



HON. KATHERINE A. MARAMAN
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HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA III
PRESIDING JUDGE
JOHN Q. LIZAMA
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Guam Bar Association Members

Subject: Civil Justice Reform Initiative

Dear Guam Bar Association Members:

At my first State of the Judiciary address in 2017, I spoke on the Judiciary's efforts to address an essential goal of our Strategic Plan -- improving case management in civil cases. Since that time, the Judiciary, along with many state courts, joined a national reform effort to efficiently and effectively address challenges in civil cases, reduce delay, and the cost of litigation. The reform resulted from a three-year effort by the Conference of Chief Justices, the National Center for State Courts, and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System.

This reform effort, like any reform effort, is a significant undertaking, but I am pleased to share some of our internal progress in the Superior Court. First, following one of the reform recommendations, the Superior Court is developing a Civil Case Management Team (CCMT). The CCMT model consists of distinct tiers of responsibility over civil case management. It permits judges to focus on tasks that require uniquely judicial training and expertise, while skilled and administrative court staff perform routine case management tasks based on established practices under the direction of judges. Our new Civil Case Manager is Ms. Joanna S. McDonald.

Second, the Superior Court Clerk's Office completed a landscape of all civil and domestic cases. The Clerk of Court will be implementing a new Case Information Sheet, to assure full statistical representation of the types of civil cases filed in the Superior Court. This new form will replace the current Civil Docketing Statement form that is required when filing a new case.

Also, Judges Arthur R. Barcinas and Elyze M. Iriarte are working with the CCMT to review our current case management practices and court rules to find ways to streamline the processing of civil and domestic cases. In the coming weeks, more information on this initiative will be sent to the Guam Bar members and will also be available on the Judiciary website. Judge Iriarte will be implementing some new processes for recent cases assigned to her docket. While we have made some progress internally at the Court, your collaboration and participation in this project are critical to the timely resolution of civil and domestic cases. Our Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules Revisions Subcommittee played a significant role when the Rules were amended in 2007. This reform will involve reviewing and revising our current rules. If you would like to participate in this reform effort, please contact Danielle T. Rosete, Superior Court Clerk of Court at drosete@guamcourts.org for more information.

I look forward to your participation in this project and welcome your input as we work toward completing the Civil Justice Reform Initiative.

Senseremente,



KATHERINE A. MARAMAN
Chief Justice