



District Court of Guam

4TH FLOOR, U.S. COURTHOUSE
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HA GÁTÑA, GUAM 96910



CHAMBER OF
Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATTORNEY HOWARD TRAPP TO RECEIVE CRISTOBAL C. DUENAS EXCELLENCE AWARD



Howard G. Trapp

At the annual District Conference of the District Court of Guam to be held on August 28, 2014, Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr. will present the Cristobal C. Duenas Excellence Award to Mr. Howard Trapp.

The Honorable Cristobal C. Duenas passed away on February 14, 2010. His Honor was appointed to the federal bench on December 24, 1969 and after 22 years, retired in 1991. Chief Judge Duenas was declared the "Judicial Patriarch of Guam" and "the Ninth Circuit's bravest pioneer" by fellow jurists.

Remarked the Chief Judge: "To honor the legacy of the late Retired District Judge Cristobal C. Duenas, the Excellence Award is given to Mr. Trapp for significantly advancing the administration of justice and the legal profession through his meritorious deeds or exemplary service."

Mr. Trapp arrived on Guam on August 1, 1960 on the tenth year anniversary of the signing of the Organic Act of Guam and began clerking for the Honorable Eugene R. Gilmartin, Judge for the District Court of Guam. He began his legal practice in 1962 and worked in various private law firms, including Trapp & Gayle, and currently continues his practice full-time as Howard Trapp Incorporated.

Mr. Trapp practiced before the following courts: the local Island Court which later became the Superior Court of Guam; the District Court of Guam; the Appellate Division of the District Court of Guam; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Trapp was involved in the following cases: *Guam v. Olsen*, 431 U.S. 195 (1977), wherein he successfully argued that the Legislature of Guam exceeded its authority

under the Organic Act in creating the Supreme Court of Guam; *Chase Manhattan Bank v. South Acres Dev. Co.*, 434 U.S. 236 (1978), wherein he successfully argued that the District Court of Guam had no diversity jurisdiction under the Organic Act, prompting Congress to amend 48 U.S.C. § 1424 to provide for such Jurisdiction; and *Nguyen v. United States*, 539 U.S. 69 (2003), wherein he successfully argued that non-Article III territorial judges could not sit on a panel of the Court of Appeals.

Mr. Trapp has served in many capacities in the community, such as President of the Guam Bar Association in 1965 and a member of the Northern Mariana Islands Bar Association as well as the State Bar of California; a Fellow at the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; a Committee Member of the Guam Bar Association; a Trustee/President of the Guam Territorial Law Library; a Regent of the University of Guam; a Member of the Guam Election Commission; and a Member of the Land Transfer Board. A long time contributor to our island government, Mr. Trapp was a founding member and former National Committeeman of the Republican Party of Guam and further served the community as a Republican Senator for the Fourteenth Guam Legislature, Counsel for the Eighth Guam Legislature, and a Delegate to the First Guam Constitutional Convention.

“We extend a sincere *Dangkulu na Si Yu’us Ma’ase* to Howard Trapp for his outstanding dedication, ethics, and professionalism in the practice of law and in service to the District Court of Guam and to the people of Guam,” remarked Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood.