

DISTRICT COURT
OF GUAM

2025 DISTRICT REPORT

75TH ANNIVERSARY



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Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge

District Court of Guam
4th Floor, U.S. Courthouse
520 West Soledad Avenue
Hagåtña, Guam 96910



Michael J. Bordallo
U.S. Magistrate Judge

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

On behalf of the District Court of Guam, U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael J. Bordallo and I would like to welcome you to the 2025 District Conference where we will celebrate the Court's 75th Anniversary! The conference is designed to offer 8.0 hours of Continuing Legal Education and will be presided over by Master of Ceremonies Rodney Jacob. We hope that you enjoy the presentations and leave with something that may help you in your practice of law.

After welcoming remarks and the state of the District Court address, you will receive updates on the state of the Guam Bar Association from President Jacqueline Taitano Terlaje, and on the state of the Guam Criminal Justice Act Plan from Federal Public Defender Leilani Lujan.

A key highlight of the conference includes two "Conversatorio" sessions featuring distinguished judges. The first will be with The Honorable Jeffrey S. Sutton, Chief Judge of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and the second will feature The Honorable Mary H. Murguia, Chief Judge of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The agenda covers a range of critical legal topics. Sessions include **"Best Practices in Handling Pre-Trial Detention or Release"** with The Honorable Michael J. Bordallo and others, and **"Artificial Intelligence Updates and Demonstration"** presented by The Honorable M. Margaret McKeown, Senior Circuit Judge, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. A panel discussion entitled **"Evolving Federal Law on Guam: the District Court of Guam 75 Years Later,"** will highlight some significant cases of the court over its 75-year history. Panelists will include attorneys Roger Crouthamel, Ann Keith, and Fred Black. The Honorable Johnnie B. Rawlinson, Circuit Judge, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, will present on **"Statutory Interpretation."**

During the lunch break, the Honorable Cristobal C. Duenas Excellence Award will be presented, and a 75th Anniversary Reception, sponsored by the District Court of Guam and the Guam Bar Association, will commence at 5:30 p.m.

Court History



Lumala I Estoria-ta (History Comes Alive): 75 Years of the District Court of Guam

Lumala I Estoria-ta, meaning “History Comes Alive,” is the theme for Guam’s celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Organic Act of Guam. In keeping with this theme, we highlight the District Court of Guam’s historical milestones, which reflect a legacy shaped by its jurisdictional authority, leadership, and the spaces in which justice was carried out in the last 75 years.

the earliest practicable date.” On August 1, 1950, a civil government of Guam became a reality with the passage of the Organic Act of Guam (Pub.L. 81-630, codified at 48 U.S.C. § 1421 et seq. (1950)).

The Organic Act of Guam created a territorial court, the District Court of Guam, and vested it with original jurisdiction over cases arising under federal law and cases not

the Organic Act to require that appeals to the District Court of Guam be heard by an appellate division consisting of three judges.

In 1974, the Guam Legislature created the Superior Court of Guam to replace the existing local court structure. Thus, beginning in 1974, the local courts exercised exclusive original jurisdiction over cases arising under local Guam (except cases also arising under federal law or related to Guam territorial income tax). As a result, the District Court of Guam was divested of original jurisdiction over cases arising under local law. Finally, upon the establishment of the Supreme Court of Guam in 1994 through the passage of the Frank G. Lujan Memorial Court Reorganization Act, the District Court of Guam was divested of appellate jurisdiction over all local matters.

Today, as a result of the above amendments to the Organic Act of Guam, the District Court of Guam exercises exclusive federal jurisdiction. It has the same jurisdiction as that of any Article III district court of the United States, to include federal question and diversity jurisdiction. In addition, the District Court of Guam has the jurisdiction of a United States bankruptcy court and acts as Guam’s tax court.

The Court’s Judicial Officers District/Chief Judges

The first judge appointed to the District Court under the Organic Act was **Paul D. Shriver**, a native of Colorado. A hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee was held on Shriver’s nomination on February 27, 1951. The first unpublished transcript of



President Harry S. Truman signing the Organic Act, creating the District Court of Guam.

The Organic Act of Guam and the Authority of the Court

The establishment of a civil government in Guam was envisioned by President Harry S. Truman, who stated: “It is the announced aim of this Government to accord civil government and a full measure of civil rights to the inhabitants of its Pacific territories. The accomplishment of this objective will be furthered by the transfer of these territories to civilian administration and the enactment of organic legislation at

transferred by the Guam Legislature to local courts, as well as appellate jurisdiction as to be determined by the Guam Legislature. Congress later expanded the court’s jurisdiction to include diversity jurisdiction. Shortly after the enactment of the Organic Act, the Guam Legislature created its local court system. It also granted the District Court appellate jurisdiction over certain civil and criminal decisions coming out of the local court. In 1958, Congress approved of such local law by amending

the hearing indicates that Shriver worked in government in Washington, D.C. and Colorado prior to World War II. He served in Italy with the Military Government Division during World War II, and for approximately four years prior



Chief Judge Paul Shriver, with United States Marshal Antonio C. Baza and United States Attorney, H. Gordon Homme, Jr.

to the appointment to the District Court judgeship in Guam, he served in the Philippines as General Counsel for the Philippine War Damage Commission. Shriver served two eight-year terms as the District Judge for Guam. He was re-nominated by President John F. Kennedy after Judge Eugene R. Gilmartin died in office in 1961. Court records show his second term began in March of 1961 and terminated with the court in September 1969.



ASSUMES JUDGESHIP — Eugene R. Gilmartin, right, former deputy high commissioner of the U.S. Pacific Trust Territories, is shown being sworn in as Judge of the District Court of Guam by Island Court Judge Jose C. Manibusan. The oath taking ceremony took place in the court chamber yesterday morning. Judge Gilmartin replaces Judge Paul D. Shriver who held the post for eight years.

Guam Daily News, Saturday, October 18, 1958, Page 1.

Eugene R. Gilmartin of Rhode Island succeeded Judge Shriver in 1959. After his appointment by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gilmartin's nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee took place on August 19, 1959. The unpublished transcript of the nomination hearing indicates that Gilmartin had been serving as the District Judge of Guam under a recess appointment that began on October 17, 1958.

Prior to that appointment, Gilmartin had served as the Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for 17 months. Before that, Gilmartin served in a variety of private practice and government positions in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. Judge Gilmartin died in office in 1961.

Cristobal C. Duenas, a 1952 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon on September 23, 1969, to be the next judge for the District Court of Guam. On December 10, 1969, he was confirmed by the Senate and commissioned the next day. By December 24, 1969, he was officially sworn in as the Judge of the District Court of Guam, and became the first CHamoru federal judge in the nation. In June of 1977, Judge Duenas was reappointed for a second term by President Jimmy Carter, and he retired as a Senior Judge in 1991. Admitted to the Guam bar in 1953, he held various public

service positions prior to being appointed to the federal bench, serving as Assistant Attorney General of Guam, Director of the Guam Department of Land Management, and Judge of the Island Court of Guam from 1960-1969. Judge Duenas passed away on February 14, 2010, after a long and distinguished judicial career.



NEWLY APPOINTED U.S. DISTRICT COURT Judge Cristobal Camacho Duenas poses with members of his family after being sworn into office Wednesday afternoon. Front row, from left, are his daughter Therese, sister Maria, his mother-in-law Mrs. Vicente Calvo (partly hidden), son Christopher, daughter Zerlina (in front of Christopher), sister Eliza, mother Concepcion, sister Isabel (partly hidden), sister Estella, son Ricardo, Judge Duenas, sister Carmen, wife Juanita holding son David, daughter Joanna (in front of her mother), First Lady Lourdes Camacho and Governor Carlos G. Camacho, and the Judge's son Vincent (in front of the island's First Couple). In back row, same order, are the judge's brother Jose C. Duenas Jr., brother-in-law Tomas Mendiola (husband of Isabel), Msgr. Felixberto C. Flores, nephew Luis, brother-in-law Frank D. Perez (husband of Carmen), brother-in-law Bernabe Paulino (husband of Estella) and father-in-law Vicente Calvo. (Guam Police Photo)

Guam Daily News, Sunday, December 28, 1969, Page 16.

President George H.W. Bush nominated **John Sablan Unpingco** to be the next judge for the District Court of Guam. The Senate confirmed the Presidential nomination on September 24, 1992 and the nominee was commissioned on October 9, 1992. Judge Unpingco received a Master of Laws degree, specializing in International Law, from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctorate from New York University, New York City; Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to serving on the bench, Judge Unpingco served as U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General, Command Counsel, Naval Warfare Center in China Lake,

California. Judge Unpingco spearheaded the building of the current courthouse and advocated for the creation of a full-time Magistrate Judge position. He resigned from office effective April 30, 2004, after serving 11 years with the court. Judge Unpingco passed away on October 11, 2023.

Ridgecrest man will take Guam judgeship

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has chosen John S. Unpingco of Ridgecrest, Calif. to be judge of the District Court of Guam for 10 years. If confirmed by the Senate, Unpingco would succeed

Christobal C. Duenas.

Unpingco is deputy counsel for the Office of Counsel at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division. He was born in Barrigada, Guam.

**Desert Dispatch (Barstow, California),
Monday, July 27, 1992, Page 3**

Chief Judge **Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood** was nominated in 2006 by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate as the nation's first female federal judge of CHamoru and Pohnpeian descent. Frances Tydingco-Gatewood began her law career as the Law Clerk for the Honorable Forest W. Hanna, Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Circuit Court in Kansas City, Missouri from 1983-1984 after receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 from Marquette University and receiving her Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri — Kansas City School of Law in 1983. She was Guam's first female prosecutor of CHamoru and Pohnpeian descent at the Guam Office of the Attorney General from 1984-1988. She later went on to be an Assistant Prosecutor, trial team leader for the Sex Crimes Unit in the Jackson

County Prosecutor's Office in Kansas City, Missouri from 1988-1990. She was appointed Chief Prosecutor at the Guam Office of the Attorney General from 1990-1994. Frances Tydingco-Gatewood served as a trial judge in the Superior Court from 1994-2002, becoming Guam's first female judge of CHamoru and Pohnpeian descent. She served as an Associate Justice in the Supreme Court from 2002-2006. She is the past President of the Pacific Judicial Council, an organization dedicated to the mission of educating judicial officers and stakeholders in the Pacific region. Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood has lectured in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Palau, the Solomon Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands, on various areas of the law. To date, Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood has sat as a judicial officer for more than 30 years.

Magistrate Judges

On February 9, 2004, **Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr.** began his term as the first U.S. Magistrate Judge of the District Court of Guam and the first CHamoru Magistrate Judge in the nation. He was appointed to an eight-year term by then-Chief Judge John S. Unpingco and reappointed for a second term by Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood in 2012. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley in 1971, and his Juris Doctor from Boalt Hall School of Law at University of California, Berkeley in 1974. He was admitted to the California bar in 1974, the Guam bar in 1975, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1988. Prior to his service on the federal bench, and after many years of private practice, Judge Manibusan sat as a judge at the Superior Court of Guam. Judge Manibusan retired from the District Court of Guam on February 7,

Manibusan sworn in as federal magistrate

New position: Eileen Bordallo Manibusan, left, holds the Bible as her husband, Judge Joaquin Manibusan, is sworn in yesterday as the U.S. District Court of Guam's new federal magistrate. Manibusan recently resigned as a Superior Court judge, and begins his duties at the district court on Monday.



Brian Forde/Pacific Daily News/Manibusan@guampdn.com

**Pacific Daily News, Saturday,
February 7, 2004, Page 4**

2020.

The Honorable **Michael J. Bordallo** began his term as a full time United States Magistrate Judge for the District Court of Guam on February 14, 2020. Judge Bordallo received a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1983 and a Juris Doctor in 1987 from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He brought 22 years of judicial experience to the court, having sat as a trial court judge for the Superior

Local

Bordallo sworn in



A ceremony was held for the investiture of U. S. Magistrate Judge Michael J. Bordallo on Friday at the U.S. District Court. From left, Bordallo, his wife, Carla Bordallo, and Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT

**Pacific Daily News, Sunday, February
16, 2020, Page A5**

Court of Guam since March of 1998.

The First Executives

The first United States Attorney for the District of Guam was **James G. Mackey**. His name appears on court documents filed in early 1951. The first United States Marshal for Guam was **Antonio C. Baza**, a native of

Tydingco-Gatewood sworn in

By Steve Lintano
Pacific Daily News

Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, who was sworn in during a ceremony yesterday morning in the courtroom of the District Court of Guam, said she would like to strengthen the relationship between the federal and local court systems on Guam, including the judicial branch, the executive branch and the legislature of Guam. She said she would like to reach down judges and local people.



Historic day: Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert Torres (center) led the ceremony. Tydingco-Gatewood, after presenting a resolution and playing the Guam's local courts. For more photos of the event, visit the Pacific Daily News photo gallery at www.guampdn.com.

NEW FEDERAL CHIEF JUDGE

Frances Tydingco-Gatewood is the first female federal judge of CHamoru and Pohnpeian descent to serve on the District Court of Guam. She was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2006. She is the past President of the Pacific Judicial Council, an organization dedicated to the mission of educating judicial officers and stakeholders in the Pacific region.

She said she would like to reach down judges and local people.

She thanked God, the people of the 9th U.S. District of Guam, and the people of Guam for their support.

Second husband people

**Pacific Daily News, Tuesday, October
31, 2006, Page 2**

Guam who had a long and illustrious career in law enforcement on the island. Marshal Baza's name appears on court documents from early 1951 through most of 1965.

The first Clerk of Court for the District of Guam was **Roland A. Gillette**, appointed by Judge Shriver in 1950. He served in that capacity until 1962. Prior to joining the District Court of Guam, Mr. Gillette served as a clerk in the county court system in Denver, Colorado. While living on Guam, his wife Katherine Hall Gillette became the Superintendent of Nurses at the Guam Memorial Hospital. Records show that



Roland A. Gillette (left), the first Clerk of Court, selecting the first jury panel with U.S. Marshal Antonio C. Baza (right) and Jesus A. Crisostomo looking on.

Mr. Gillette was employed by the county court in Denver after his service at the District Court of Guam.

The first United State Probation Officer for the District Court of Guam was **Frank Michael Cruz**, who was appointed by Judge Cristobal C. Duenas on June 19, 1978. On November 12, 1982, Mr. Cruz was appointed as the first Chief U.S. Probation Officer by Judge Duenas. Prior to his appointment, probation and pretrial services were

provided by the Superior Court of Guam. With the inception of the Guam probation office in 1978, services were also provided to the District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands on a limited basis.

The first Federal Public Defender was Attorney **Robert M. Hartsock**, who was appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2001. Prior to his appointment, the district's federal public defender services were handled by the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Hawaii, where Mr. Hartsock served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender and provided representation in Guam.

Court Locations Through the Years

The Guam Congress Building, located in Hagåtña, Guam, served as the venue for the District Court of Guam from 1950 to 1968. Our court's first jury trial commenced on February 21, 1956, for criminal case number 37-55, *Government of Guam vs. John L. Hilton and Richard C. Harris*. The defendants were charged with burglary in the first degree in an information that was filed on October 25, 1955. The jury acquitted the defendants that very same day. Mr. Richard Rosenberry, the Deputy Island



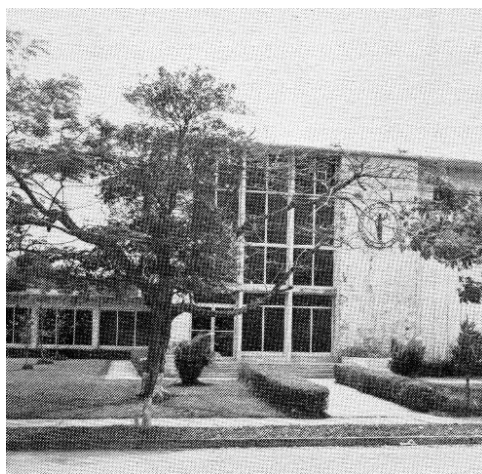
Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña.

Attorney, prosecuted the case, while Mr. Finton J. Phelan, Jr., was counsel of record for the defendants.

The Courthouse of Guam, located in Hagåtña, served as the home of the District Court of Guam from

1968 to 1974.

In 1974, the District Court of Guam moved into the sixth floor of the Pacific News Building in Hagåtña, where we held court until our current courthouse was built in 2000.



The second home of the District Court of Guam, the Guam Courthouse.

The District Court of Guam moved into its current location on West Soledad Avenue, along Marine Corps Drive, and officially opened its doors in



U.S. Courthouse, along Marine Corp Drive, Hagåtña

July 2000, under the leadership of the late Chief Judge John S. Unpingco.

Other Historical Highlights

In 1978, Congress passed the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-598, 92 Stat. 2549, which significantly restructured the nation's bankruptcy laws and created the modern Bankruptcy Code. Section 335(a) of the Act amended the Organic Act of Guam, expressly granting bankruptcy jurisdiction to the District Court of Guam effective 1979. Bankruptcy Judge

Jon J. Chinen from the District of Hawaii presided over bankruptcy cases in the District Court of Guam until early in 1982, when Chief Judge Cristobal Dueñas assumed that duty.

In 2003, **John Gorman** was appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as the next Federal Public Defender for Guam. Originally from New York, Gorman received his bachelor's degree from Drake University in Iowa in 1980 and received his juris doctor from Northeastern University in 1992. He joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Guam as a senior litigator in 1997.

Assistant Federal Public Defender **Leilani Lujan** was appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to be the first female Federal Public Defender for the District of Guam in November, 2023 and formally sworn into office in January, 2024. Lujan served as an assistant federal public defender in Guam since 2013.

On October 9, 1997, the Honorable Alex R. Munson, Chief Judge of the District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, advocated for the establishment of a permanent full-time probation officer in his district. As a result, in 1998, the Guam Probation

office opened an office in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands with the appointment of a probation officer from that district.

When it first opened its doors, the U.S. Probation Office was manned by just Chief Cruz and Mrs. Flora Garrido McIntosh, who was hired as a Probation Clerk. Today, the office

employs 16 people and serves both the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Eugene R. Gilmartin, Guam District Judge

GUAM (AP) — District Judge Eugene R. Gilmartin, 58, formerly of Providence, R. I., died at the Naval hospital here today after a heart attack.

Gilmartin, the Second District judge to be appointed to Guam, was appointed by former President Eisenhower to an eight-year term in August 1958.

Gilmartin served as deputy high commissioner of the Pacific Trust Territory before assuming her judgeship.

He was a 1928 graduate of the Georgetown University School of Law, Washington, D.C.

Gilmartin is survived by his widow, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Mrs. Chester Davis, whose husband is attached to the U. S. Embassy in Jordan.

Newport Daily News, Sat, Mar 04,
1961 · Page 2

Paul Shriver Tapped For Guam Judgeship

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy announced Friday he will appoint Paul Shriver of Denver as judge of the District Court of Guam for an eight-year term. Shriver will succeed the late Judge Eugene R. Gilmartin.

Shriver was judge of the District Court for Guam from 1950 to 1958.

Shriver, 61, a native of Salem, Ohio, is a veteran of government service. For the past year, he was a consultant for the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Judge Shriver, born and reared in Salem, was the son of the late George and Mary Shriver. He is a nephew of Mrs. Nettie Shriver of W. State St.

The Salem News (Salem, Ohio) · Sat,
Sep 9, 1961 · Page 1



NEW CITIZENS: Ninety-eight new citizens pose with District Court Judge Paul D. Shriver (in black robe, center) and High Commissioner Delmas H. Nucker (white suit, center) following ceremony at which they were naturalized. Of the 98, 74 were Philippine nationals. Five among the group declined to take the oath to take up arms for the United

States and were sworn in separately. Other countries represented were Japan, Brazil, Poland, Germany, Canada, Australia, Korea, China, and the islands of Saipan, Palau, Samoa, Rota, Yap, Ponape, Truk and Okinawa. Nucker addressed the group after the ceremony.

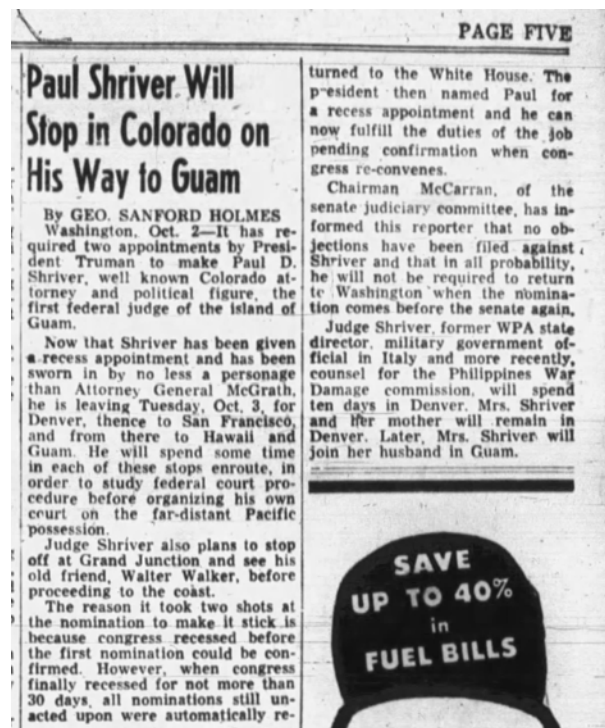
The Territorial Sun News and Views of the Marianas, Sunday, April 27, 1958, Page 16



From L-R: Judge Joaquin C. Perez, Unknown, Harold W. Burnett, High Court of Trust Territory; Robert K. Shoecraft, Judge, High Court of the Trust Territory; Paul D. Shriver, Judge, District Court of Guam; and Judge Cristobal C. Dueñas, Island Court of Guam.



The District Court of Guam's first jury trial commenced on February 21, 1956. The first jurors are shown here: Back row, left to right: Eliseo Escares Maravilla, Jesus Martinez Perez, Ricardo Torres Calvo, Gladys Victoria Bennett, Antonio L.G. Perez, and Asuncion H. Santos. Front row, right to left: Irby John Baker, Yuk Lan Moylan, Francisco B. Perez, Lois F. Statler, Kenneth Hodges, and Vicente Calvo Aflague.



The Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction, Colorado), Monday, October 2, 1950, Page 5.



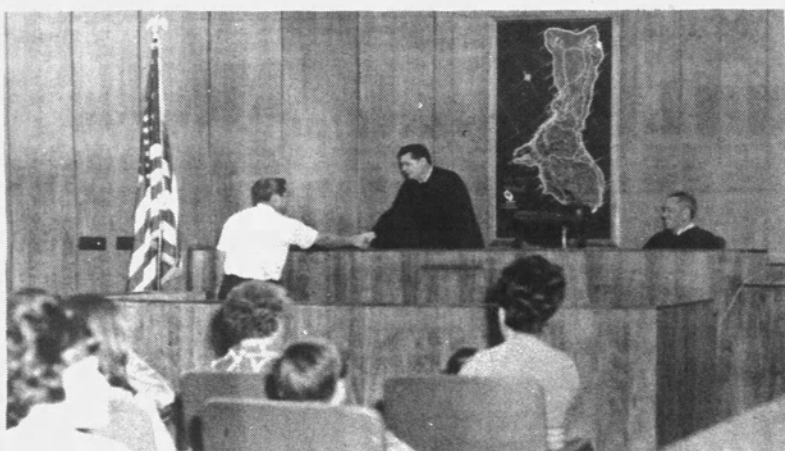
AFTER OATH TAKING: Guam District Court Judge Eugene R. Gilmartin, third from left, is shown with his family in the White House cabinet room after he was sworn in recently by Robert K. Gray, third from right, secretary to

the cabinet. Left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gilmartin Jr., Gilmartin and Mrs. Gilmartin, Gray, and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Davis. Mrs. Davis is the judge's daughter.

The Territorial Sun News and Views of the Marianas, Sunday, September 27, 1959, Page 2.



The court's second judge, Eugene R. Gilmartin (second from left) , celebrating with staff members.



GOVERNOR CARLOS G. CAMACHO congratulates U.S. District Court Judge Cristobal C. Duenas after being sworn in a private ceremony Wednesday afternoon in the court's chamber. Witnessing the ceremony, in the foreground, were members of the judge's family as well as Island Court Judge Vicente C. Reyes, shown at right. (Guam Police Photo)

Guam Daily News, Sunday, December 28, 1969, Page 16.



Judge Cristobal Duenas, leaving the bench.



Judge Cristobal Duenas at his retirement party, 1989, with court staff members Flora McIntosh, Joselyn P. Camacho, Priscilla Quichocho, and Wanda Miles.

Judge Duenas Sworn In As Federal Judge



NEWLY APPOINTED U.S. DISTRICT COURT Judge Cristobal Camacho Duenas poses with members of his family after being sworn into office Wednesday afternoon. Front row, from left, are his daughter Therese, sister Maria, his mother-in-law Mrs. Vicente Calvo (partly hidden), son Christopher, daughter Zerlina (in front of Christopher), sister Eliza, mother Concepcion, sister Isabel (partly hidden), sister Estella, son Ricardo, Judge Duenas, sister Carmen, wife Juanita holding son David, daughter Joanna (in front of her mother), First Lady Lourdes Camacho and Governor Carlos G. Camacho, and the Judge's son Vincent (in front of the Island's First Couple). In back row, same order, are the judge's brother Jose C. Duenas Jr., brother-in-law Tomas Mendiolola (husband of Isabel), Msgr. Felixberto C. Flores, nephew Luis, brother-in-law Frank D. Perez (husband of Carmen), brother-in-law Bernabe Paulino (husband of Estella) and father-in-law Vicente Calvo. (Guam Police Photo)



GOVERNOR CARLOS G. CAMACHO congratulates U.S. District Court Judge Cristobal C. Duenas after being sworn in a private ceremony Wednesday afternoon in the court's chamber. Witnessing the ceremony, in the foreground, were members of the judge's family as well as Island Court Judge Vicente C. Reyes, shown at right. (Guam Police Photo)



NEWLY APPOINTED U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE Cristobal C. Duenas is shown with Msgr. Felixberto C. Flores, left, and Governor Carlos G. Camacho after the swearing-in ceremony Wednesday afternoon. Both the Monsignor and the Governor are first cousins of Judge Duenas, the first Guamanian jurist ever to be elevated to the prestigious federal bench. Msgr. Flores, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Agaña, and Judge Duenas attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for two years, beginning in 1946. (Guam Police Photo)

In a private ceremony attended by members of his family, Judge Cristobal Camacho Duenas was sworn in Wednesday afternoon as the first Guamanian judge of the U.S. District Court of Guam.

His oath of office was administered by Island Court Judge Paul J. Abatte, in the presence of Governor and Mrs. Carlos G. Camacho, his wife Juanita, his mother Concepcion, Msgr. Felixberto C. Flores, and Island Court Judge Vicente C. Reyes.

Also witnessing the ceremony were Judge Duenas' sons and daughters; his brother Jose C. Duenas Jr.; his sisters--Carmen and husband Frank D. Perez, Estella and husband Bernabe Paulino, Isabel and husband Tomas Mendiolola, Eliza (Mrs. Jesus P. Cruz), his sister Maria, and nephew Luis L. Duenas.

In addition, the judge's parents in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Calvo of Barrigada, witnessed the ceremony.

Monsignor Flores, apostolic administrator of the diocese of Agaña, and Governor Camacho are first cousins of Judge Duenas.

"I will do my best to see that there is a more efficient administration of justice and that everyone will be accorded equal protection before the law," the highest-ranking judge on the island said shortly after the swearing-in.

Judge Duenas received his commission Monday from the Department of Justice, following President Nixon's signing of his certificate of appointment.

Early this month, he travelled to Washington D.C. to appear before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on his appointment to the federal bench. In what was reported as a "favorable reception" from the committee members, Judge Duenas was impressive in his testimony during the hearing, and his appointment was sent to the U.S. Senate.

Senate confirmation came on December 10, and the next day President Nixon signed his certificate of appointment, thus making him the first Guamanian jurist to be elevated to the prestigious federal bench.

Judge Duenas is the sixth-born in the family of 11 children of the late Jose C. Duenas and his wife, Concepcion. He is married to the former Juanita Calvo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Calvo of Barrigada. They are the parents four sons--Christopher 14, Vincent 12; Ricardo, 6; and David, seven months; and 3 daughters--Therese, 13; Zerlina, 9; and Joanna, 7.

Judge Duenas graduated from the Guam Institute High School in 1938. In 1946, two years after Guam's liberation during World War II, he departed for the mainland to attend Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

During his two years at Aquinas, he was a schoolmate of the late Dr. Ricardo C. Flores and his brother Msgr. Felixberto Flores; and the Reverend Father Zollo Camacho, now pastor of the Barrigada parish.

In 1948, Judge Duenas transferred to the University of Michigan to complete his studies for a Bachelor's Degree in History. He also remained at the University and earned his Juris Doctor in law, then returned to Guam and became the island's assistant attorney general.

Judge Duenas was then appointed director of Land Management in May 1957, but vacated that position three years later to become judge of the Island Court in 1960.

In 1962, Judge Duenas began his association with the federal bench. The Chief Judge of the U.S. Courts of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court in San Francisco, appointed him a designated judge of the District Court in Guam, and presided in court whenever U.S. Judge Paul D. Shriver was off-island.

Judge Duenas has handled District Court cases since mid-October, 1969, following Shriver's retirement from the federal bench last September 30.

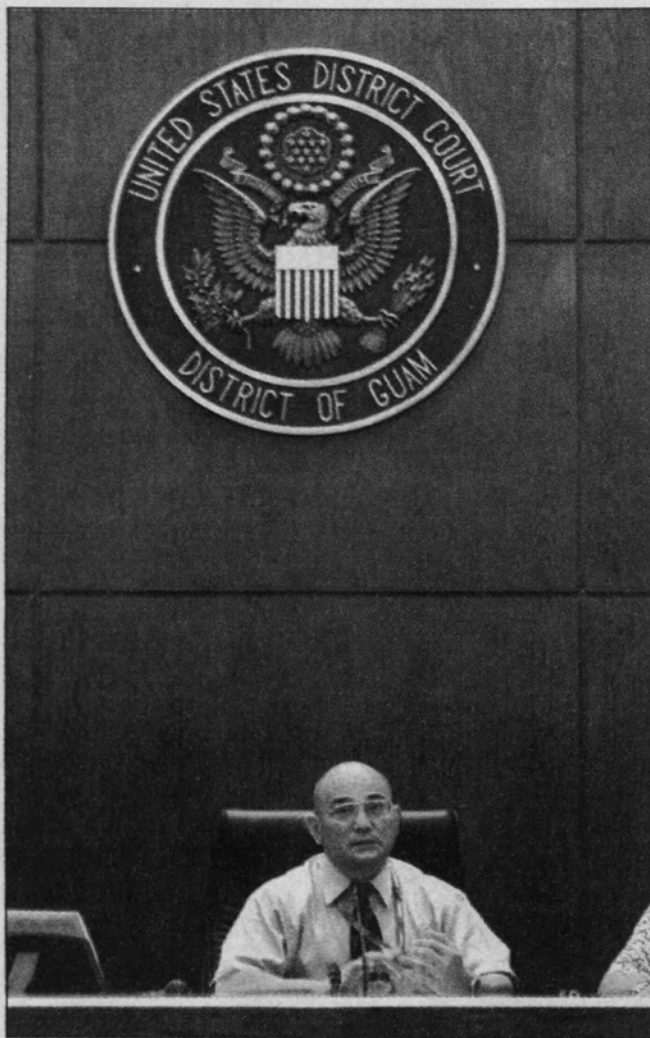
The difference between delegating authority and passing the buck depends on who's doing it.

BERRY'S WORLD



© 1969 by NEA, Inc.

"If you're really Bob Hope and not 'Charlie'--say something funny!"



Darryl Bautista/Pacific Daily News

District Court gets new home

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola

Pacific Daily News

Guam is ready to prosecute criminal offenders in the new high-tech, multimillion-dollar U.S. District Court of Guam courthouse in Anigua.

Although the court officially was opened July 5, a dedication is planned for 5:30 p.m. Aug. 4 at the new facility.

"This is the culmination of eight years of planning and effort," said Judge John Unpingco yesterday during a media tour of the court.

To date, the unfinished courthouse has cost more than \$20 million, a figure which is expected to increase when construction is completed.

The impressive large courtroom — with blue carpeting, state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment, cherry wood panels and furniture, subtle lighting and a white dome ceiling — is wired to accommodate and serve the needs of the attorneys, judicial staff and the public.

Brand new: U.S. District Judge John Unpingco answers questions during a media tour of the new U.S. District Court of Guam courthouse in Anigua yesterday.

"We do serve the public and we are going to be even more user-friendly," Unpingco said. "We are equipped for what comes in the future."

The courthouse's exterior and interior design consist of sleek, polished granite floors, with sturdy columns at the entrance.

Currently, about 20 employees of the court, including the U.S. Marshals Service, are housed in the building owned by local businessman Mark Pangilinan.

The U.S. General Services Administration entered into a 10-year lease with M.V. Pangilinan Enterprises Inc. and will pay \$1.27 million in rent annually.

Increased security and improved accommodations are some reasons for the court's relocation from the Pacific News Building in Hagåtña earlier this month, Unpingco said.

Attorney Jay Arriola, Guam Bar Association president, joined Unpingco yesterday and said the new courthouse would benefit attorneys as well as the public.

"The high-tech capacity of this courthouse will bring Guam up to par with any courthouse in the nation," he said. "This court has one of the highest caseloads in the country. We will be able to streamline litigation and (work) cases faster."

Pacific Daily News, Saturday, July 29, 2000, Page 2.

Federal magistrate named

By Theresa Merto

Pacific Daily News
tmerto@guampdn.com

The U.S. District Court of Guam has always operated with one full-time judge.

Come Monday, that will all change.

The Guam Judiciary announced yesterday that Superior Court of Guam Judge Joaquin V. E. Manibusan will vacate the position and become a federal magistrate at the U.S. District Court of Guam.

Manibusan is scheduled to be sworn in tomorrow and will begin his new job on Monday, said District Court of Guam Judge John Unpingco.

"We never had two judges on the court. This is very historic," Unpingco said. "I think this is a great first for our territory, and it will be good service for our people."

Manibusan likely will handle initial appearances when defendants are arrested, hear motions and discovery disputes and handle misdemeanor cases among other duties, Unpingco said.

On behalf of Gov. Felix Camacho, governor's spokesman Shawn Gumataotao congratulated Manibusan on the new position.

TO THE POINT

▲ The Guam Judiciary announced yesterday that Superior Court of Guam Judge Joaquin V. E. Manibusan will vacate the position and become a federal magistrate at the U.S. District Court of Guam.

"Judge Manibusan comes from a family of judges who have contributed much to the growth of the judicial system on Guam," Gumataotao said. "(It) is a big loss for the Superior Court and a big gain for the District Court."

Position

Unpingco said the much-needed position has been in the works for about five years because Guam was left out of the Federal Magistrate's Act.

"In fact, we had to go back and get the law changed," Unpingco said. "And after that, we had to get the concurrence of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council before we (could) get a magistrate judge."

Even then, Guam was only going to receive \$20,000 to hire a part-time judge.

"So then we went back, and I

AT A GLANCE

▲ Judge Joaquin Manibusan received a B.A. in political science and his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to becoming a judge in the Superior Court of Guam in 1995, he served as a sole practitioner and assistant attorney general.

made a presentation before the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council saying, "Look guys, I am a one-man band out there, and it is very difficult because the cases are rising — they are really multiplying," Unpingco said.

The approval eventually came through, the money was allocated and a selection process for the magistrate's position began. About 15 people from Guam and off island applied.

"We got a very good field of candidates," Unpingco said.

And in the end, Manibusan was selected.

"His judicial experience was really good, and he's handled quite a few tough cases," Unpingco said.

"Overall, he was just a very, very strong applicant."

'Very dedicated'

In a release, Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto Lamorena praised Manibusan for his "work ethic" and "tireless service" to the Superior Court bench for the last eight years.

"Judge Manibusan followed in his father's footsteps as a very dedicated and disciplined jurist," Lamorena said.

"To add to his credit, he also vigorously promoted the use and protection of the Chamorro language in his courtroom by speaking and rendering decisions in our native language."

Supreme Court of Guam Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido and Lamorena said in a release that there is an immediate need to fill the position that will be left vacant by Manibusan this week.

Gumataotao said the Judicial Council and the Guam Bar Association each may submit a list of nominees to fill the vacancy in the Superior Court.

"At that time, Gov. Camacho will review those and then select a new judge to sit on the Superior Court of Guam," Gumataotao said.

Pacific Daily News, Thu, Feb 05, 2004, Page 2.

Court Unit Reports



Office of the Clerk

Here are some noteworthy projects and initiatives undertaken by the Clerk's Office during the last twelve months.

Financial Management System Upgrade

The Court upgraded its financial system, the Judiciary Integrated Financial Management System (JIFMS) in June 2025. This upgrade enabled significant end user benefits, enhancing and optimizing many day-to-day processes. Staff members immediately benefited from the system improvements, which span data entry to working with attachments. Here are the key benefits:

- **Easier Attachment Uploads:** Uploading attachments is now easier and more efficient with a new drag-and-drop feature that allows users to upload multiple attachments at once.
- **Improved Attachment Opening:** Users are now able to open multiple or all attachments at one time.
- **Enhanced Search Features:** The JIFMS upgrade includes an enhanced system search feature for reference data and navigation. For example, there is now a new type-ahead feature which helps users save time by quickly completing their intended search queries.
- **Better Data Validation:** The upgraded system features a new issues panel across all subsystems and modules that help increase the efficiency in documenting error messages.
- **Optimized Data Entry:** Lastly, the upgraded system has better data usability. Data fields are displayed in a more user-friendly format to help reduce errors.

New Emergency Notification System

In July 2025, the Court migrated to the Emergency Notification System 2.0 (ENS 2.0), a new emergency alerting

platform that allows the court to deliver timely and tailored alerts to targeted audiences and receive responses before, during, or after a major crisis or emergency, such as typhoon or storm. This new solution replaces the Court's legacy system and increases the capacity and reach of critical alerts to the court community. Users now have an unlimited message capacity, geo-targeted notifications, and system accessibility from outside the Judiciary's network, including via an optional mobile application. Stakeholders such as the United States Marshals Service may now send out alerts.

eVoucher Enhancements

The Judiciary's eVoucher system, the system used by the Court and court appointed attorneys to process vouchers, was enhanced in March 2025. eVoucher is now synchronized with an enhanced Vendor Management System (VMS) that allows attorneys to receive payment via ACH directly into their checking or savings account. Access to eVoucher is now obtained through the federal government's Login.gov facility which offers secure multifactor authentication.



Jeanne G. Quinata
Clerk of Court

Consolidation of Administrative Services

Pursuant to General Order 25-0008, issued on June 5, 2025, the following administrative functions of the District Court of Guam's Clerk's Office and the United States Probation Office for the Districts of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands have been consolidated: finance, budget, procurement, automation/information technology (IT), Human Resources, space and facilities, and emergency management.

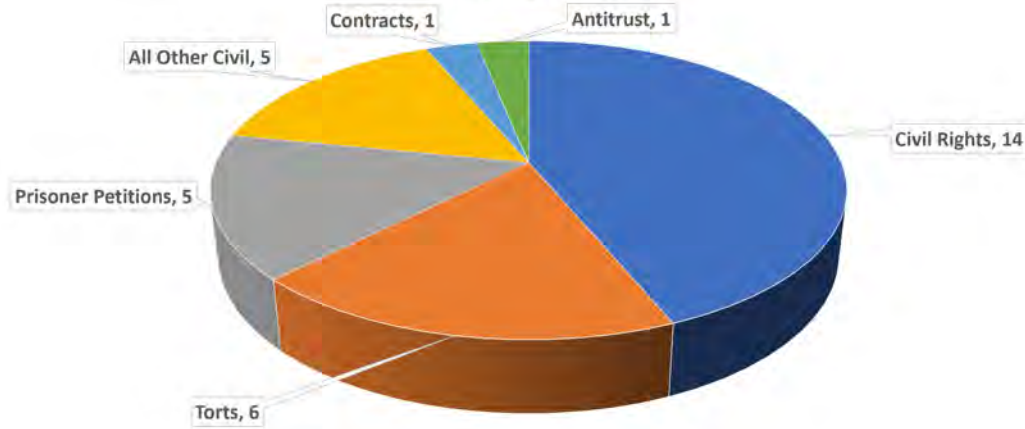
The Court will benefit from the many efficiencies that will result from sharing these services and no jobs will be lost as a result of this initiative.



District Court Staff and Interns, July 2025.

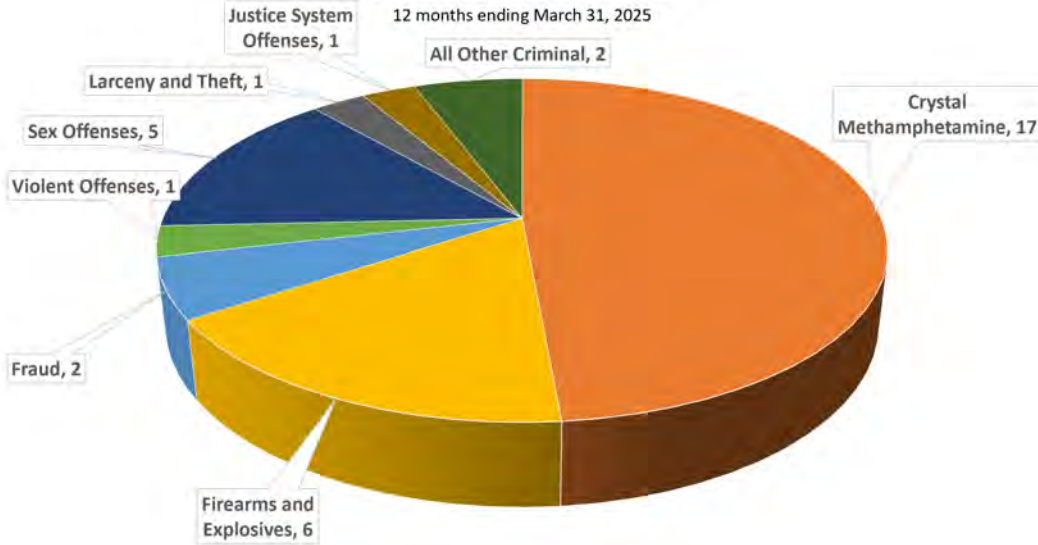
Civil Cases Filed

12 months ending March 31, 2025



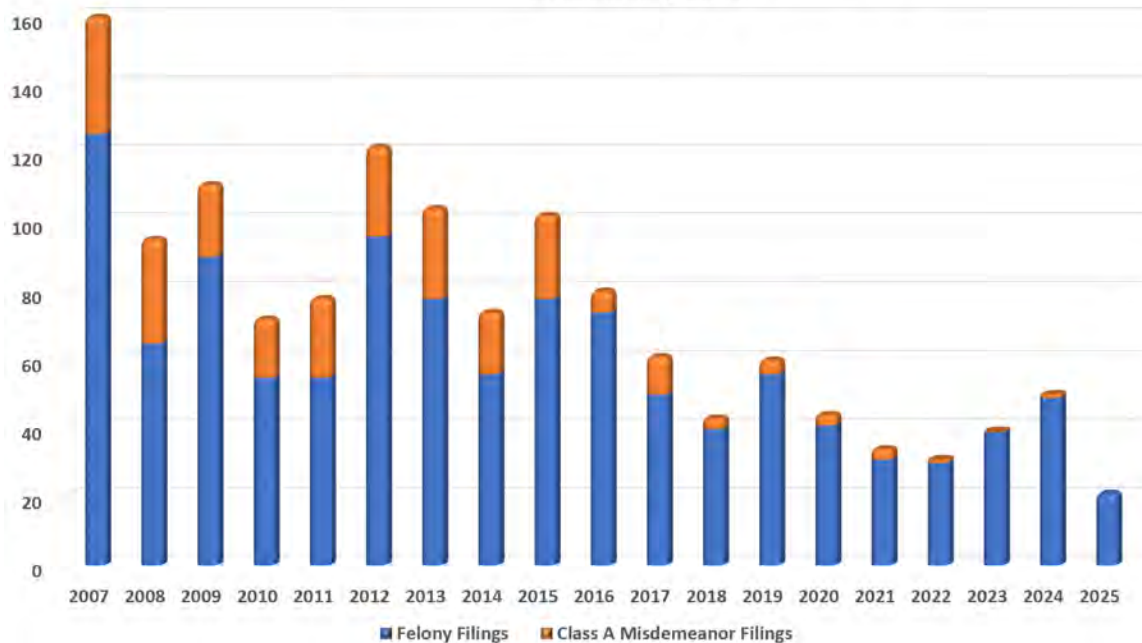
Criminal Cases Filed

12 months ending March 31, 2025

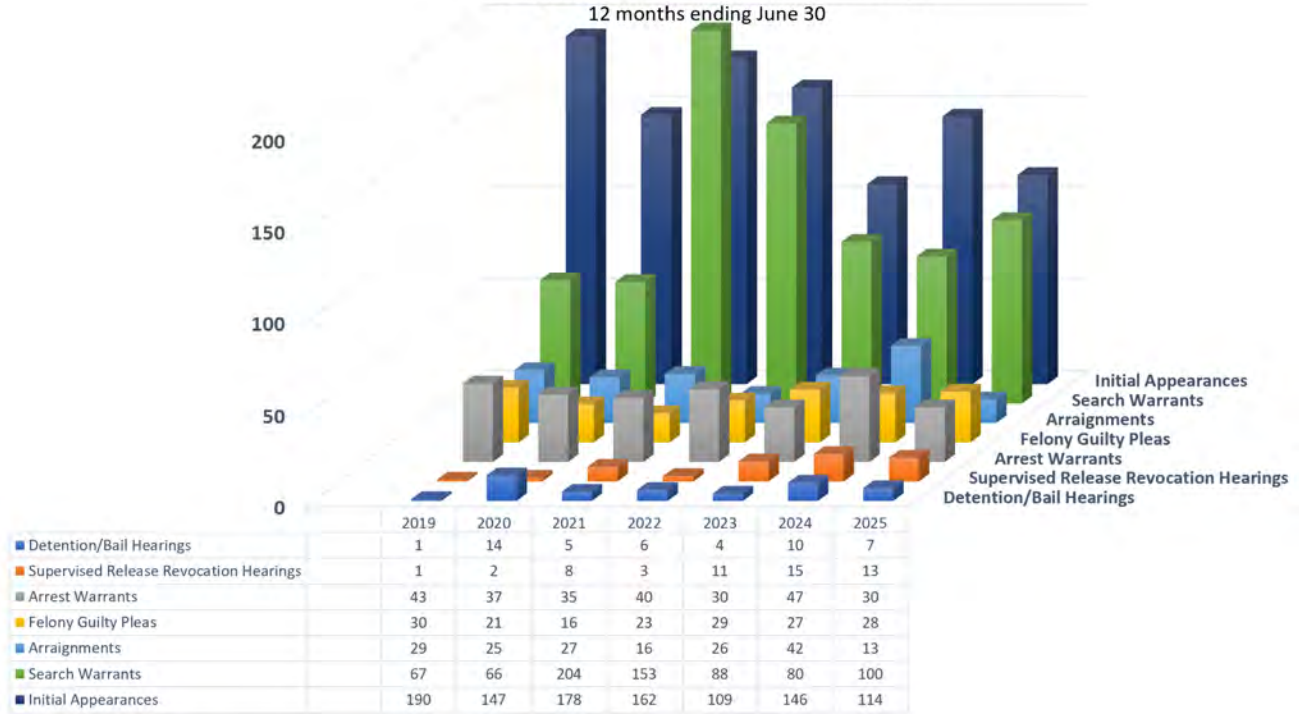


Criminal Offense Filings by Case Type

12 months ending June 30

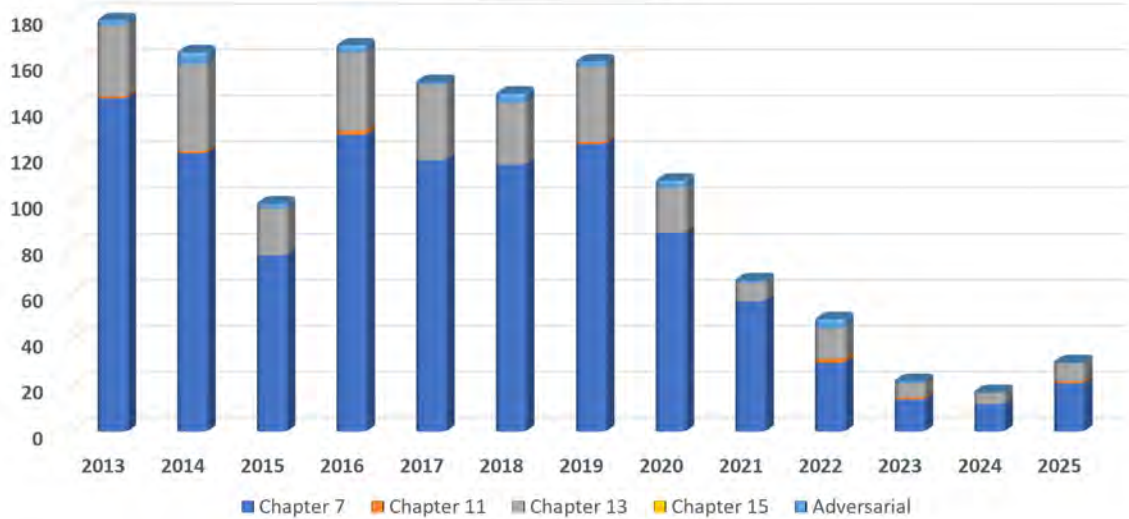


Magistrate Felony Proceedings



Bankruptcy Filings

12 Months Ending June 30



U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office

Staffing

Over the past year, the Probation and Pretrial Services Office has experienced significant transitions, marked by the arrival of new team members and the departure of others. In October 2024, the office bid farewell to Budget Analyst, Frank J. Lizama, who retired after almost 25 years of service. In December 2024, the office also saw the departures of Probation Officer Lee San Nicolas, Sentencing Guidelines Specialist Jeffrey Ventura and Student Intern, Kirryn Damian. Lee had been with us for the past nine years, while simultaneously serving in the Guam Army National Guard. He worked in the supervision unit and supervised individuals on location monitoring. Jeffrey had been with the office for 15 years, where he moved from a Probation Clerk to a Probation Officer and later a Specialist. Kirryn spent over three years with our team, gaining valuable experience that broadened her professional horizons and prepared her for the next chapter—joining a respected local law firm. At the beginning of 2025, the office also said farewell to Probation Officer Juanette David-Atalig, who transferred to the District of Arizona. Juanette had been with the Saipan office since 2015, starting as a Probation Officer Assistant, and then, after earning her degree, getting promoted to a Probation Officer.

In May 2025, Chief Probation Officer Kim Walmsley retired after 20 years of service to the District Court of Guam, which was split between her time as a law clerk to Chief Judge Gatewood, and later her time in the Probation Office. We wish all our former colleagues continued success in their future pursuits.

While we have had to say goodbye to quite a few people, we have also said, “Welcome.” Four new

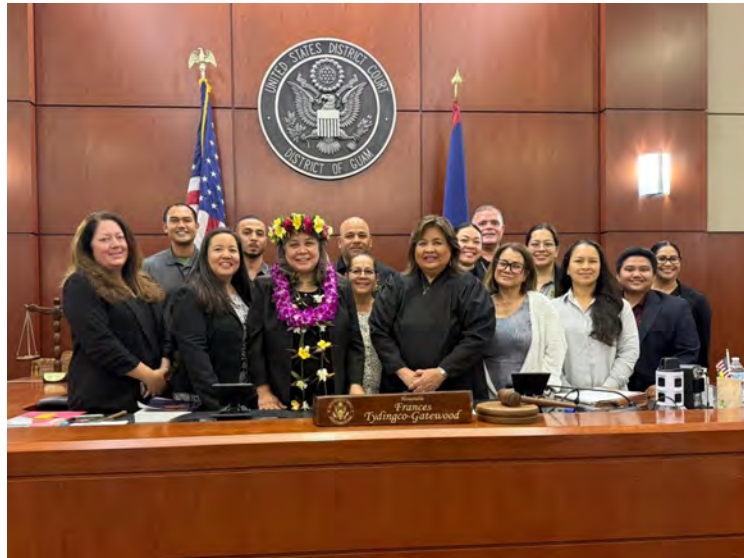
probation officers joined the office. Aysha Roberto joined the office and quickly proved to be an asset when she earned three prestigious awards at the Federal Probation and Pretrial Academy’s Initial Probation Pretrial Training (IPPT). Vincent Reyes brings a background in supervision of persons with mental health or substance abuse issues. He also earned an award at IPPT, the Director’s Leadership Award. Roquel Cendana rejoined the office, after previously volunteering and then working as a paid intern, while obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Emorie Martinez also brings over 10 years of probation experience while additionally serving as a Human Resource Administrator with the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

In addition to new officers, the office welcomed Shirlene Guerrero as the Budget and Human Resources Officer, after serving the Clerk’s Office as a Financial Administrator. Ryley Rivera was hired as an Information Systems Technician. Ryley came to our office after working the private sector. All the new staff have been great

additions to the team, consistently bringing positive attitudes and a willingness to help wherever needed. Finally, after contributing 28 years to the office, Grace D. Flores was appointed to the position of Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Island. She began as a Probation Officer Assistant, and shortly after, was promoted to a Probation Officer. In 2009, she became the Districts’ first Deputy Chief Probation Officer. Now we are happy to welcome her as the fourth chief of the office.

Training

In September 2024, staff participated in a three-day, Knife Control Concepts training facilitated by Aaron Janetti and Eli Knight. Janetti is an author and martial artist with experience in Krav Maga, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, wrestling, boxing and kickboxing. Knight is a third-degree Brazilian Jiu Jitsu black belt, under Royce Gracie. The course offered hands-on training in dynamic defensive techniques designed for situations where an individual is confronted with a knife attack and safe



Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood with newly installed Chief U.S. Probation & Pretrial Officer Grace D. Flores with her staff on June 30, 2025.

retreat is not a reasonable alternative.

Outreach

Staff participated in various activities throughout the year, including speaking at schools, presenting at outreach such as displays at local shopping outlets, and participating in other events, like the Jump for Justice.

The last year has also been full of noteworthy commemorations. The U.S. Probation Office celebrated the centennial of the passing of the Federal Probation Act of 1925. Celebration of the centennial included the invitation for officers to retake their Oath of Office as a sign of their continued commitment to the serving the Court and community.

Centennial Anniversary

This year we celebrate the Centennial anniversary of the Probation Act, enacted on March 4, 1925, by President Calvin Coolidge. This law revolutionized the justice system by offering an alternative to incarceration through the establishment of the Federal Probation System and empowered judges with new sentencing options. Probation officers, whose initial responsibilities included



U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Staff Members.

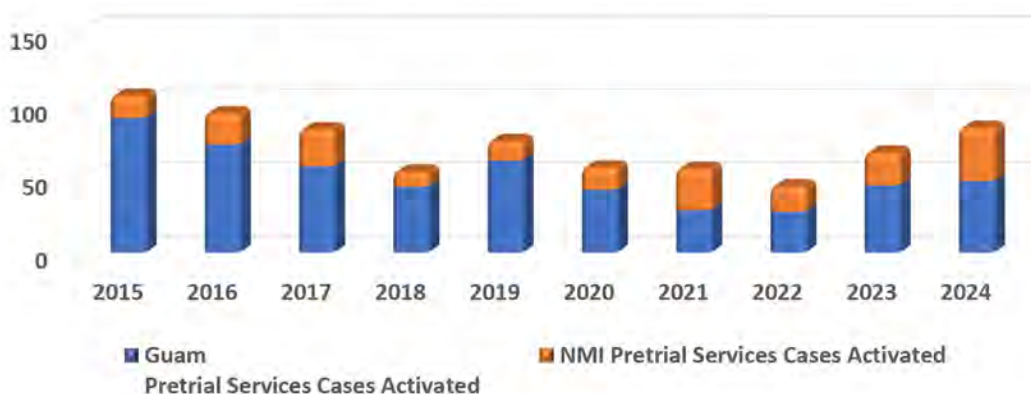
monitoring individuals' conduct and facilitating their rehabilitation, could now be appointed. Over the past century, the role of probation officers has significantly broadened; they now oversee a diverse range of individuals, employing evidence-based strategies to assess risks, modify behavior, and prevent reoffending. Their critical work also involves assisting courts with pretrial and sentencing decisions, enforcing legal restrictions, and ensuring victims receive restitution, thereby contributing to both public safety and individual improvement.

75th Anniversary

Locally, we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the District Court of Guam and the passing of the Organic Act. Staff attended the flag raising ceremony at Adelup where island leaders reflected on the island's progress over the years.

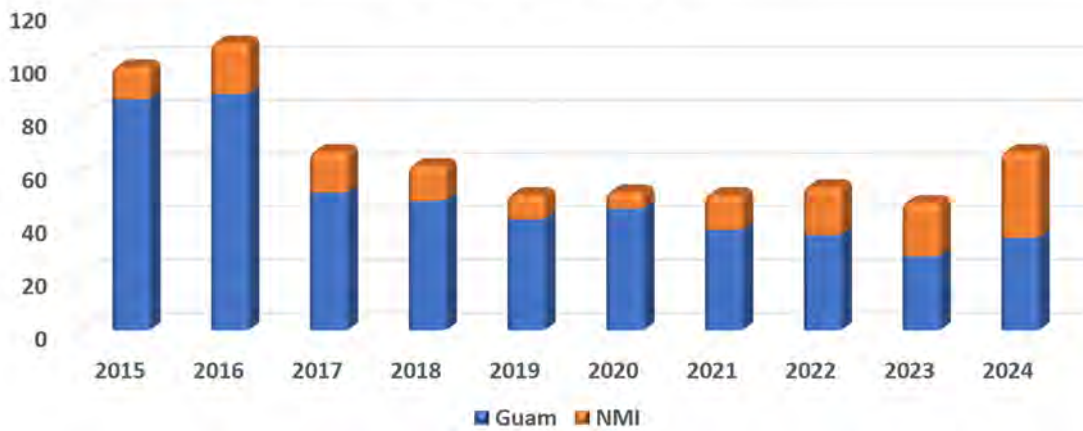
Pretrial Services Cases Activated

12 months ending June 30



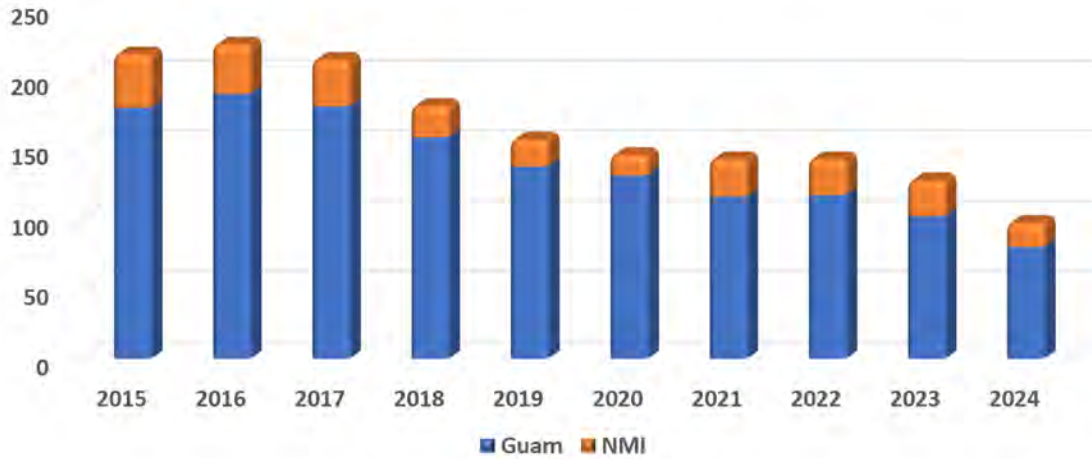
Presentence Reports completed

12 months ending June 30



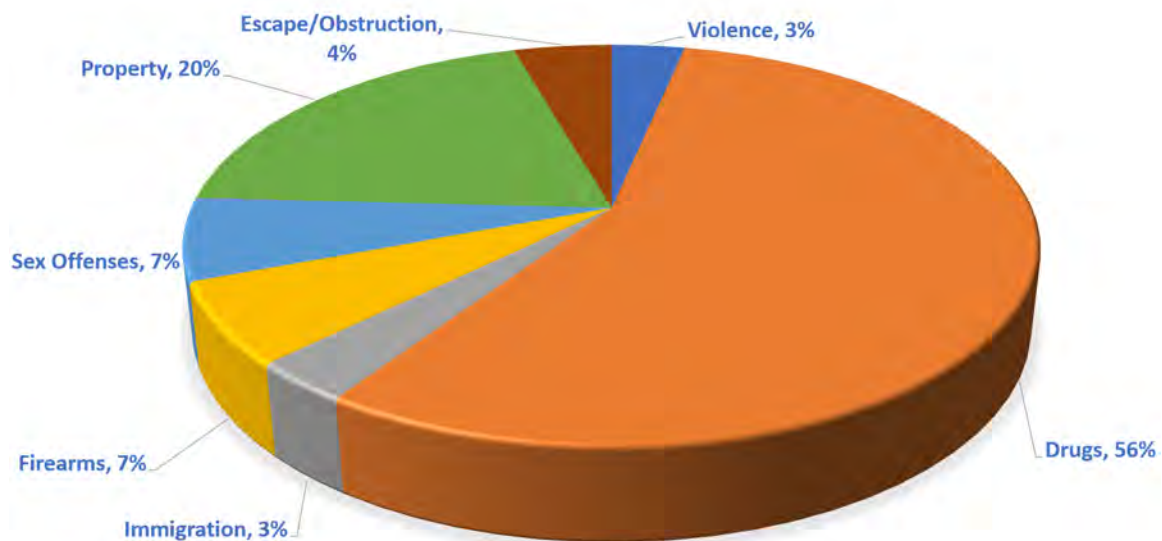
Post Conviction Supervision Clients Supervised

12 months ending June 30



Persons Under Post-Conviction Supervision, by Offense

12 months ending March 31, 2025



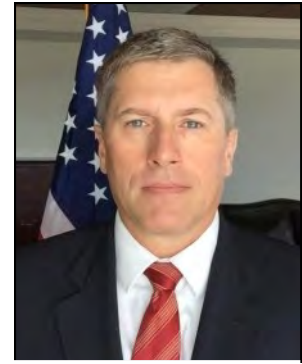
United States Attorney

The United States Attorney's Office (USAO) Criminal Division prosecuted narcotics, immigration, theft, fraud against businesses, advance fee schemes, violent crimes, and government regulatory offenses - one of which involved the forfeiture of cryptocurrency worth over \$11 million. The USAO pursued several nationwide initiatives, including Project Safe Childhood (PSC) and Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), through focused enforcement. PSC's mission is to combat internet or technology-facilitated sexual exploitation of children. The program coordinates the resources of USAOs, federal law enforcement, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The Civil Division engaged in litigation regionally and throughout the mainland. Division staff also lectured in Vietnam at an international conference on combatting illegal fishing. Combined efforts by the Civil Division and Criminal Division resulted in the

forfeiture of over \$4 million in assets and nearly \$2 million in money judgments. The Financial Litigation Unit collected over \$1 million throughout the year.

The USAO also engaged in community outreach for PSN, PSC, Elder Justice, Healthcare Fraud, and Red Ribbon Anti-Drug programs. During November 2024, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, a DOD funded service members' support group, awarded the USAO with the Most Supportive Award for its outstanding support and patronage to employee service members and their families. This continued the USAO's long tradition of supporting employees in the National Guard and Reserve.



Shawn N. Anderson
U.S. Attorney



Federal Public Defender

Hafa Adai from the Office of the Federal Public Defender (FPD) for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)! We celebrate our 31st anniversary with excitement and optimism. Our Guam office was opened in 1994 as a branch of the Hawaii FPD and became an independent office in 2001. In 2023, our office expanded to include the District of the NMI. For 31 years, our office has been motivated by the belief that justice should not depend on who you are or the size of your wallet.

Our small but formidable office has three attorneys, Briana Kottke, Nicole Breazeale and Leilani Lujan. We are bolstered by an indispensable administrative staff: Lita McDaniel, Administrative Officer, Renate Grimes, Administrative Assistant, and Chris Mantanona, Computer System

Administrator. Our caseload consists of major drug trafficking cases, firearms, immigration, fraud, sex offender registration, and theft offenses, citations occurring on military bases, and other federal crimes. We provide zealous and effective representation for indigent clients charged with criminal offenses in federal court.

Over the last year our office has successfully participated in a number of initiatives. Our office hosted a presentation on Naloxone & Opioid Overdose Response Training where attendees learned about the types and uses of opioids, opioid overdose symptoms and response, and Guam's opioid data, policies and responses. Recently, we have partnered with the United States Marshals Service, United States Attorney's Office and Guam



Leilani Lujan,
Federal Public Defender

Department of Corrections as members of the Detention Management Committee, a Department of Justice initiative, to address and resolve detention-related issues for federal detainees in the Guam Department of Corrections. Our office also participated in several outreach activities, including the 2025 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, the annual

Guam Girls Scouts Justice Patch Event and Career Week at Juan M. Guerrero Elementary School.

This year marks the 62nd anniversary of Gideon v. Wainwright, which resulted in a nation of Public Defenders. Our mission to provide zealous advocacy for indigent clients could not be fulfilled without the Guam Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel attorneys: Joaquin Arriola, Jr., Patrick Civile, Cynthia Ecube, William Gavras, Rawlen Mantanona, Heather Quitugua, Joseph Razzano, Curtis van de veld, and Louie Yanza. These dedicated attorneys maintain a private practice while also providing a critical public service to our

community. We thank them for their tireless efforts, excellence in advocacy and partnership in fulfilling Gideon's promise.

Second, the Guam CJA Panel again expanded its membership for the second year in a row. We proudly welcome Attorneys Patrick Civile, and Rawlen Mantanona to our CJA ranks again.

Our office hosts the annual Guam CJA Panel Committee Meetings. Among the important topics being explored by the Committee is the establishment of an appellate panel to handle court-appointed Guam appeals

to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Like many other federal agencies, our office has been affected by significant budget cuts. We will continue to provide zealous, effective representation for indigent clients charged with federal criminal offenses. We remain committed to the guarantees of the presumption of innocence and every individual's right to equal protection under the law.

Biba Defenders!

U.S. Marshals Service

The United States Marshals Service (USMS) is responsible for ensuring the safety of federal judicial officers, maintaining order during court proceedings; maintaining the security of deliberating and sequestered juries; maintaining the security of witnesses and their families; guarding and transporting federal prisoners; operating the Asset Forfeiture program; serving and executing civil and criminal process; and responding to emergency situations such as civil disturbances, terrorist incidents, hostage situations, natural disasters where there is a violation of federal law or federal property is endangered. The USMS is also responsible for the extradition of fugitives apprehended in foreign countries and wanted for prosecution in the United States.

Our location also makes it ripe for high profile cases to come to our doorstep which requires the USMS to elevate our security posture at a moment's notice with limited staff, but

the USMS successfully and professionally executed all its mandated missions throughout the last year.

Notable Achievements:

- Executed 18 prisoner missions, transferring 34 federal prisoners to their designated Bureau of Prisons facilities safely and without incident.
- Executed multi-agency Sex Offender Compliance operations resulting in the verification of 57 registered sex offenders and initiated non-compliance investigations for "failure to register", resulting in 19 arrests.
- Conducted over 69 domestic fugitive warrant investigations involving federal, state, and local fugitive warrants resulting in the closure of 62 cases.
- Strengthened international fugitive investigation cooperative efforts with law enforcement counterparts throughout the Indo Pacific region resulting in the investigation of



**Fernando L.G. Sablan,
United States Marshal**

international fugitive cases and subsequent closure of cases.

- On-boarded one new personnel- a Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal.
- Formed the Guam District Detention Management Committee, which meets monthly with stakeholders to discuss detention management challenges, concerns, and obstacles affecting access to counsel, discovery materials, and other significant detention related issues.

Guam Bar Association

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Todos Hamyo!

In 2024, the Guam Bar Association (GBA) embraced significant changes to better serve our members and community. Major Bylaws updates, approved in 2023, officially took effect in 2024 with guidance from the Supreme Court of Guam. These amendments introduced our first electronic election for the 2025–2027 Board of Governors, improving accessibility, turnout, and ballot accuracy.

Membership remains a focus, with 61% of active members over age 50 and 11 members lost in 2024. To address this, members passed a resolution to explore licensing reciprocity with the CNMI Bar Association. We are also

pleased to announce that at the 2025 Annual Meeting, the membership approved a resolution to establish the Guam Bar Justice Foundation—a charitable arm and partner of the GBA that will expand our impact on the legal community and the public. This includes programs that support free or low-cost legal services, scholarship opportunities for local students aspiring to become lawyers, mentorship programs, and more.

Our outreach efforts included Law Day events, a back-to-school drive benefiting foster kids at Harvest House, the book launch of *Mames yan Matias*, and participation in a University of Guam policy panel.



Jacqueline T. Terlaje
President, Guam Bar Association

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch the Foundation and develop innovative initiatives with the Judiciary and District Court. We invite all members to join us as we build a stronger, united legal community.

Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative

I have the great pleasure of being the Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee (LRCC) representative for the District of Guam and here are some details of our pro bono and outreach activities that we hosted over the last year.

The 2024 Joint District and Pacific Judicial Council Biennial Conference was held August 26-27, 2024, at the Westin Resort Guam, and was co-hosted by the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC), and Guam Bar Association (GBA). The first day featured reports on the Ninth Circuit, Guam Bar, and Federal Public Defender's Office, along with presentations on AI, cybersecurity, Supreme Court civil cases, Ninth Circuit operations, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). A welcome reception reunited William S. Richardson School of Law alumni. The second day was the PJC Biennial, focusing on judicial education for member courts including American Samoa, Guam, and most of the islands of

Micronesia. Presentations covered Microsoft 365, administrative law post-Chevron, constitutional law updates, and panel discussions on appellate advocacy and regional impact of "The Build Up".

In January 2025, the District Court of Guam, Judiciary of Guam, and GBA co-hosted the 2025 Guam High School Mock Trial Semi Finals with Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Magistrate Judge Michael Bordallo serving as judges.

The 2025 Law Month Activities were celebrated throughout March, April, and May:

- The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) was co-hosted with Special Olympics Guam on March 29, 2025 and involved over 200 runners from 25+ agencies promoting acceptance and inclusion.
- Our annual Jump for Justice occurred on April 25, 2025 and was co-hosted with the Department of



Rodney J. Jacob
9th Circuit LRCC Representative

Youth Affairs. This event promoted physical activity through a jump rope competition and included a message of encouragement for the youth involved.

Lastly, our annual Girl Scouts Justice Patch Day took place on May 5, 2025, co-hosted with Guam Girl Scouts. A locally designed Justice Patch was unveiled at the event, and the event included a meet-and-greet with female judicial officers and attorneys, a civics lesson, and a fairy tale mock trial.

Federal Bar Admissions



Kristine Bamba Borja
Admitted September 19, 2024



Leah Diaz-Aguon
Admitted November 25, 2024



Heidi E. Simpson
Admitted April 2, 2025



Alexander J. Ford and Chisa N. Tillman
Admitted August 11, 2025



Nicholas T. Loch
Admitted June 30, 2025



Gonzalo Alberto-Gayoso
Admitted July 15, 2025



William L. Stamps
Admitted June 6, 2025

Designated Judges



**Chief District Judge
Ramona V. Manglona,
U.S. District Court for the
Northern Mariana Islands**



**Senior District Judge
Michael W. Mosman,
U.S. District Court, Oregon**



**Chief Bankruptcy Judge
Robert J. Faris,
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Hawaii**



**Bankruptcy Judge
Daniel P. Collins,
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Arizona**



**Recalled District Judge
Alex R. Munson,
U.S. District Court for the
Northern Mariana Islands**



**Senior District Judge
John C. Coughenour,
U.S. District Court,
Western District of Washington**



**Senior District Judge
Consuelo Bland Marshall,
U.S. District Court,
Central District of
California**



**Senior District Judge
Susan O. Mollway,
U.S. District Court, Hawaii**



**Judge John Terlaje,
Superior Court of Guam**



**Judge Alberto C. Tolentino,
Superior Court of Guam**



**Judge Arthur R. Barcinas,
Superior Court of Guam**

Events, Outreach & Ceremonies



Ceremonies & Civics Outreach

2024 Joint District Conference and Pacific Judicial Council Biennial



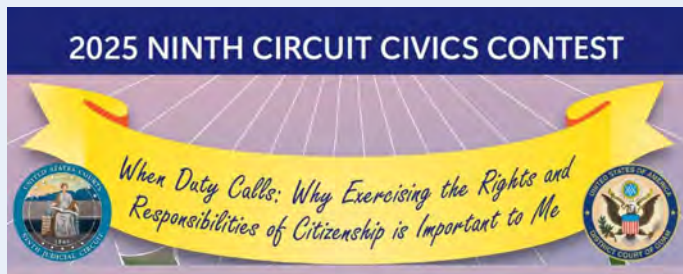
On left, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law Dean Camille A. Nelson is pictured with alumni from Guam and Palau. These alumni have gone on to be law clerks for the District Court of Guam and Judiciary of Guam, private practicing attorneys, and Judicial Officers such as Chief Justice Oldiais Ngiraikelau and Associate Justice Honora Rudimch from the Palau Supreme Court.



Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood is pictured with Pacific Judicial Council Biennial attendees sponsored by the PJC. Sponsored attendees included judicial officers and court administrators from Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Palau, and American Samoa.



Students from the University of Guam Criminal Justice Program visited the District Court of Guam and chatted with Magistrate Judge Bordallo after observing a Drug Offender Re-Entry Program (DORE) hearing. September 27, 2024



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the District Court of Guam sponsored an essay and video conference for high school students on Guam. January 8, 2025 to March 7, 2025



Mock Trial Judges Magistrate Judge Michael Bordallo, Superior Court of Guam Judge Sean Brown, and District Court of Guam Law Clerk Julian Burlando are pictured with the winning team of their courtroom.

Law Enforcement Torch Run March 25, 2025



At one checkpoint, the District Court of Guam staff, U.S. Marshal Services staff, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services staff, Judiciary of Guam Probation staff, Federal Public Defender's Office staff, and the Okkodo High School mock trial team are pictured before their leg in the 15-mile run.

Jump for Justice at the Department of Youth Affairs April 25, 2025



From left to right: District Court of Guam Deputy Clerk Charles White, Guam Bar Association President Jacqueline Taitano Terlaje, Esq., Superior Court of Guam Magistrate Judge Sean Brown, Custom Fitness physical therapists Dr. Paul Claros and Dr. Tasi Ada, Department of Youth Affairs social worker Jennifer Lee, and Department of Youth Affairs Deputy Director Mike Weakly announce the winners of the jump rope competition.

2025 Girl Scouts Justice Patch Day

On May 5, 2025, the District Court of Guam, Judiciary of Guam, and Guam Bar Association co-hosted the **2025 Annual Girl Scouts Justice Patch Day** event with the Guam Girl Scouts. Justice Patch Day is a chance for girl scout troops to earn the Justice Patch. In partnership with the District Court of Guam, the Judiciary of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association, the Guam Girl Scouts unveiled a local Justice patch. The Justice patch and the program is a historical event for the Guam Girl Scouts and the island of Guam, because the patch and the program were both designed and created locally, tailored specially for Guam Girl Scouts – a first of its kind for the Guam Girl Scouts and the island. This year's program included a meet and greet session with female judicial officers, Guam Bar Association attorneys, court staff, and law enforcement officers, a civics lesson with the Federal Public Defender's Office, and a fairy tale mock trial session with the Judiciary of Guam Administrator of the Courts.



Federal Public Defender Leilani Lujan spearheads a civics lesson with troops.



Intern Jessica Pendon and Career Law Clerk Judith Hattori meet some girl scouts.

2025 POWER Act Event



2025 Power Act presenter Carol M. Hinkle-Sanchez is pictured with some Guam Bar Association attorneys and District Court of Guam staff that attended the event.

On Wednesday, August 6, 2025, the District Court of Guam hosted its annual POWER Act Event. The Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent (POWER) Act was signed into law in September 2018 to help combat domestic abuse and sexual violence. The POWER Act mandates that each year the Chief Judge of each Judicial District across the country hold at least one event promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way to empower survivors of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault, engage citizens, and help lift victims out of the cycle of violence.

This year, Carol M. Hinkle-Sanchez, Esq., an attorney with the Guam Public Defender Service Corporation – Civil Law Center, presented to Guam Bar Association attorneys and court staff on the importance of the POWER Act, the need to increase access to legal services and raise awareness about the availability of pro bono legal services, and the pro bono services and legal aid contacts available on Guam for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

75th Anniversary Naturalization Ceremony

In celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Organic Act of Guam and the creation of the District Court of Guam, the District Court of Guam hosted a special naturalization ceremony at the Guam Congress Building, which housed the District Court of Guam at its inception in 1950. In partnership with the 75th Anniversary of the Organic Act of Guam committee, the 38th Guam Legislature, the and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the District Court of Guam welcomed 75 new citizens from the countries of South Korea, China, India, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (Yap & Chuuk), Georgia, and Philippines in front of family, friends, and dignitaries. The United States Passport Office, Social Security Administration, and Guam Election Commission also attended the ceremony to give newly naturalized citizens a chance to receive the information needed to get some of their benefits as a United States citizen.



Superior Court Judge Arthur Barcinas, Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and U.S Magistrate Judge Michael J. Bordallo with the new citizens in the Guam Congress Building.

2025 Cristobal C. Dueñas Excellence Award

The 2025 Cristobal C. Dueñas Excellence Award has been bestowed upon United States Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr.

Judge Manibusan graduated from the University of California Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in 1971 and subsequently earned his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law in 1974. He was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1974, the Guam Bar in 1975, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1988.

The judge began his legal career as an Assistant Attorney General for the Government of Guam's Civil Division from January 1975 to May 1977. He then transitioned to private practice as a solo practitioner from 1977 to 1995, where he also served as legal counsel to various Government of Guam boards and agencies. He contributed to legal education as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guam from Fall 1977 to Spring 2001, returning for the Summer and Fall 2002 terms.

Judge Manibusan's extensive judicial service includes roles as a Judge of the Superior Court of Guam (1995-2004), a Designated Judge for the District Court of Guam (1995-2004), a Designated Justice for the Supreme Court of Guam (1999), and a Pro Tem Judge for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (1999-2003).

Judge Manibusan was appointed to be the first United States Magistrate Judge of the District Court of Guam on February 9, 2004, and served two eight-year terms until February 2020. During his tenure with the District Court of Guam he served as a member of the Magistrate Judge's Executive Board Committee of the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

"It was a blessing and a privilege to serve with Judge Manibusan for almost 25 years, first at the Superior Court and then here at the District Court of Guam. His quiet diligence served both courts well," said Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

The District Court of Guam



**United States Magistrate Judge
Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr.**

expresses its utmost gratitude with a sincere "Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase" to United States Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr. 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.

Cristobal C. Dueñas, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, was appointed by President Richard M. Nixon on September 23, 1969 to be the first CHamoru judge for the District Court of Guam. On December 10, 1969, he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and commissioned the next day. By December 24, 1969, he was officially sworn in as the Judge of the District Court of Guam. In June of 1977, Judge Dueñas was reappointed for a second term, and he retired as a Senior Judge in 1991. After a long and distinguished judicial career, Judge Dueñas died on February 14, 2010. He will long be remembered for his humility, courage, and keen intellect.



2025 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

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Matter/Issue	Team
Civil and Miscellaneous Cases	Francine Diaz (671) 969-4511, Holly Gumataotao (671) 969-4512, Kasteen Arceo (671) 969-4516
Criminal Cases	Leilani Hernandez (671) 969-4521, Holly Gumataotao (671) 969-4511, Virginia Kilgore (671) 969-4515
Magistrate Cases	Walter Tenorio (671) 969-4514, Anna Perez (671) 969-4577
Bankruptcy Cases	Francine Diaz (671) 969-4511, Holly Gumataotao (671) 969-4512
Courtroom Activities (4th Floor)	Virginia Kilgore (671) 969-4515, Walter Tenorio (671) 969-4514
Courtroom Activities (3rd Floor)	Walter Tenorio (671) 969-4514, Francine Diaz (671) 969-4511
Intake Counter	Anna Perez (671) 969-4577
Jury Administration	Leilani Hernandez (671) 969-4521, Walter Tenorio (671) 969-4514
Naturalization Ceremonies	Leilani Hernandez (671) 969-4521, Walter Tenorio (671) 969-4514
CJA Voucher Issuance	Kasteen Arceo (671) 969-4516, Gabriel Pereda (671) 969-4519
CJA Voucher Payments	Shirlene Guerrero (671) 969-4520, Gabriel Pereda (671) 969-4519
Financial Administration	Shirlene Guerrero (671) 969-4520, Gabriel Pereda (671) 969-4519, Colton Borja (671) 969-4497
Information Technology	Vergel DeVera (671) 969-4517, Steve Centino (671) 969-4518, Chris Ballesta (671) 969-4496, Ryley Rivera (671) 969-4613
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