. Bordallo Governor's Complex at Adelup.



Madeleine Z. Bordallo and Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood

Law Week 2015: "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law"

We commemorated Law Week 2015 at the District Court with several special events, including a lunchtime seminar for the media, several court tours, a mini mock trial for middle school students, a special Naturalization ceremony, a Law Fair at a local mall, and an Island Leadership Day with student winners of a Law Day essay contest.