



District Court of Guam

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CHAMBER OF
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DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM NATURALIZATION CEREMONY Court Celebrates Independence Day

Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood is pleased to announce that the District Court of Guam will host a special Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony on July 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the courthouse.

“Guam is where America’s Day Begins, and the District Court is proud to celebrate the 234th birthday of the United States of America by welcoming 50 new citizens to our great nation,” said Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood. “This is a once in a lifetime experience that we are privileged to share with the new citizens.”

Giving the keynote address at this year’s Independence Day Ceremony is Superior Court Judge Anita A. Sukola, who has a long history of dedicated service to the people of Guam. Judge Sukola was a teacher at Simon Sanchez Junior High School and George Washington High School, while at the same time pursuing her Master’s Degree in School Administration and Supervision at the University of Guam. She then went on to attend and graduate from law school, and upon returning to Guam, she served in the Guam Legislature, at the Guam Public Defender’s Office, and as the Deputy Director and the Director of the Department of Education. Currently, in addition to her duties as a jurist, Judge Sukola holds a position as an adjunct professor at the University of Guam.

With her passion for learning and the law, Judge Sukola will be able to enlighten the citizens about the significance of Independence Day, when our nation celebrates the historic day in 1776 when the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence and representatives from the 13 colonies announced freedom from British rule. Much more than simply a piece of paper, the Declaration of Independence embodies the rights embraced by citizens of the United States – that “all” people are “created equal” and have “certain unalienable rights” including the rights to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

This year’s celebration of Independence Day at the District Court will allow these newly naturalized citizens to fully exercise their rights, as the court will host its fifth Citizenship Outreach Program for these citizens. Immediately after the naturalization ceremony, the new citizens will be able to register to vote, apply for a Social Security Card or amend Social Security records, and apply for a U.S. passport, provided they have appropriate supporting documentation for the application. Representatives from the Guam Election Commission, the Social Security Administration and the Guam Passport Office will be present after the ceremony to assist new citizens with any questions.

Media outlets who will be attending the ceremony must make arrangements prior to the ceremony by contacting Cindy Palacios at 473-9200 or by email at cynthia_palacios@gud.uscourts.gov.