

**DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM  
LAWYER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT  
2008-2009 Term**

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The Lawyer Representative for the District Court of Guam submits this report highlighting events, programs and progress of the District for 2008-2009.

**CHIEF JUDGE KOZINSKI VISITS TERRITORIES FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

The District of Guam held its Annual District conference with a capacity crowd at the Guam Hilton Resort & Spa over two days in October 2008. Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, together with 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Executive Officer Cathy Catterson visited Guam and Saipan, District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the jointly programmed conferences.



Chief Judge Kozinski made a joint presentation with Supreme Court of Guam Justice F. Philip Carbullido on *The Dos and Don'ts of Oral Advocacy*. Their frank, practical and candid remarks on oral advocacy were well received. Also appearing and presenting at the conference were the Honorable Richard P. Guy, Retired Chief Justice for the Supreme Court of Washington. Justice Guy presented the latest updates in his *United States Supreme Court Review*. The Honorable Cruz Reynoso, Retired Justice for the Supreme Court of California spoke to the audience regarding *Ethical Issues Facing Lawyers in the Federal Courts*.



Professor Jill J. Ramsfield from the University of Hawaii, Richardson School of Law, presented an extended course entitled *The Lawyer as a Writer: Getting it Right and Getting it Done*. Ms. Heather Williams, an Assistant Federal Public Defender from the District of Arizona, was recruited by the Federal Public Defender of Guam, and gave a unique audio-visual presentation entitled *Behind the Headlines*. This presentation gave the facts and circumstances behind landmark cases, including *Miranda v. Arizona*. She also provided office management education to legal staff in her presentation entitled *Law Office Management and Ethics for Secretaries, Investigators, and Paralegals*.

In a special ceremony, Retired Chief Judge Cristobal C. Duenas was honored for his significant contributions to the development of law on Guam. Judge Duenas, the first Chamorro federal judge and the first Chief Judge of the District Court of Guam, gave 22 years of dedicated service to the court before retiring in 1991. During the ceremony, his colleagues, including Chief Judge Kozinski, Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, as well as former staff members and law clerks, gave some insight into a jurist who serves as a such an outstanding example for generations of lawyers.



The conference closed with a panel discussing the timely subject on the rights of employment and re-employment of those serving our country in the armed services. Presenters include U.S. Attorney Leonardo Rapadas, with Assistants Mikel Schwab and Jessica Cruz, Assistant Federal Public Defender Richard Arens, and Colonel Dave Riano, Staff Judge Advocate. The audience extended the presentation with a number of questions affecting the practice of law as it relates to the many armed

services members on the island.

Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco Gatewood remarked, “Our Federal Court was pleased to have such distinguished guests and scholars present the latest in legal education to members of our bench and bar. We were fortunate to have Chief Judge Alex Kosinzki visit the islands, as part of our nation’s largest Circuit Court of Appeals. The level and degree of legal education being provided was outstanding. Coordinating with my colleague from the NMI District Court, Alex Munson, we were able to bring out such noted speakers who can update our lawyers on the latest issues and resolutions facing lawyers and the courts today.

## **DISTRICT COURT LAW WEEK 2009**

Having garnered the prestigious American Bar Association Law Day Outstanding Activity Award in 2008, the Guam Bar, the Judiciary of Guam, joined this year by the District Court of Guam, sponsored a week-long series of events for Law Week 2009. The activities kicked off with a “Race Judicata” 5K Run/Walk, then ended with a Law Fair at the Micronesia Mall, where allowing access to the public to information from government agencies, service providers and judicial community partners. The District Court opened its doors to the public during an Open House, and hosted the GATE students from William McCool Middle School, who participated in a viewing and discussion the “Children at Risk” legal education video, as well as an exercise from the Play by the Rules criminal justice education program. The public was invited to view the championship St. Thomas Aquinas School Mock Trial team during a Mock Trial Demonstration in the fourth floor courtroom. District Court of Guam employees were a visible presence during many of these events, from hosting water stations during the 5K race to presenting information during Open House and the Law Fair.



On May 1, 2009, the District Court held a special Law Day Naturalization Ceremony, welcoming 55 new citizens to our nation. Keynote speaker Rear Admiral William D. French, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, shared his thoughts on the importance of freedom. The new citizens also heard from President Abraham Lincoln, through award-winning portrayer Mr. James Conine, who described Lincoln’s important legacy of equality for all. Of special note was the inaugural Citizenship Outreach Program, which allowed the newly naturalized citizens to register to vote, apply for a U.S. Passport or Social Security card immediately after the naturalization ceremony. Representatives from the Guam Election Commission, Guam Passport Office and Social Security Administration Office were present to provide



assistance to the new citizens.

## **TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS**

The Court's Information Technology department consolidated with the U.S. Probation Office's IT group to form one unit that serves both the needs of the Court, and the Probation/Pretrial Services Office. This new service group also serves the Probation Office in the Northern Marianas Islands.



The Court also updated its website with the help of a local web designer. The new site is based upon an open source content management system and makes the Court more accessible to the bar and public.

## **DRUG OFFENDER RE-ENTRY PROGRAM**

The first Pacific Islands District Court Drug Offender Re-Entry Program was implemented, during a hearing on August 21, 2008. Ten participants were selected to undergo intensive treatment and supervision, with a team of treatment providers, U.S. Probation Officers, and attorneys from the Federal Public Defender and the U.S. Attorney's Office. Monthly hearings are conducted to ensure the court maintains the high level of monitoring that is the hallmark of this type of program.

## **2009 DISTRICT COURT CONFERENCE**

Planning is underway for the 2009 District Court of Guam Conference. The District Courts of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands continue to share resources to coordinate their conferences for a weekend in December, 2009.

## **2009 NINTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**

The 2009 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference will be held in July in Monterey, California. Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr., Clerk of Court Jeanne G. Quinata, Chief U.S. Probation Officer Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon, U.S. Attorney Leonardo M. Rapadas, U.S. Federal Public Defender John T. Gorman, will represent the District of Guam and attend the conference.