

FILED
Clerk
District Court

MAR 21 2012

For The Northern Mariana Islands
By _____
(Deputy Clerk)

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JANE ROE and JOHN DOE,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
BENIGNO R. FITIAL, *et al.*,
Defendants.

CIVIL CASE NO. 09-00023

ORDER RE: MOTION TO COMPEL
PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEYS TO
ASSOCIATE WITH LOCAL COUNSEL

This matter came before the court on February 1, 2012, regarding the defendants' motion to require the plaintiffs' attorneys to associate with local counsel pursuant to the court's local rules 83.5(b)(3) and 83.5(f). *See* ECF No. 132. The defendants expressed the difficulty in serving the plaintiffs because the plaintiffs' attorneys have provided at least two different mailing addresses, one of which refuses service and the other being defunct. *See* ECF Nos. 132-2 and 132-3. The plaintiffs' attorneys do not reside or maintain a law office in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Taking this into consideration, the court has also weighed the issue of distance, time difference, and the need for the plaintiffs' attorneys to be accessible to the court and the

1 opposing counsel. Absent a showing of good cause to waive the requirement to associate with
2 local counsel, the court hereby grants the defendants' motion.

3 Within ten (10) business days from the issuance of this order, the plaintiffs' attorneys
4 shall associate with a local counsel, and shall file with the court the name and contact
5 information of the associated local counsel. The plaintiffs' attorneys must show good faith effort
6 and due diligence of its attempt to associate with local counsel. The plaintiffs' attorneys must file
7 with the court evidence that they have attempted to contact at least twenty-five (25) attorneys
8 licensed to practice in the Northern Mariana Islands and that each of the contacted attorneys had
9 refused association.¹

11 **SO ORDERED.**



13 /s/ **Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood**
14 **Designated Judge**
15 **Dated: Mar 21, 2012**

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27 ¹ The court recognizes that the plaintiffs' attorneys may have difficulty in associating with a local
28 counsel. Accordingly, in the event the plaintiffs' attorneys have shown good faith effort and due
 diligence, the court will assist the plaintiffs' attorneys in locating a local counsel.