



District Court of Guam

4TH FLOOR, U.S. COURTHOUSE
520 WEST SOLEDAD AVENUE
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910



CHAMBER OF
Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEL: (671) 473-9200
FAX: (671) 473-9186

For More Information, Rossanna
Villagomez-Aguon at 473-9224 or 727-9201

Defendant/Offender Workforce Development Training
Hilton Guam Resort & Spa, Tamuning
June 22-24, 2010

The District Court of Guam and the U.S. Probation Office for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are pleased to announce the Defendant/Offender Workforce Development training that is currently ongoing at the Hilton Hotel. Assistant Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer Scott Anders and Supervising U.S. Probation Officer Patricia Doherty from the U.S. Probation Office in St. Louis, Missouri, are on island to provide training to federal and local probation and parole officers, and community partners in the employment of individuals with felony convictions. The Eastern District of Missouri Probation Office is a pioneer in this area, and is on island to assist the Guam federal probation office in its implementation of this program on Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

By implementing a successful workforce development program, three important goals are accomplished. The first is fulfillment of the court's order by satisfying the conditions of employment and payment of financial obligations, such as fines and restitution. The second is protection of the community since meaningful employment has been proven to reduce recidivism. Last, it provides the ability for defendants and offenders to become contributing members of the community. The individuals who obtain meaningful employment gain a sense of pride that they may not have had before. These individuals can provide for their families, which increases self-confidence and self-esteem, and eventually they can gain the respect of the community.

The offenders represent a significant part of our community, and they can be an asset. They are individuals who are more than willing to work and become contributing members of our community, but face discrimination due to their convictions or pending court cases.

Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave the opening remarks. Two ex-offenders spoke on their experiences and challenges of obtaining employment. Mr. Monty McDowell of Advance Management Inc., who represented the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Joey Lopez of No Ka Oi, a private businessman, spoke on the experiences in hiring individuals with felony convictions. Mr. McDowell and Mr. Lopez have been very supportive of the Superior Court of Guam Adult Drug Court and the District Court of Guam Drug Offender Reentry Program. In addition to the federal probation officers from Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, participants in this training include the Superior Court of Guam Probation Office, Department of Corrections Parole Office, the Department of Labor, the Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, the Mayors Council of Guam, Guam Community College, the Department of Administration, an employer from the private sector, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands probation and parole offices.

Any requests for interviews, please contact Chief U.S. Probation Officer Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon at 727-9201.