



DISTRICT OF GUAM

2017 Report of the Ninth Circuit LRCC Representative

Rodney J. Jacob

For the Bench and Bar

2017 District Conference

Ninth Circuit Judge Paul J. Watford and Professor Jonathan Turley of George Washington University



The Honorable Paul J. Watford

School of Law were featured speakers at our annual District Conference on February 9, 2017 at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. Judge Watford provided the one hundred fifty bar members with an update on the Ninth Circuit, as well as a presentation on appellate advocacy, while Professor Turley gave us fascinating presentations on the history of the Supreme Court, the use of cultural norms in criminal and civil cases, and current ethical issues facing counsel in criminal cases. We ended the afternoon with an informative session entitled, “Pot or Not?” which included issues relating to the collision of Guam



Professor Jonathan Turley

law with federal law regarding the legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational use. Panel members included Dr. Paul Coty, the Chief Medical Officer of Guam Regional Medical City; Attorney General of Guam Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson; Drug Enforcement Agency Resident Agent in Charge Kirk Williamson; Federal Public Defender John Gorman; Presiding Judge Alberto Lamorena, III of the Superior Court of Guam; Mr. Gerard Cruz, President of Community First Guam Federal Credit Union; and attorneys Dana Gutierrez and Jacqueline Terlaje.

Online Payment of Fees

In March 2017, the District Court of Guam began to accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit card payments online for filing fees associated with bankruptcy cases and the opening of



civil actions. Automated Clearing House payments from checking accounts are also accepted.

Handbook for Pro Se Litigants

In February 2017, the Clerk’s Office released a new, locally developed publication for self-represented litigants entitled “Filing a Civil Case on Your

Own Behalf”. This 20-page document describes the filing and procedures associated with civil actions in a way that is easy to understand. It may be found on the court’s website or may be obtained over the counter.

Upgrade of Courtroom Technology

The court has procured the service of an audio/video design engineer to plan a major upgrade of the audio and video technology in its main fourth floor courtroom. The design is nearly complete, and the court intends to solicit bids for the installation work in late June 2017. Planned enhancements include widescreen monitors throughout the courtroom, a new audio system, and a new digital video system for evidence presentation. The court hopes to have the installation complete by the end of the calendar year.

Bankruptcy Seminar

On August 30, 2016, the court hosted a three-hour bankruptcy seminar for members of the Guam Bar Association with Region 15 Acting U.S. Trustee Tiffany Carroll and Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis B. Ching. Topics included “Information Gathering in Bankruptcy,” “Sanctions in Bankruptcy,” and “Small Business and Individual Chapter 11 Cases.” Members of the bar earned up to three hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for participating in the event.



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Administrative Initiatives

Centralization of CM/ECF Servers

The court moved its electronic filing servers from its computer room in Guam to an installation in the continental United States in March 2017. Electronic filers should perceive an increase in speed and performance when filing documents electronically.

Judiciary Integrated Financial Management System (JIFMS)

The court migrated to an upgraded cloud-based Financial Management System in March 2017. JIFMS interfaces with U.S. Treasury systems and other Judiciary operational systems which will eliminate duplicative entry and strengthen internal controls.

Upgrade of Court Website

In November 2016, the court upgraded its website. New features include:

- A feature slider (slideshow) that highlights content important to the public and bar.
- Responsivity for mobile devices, e.g. looks good on smartphones and tablets.
- A revised and streamlined menu system.
- Enhanced search capabilities.

Civics and Community Outreach

14th Amendment Panel Discussion

The court hosted a “Conversatorio” or panel discussion on

the 14th Amendment at the courthouse on May 11, 2017. The theme of this event and of Law Week as well, was “*The Fourteenth Amendment: Transforming American Democracy.*”

The panel, moderated by Attorney Minakshi Hemlani, consisted of attorney and former Guam Senator Robert Klitzkie, Attorney Ignacio Aguigui, and former Congressman and current President of the University of Guam, Dr. Robert Underwood.

The invited audience was comprised of students from the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and members of the Guam Youth Congress. The discussion centered on the history of the 14th Amendment and its clauses, especially the Citizenship, Due Process and Equal Protection clauses. The panelists also provided their perspectives on the applicability of this constitutional amendment to Guam.

The entire event was also livestreamed to YouTube at https://youtu.be/IEz_fl_B0_o or <http://tinyurl.com/guam14th>.

Other Law Week Activities

Other 2017 Law Week events included a Law Day Naturalization Ceremony, a visit by the District Court judges to senior citizens centers, a reading of a children’s book on the U.S. Constitution by the District Court judges to elementary school children, a 5K race called “*Race Judicata Under Colors of Law,*” a Law “Street” Fair, a

fitness contest for judicial employees and law enforcement officers called “the Haggan Games,” and a Law Week softball tournament for judiciary employees and law enforcement officers.

Michael Santos

Mr. Michael Santos, an American prison consultant, conducted a training session at the District Court for members of the Guam Bar Association on July 1, 2016. Members of the bar earned up to 1.5 hours of CLE for attending his presentation,



Michael Santos

which was entitled “*Earning Freedom: Success Through Prison and Beyond.*”

Mr. Santos is the author of several books about prison, a professor of criminal justice, and an advocate for criminal justice reform. Mr. Santos spent 26 years inside 19 different U.S. Bureau of Prison facilities. During his decades inside federal prisons, Mr. Santos committed to transforming his life, obtained an education, got married, wrote several books, blogged, and worked to prepare himself for a successful law-abiding life. He now works as a prison consultant, motivational speaker and life coach, and continues to advocate for reforming America’s criminal justice system.



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Attorney Minakshi V. Hemlani was the keynote speaker for the Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Naturalization Ceremony, September 16, 2016.



The District Court of Guam hosted the FBI Citizens Academy on October 19, 2016.



U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Brent W. Bien was the keynote speaker for the Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony on November 10, 2016.



Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo raises her right hand as Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood administers the oath of office on January 23, 2017 at the Latte of Freedom, Adelup, Guam.



The choir class from Notre Dame High School entertained the staff at the District Court on December 15, 2016.



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U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr. at Untalan Middle School for the Red Ribbon Resolution Presentation on October 8, 2016.



Attorney Robert Klitzkie, Ignacio Aguigui, and Dr. Robert Underwood, panelists in the court's Law Week "Conversatorio" on the 14th Amendment on May 11, 2017



Ms. Aleyshia F. Young, September 12, 2016

Federal and Military Bar Admissions



Mr. Daron J. Berman,
September 27, 2016



Ms. Jennifer Davis,
September 27, 2016



Ms. Geraldine Diaz,
November 22, 2016



Mr. Jon Roman C. Ramos
December 15, 2016