



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom  
Guam Judicial Center

★★★★

Hon. Robert J. Torres  
Chairman

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman  
Member

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido  
Member

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III  
Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzon  
Member

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Advisory Committee Members:

Hon. Arthur R. Barcinas

Hon. Vernon P. Perez

Hon. Elyze M. Iriarte

Hon. Dana A. Gutierrez

Hon. Alberto E. Tolentino

Atty. Jacqueline T. Terlaje

Atty. Frederick J. Horecky

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Administrator of the Courts:  
Danielle T. Rosete

Judicial Council Secretary:  
Jessica J. Perez-Jackson

Judicial Council Asst. Secretary:  
Petrina M. Ula

### MINUTES

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Judicial Council was called to order by the Chairman, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, at the hour of 12:03 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL:

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres  
Justice F. Philip Carbullido  
Justice Katherine A. Maraman  
Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III  
Judge Maria T. Cenzon

Also present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:  
Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts  
Ms. Hannah Gutierrez Arroyo, Clerk of Court, Supreme Court  
Ms. Sarah Elmore Hernandez, Director of Policy Planning & Community Relations  
Ms. Ma. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance Administrator  
Ms. Geraldine Cepeda, Compiler of Laws  
Ms. Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon, Chief Probation Officer  
Mr. Joseph Leon Guerrero, Deputy Chief Marshal  
Ms. M. Erica R. Eschbach, Staff Attorney, Supreme Court  
Ms. Valerie D. Tenorio, Deputy Clerk of Court, Superior Court  
Ms. M. Grace Lapid Rosadino, Acting Court Programs Administrator  
Ms. Suzane Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney  
Mr. Andrew Perez, Staff Attorney  
Ms. Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, Regulation Counsel  
Mr. Andrew Quenga, Esq., Executive Director, Criminal Law Review Commission  
Mr. Carl Dominguez, Procurement and Facilities Management Administrator  
Ms. Dawn R.S. Blas, Judicial Educator  
Ms. Melissa Casil Chargualaf, Client Services and Family Counseling Division Administrator (CSFC)  
Ms. Marissa C. Antonio, Deputy Procurement & Facilities Maintenance Administrator  
Ms. Claire P. Camacho, Procurement & Facilities Maintenance Division  
Mr. Jesse C. Franquez, Deputy Clerk Supervisor, C&M Division & IFIK President

Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff  
Ms. Jessica Perez-Jackson, Administrative Services Officer, Judicial Council Executive Secretary  
Ms. Petrina M. Ula, Judicial Assistant, Judicial Council Assistant Secretary

## **II. PROOF OF DUE NOTICE OF MEETING**

Due publication of the five-day Notices of Meeting of the Judicial Council, as required under the Open Government Law, was published in the Guam Daily Post. Acknowledgments are on file.

## **III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Chief Justice Torres began the roll call. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Associate Justice Katherine A. Maraman, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and Judge Maria T. Cenzone identified themselves. This meeting determined a quorum with all five Judicial Council members present.

## **IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: December 21, 2023 regular meeting minutes**

Judge Cenzone moved to approve the December 21, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Presiding Judge Lamorena seconded the motion. Chief Justice Torres called an oral vote. With no discussion, the five (5) Judicial Council members voted in favor; the minutes were approved, subject to correction.

**\*At 12:05, Chief Justice Torres asked the Council if Item A. under New Business could be discussed first. There was no objection.**

Chief Justice Torres invited Ms. Joleen Cepeda to join the Council members for the presentation of her Certificate of Commendation for her service to the Judiciary of Guam. Mr. Carl Dominguez, Procurement and Facilities Management Administrator, was invited to join the Council in the presentation and say words of appreciation and farewell. Each council member shared words of gratitude and congratulations on Ms. Cepeda's retirement. Afterward, Ms. Cepeda gave her words of appreciation to everyone present and to the Judiciary of Guam.

**After the Commendation presentation, Chief Justice Torres asked the council to circle back to old business.**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Judiciary FY24 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law**

Ms. Gudmalin reported that in reference to the collection of allotments for General Operations P.L. 36-107, the Judiciary of Guam received, approximately 31%, or \$12.4 million of the total appropriated amount of \$40.4 million. She added that the Judiciary

continues to receive a biweekly allotment, with the latest allotment deposited on January 9, 2024 and the next allotment scheduled to be received on January 23, 2024.

Ms. Gudmalin provided the Council with the information that Justice Maraman requested at the previous meeting regarding the Judicial Building Fund (JBF). According to Ms. Gudmalin, for fiscal year 2023, the Judiciary collected a total of \$1,016,000 and \$1,071,000 in fiscal year 2022, averaging approximately \$1,043,000 in the past two fiscal periods. She continued that as of December 30, 2023, the Judiciary collected approximately \$288,336 for this current fiscal year 2024. Ms. Gudmalin explained that based on this information, she projects a total revenue of \$1,153,000 for fiscal year 2024.

Ms. Gudmalin reminded the Council that major expenditures from this funding source (collections) mainly go toward the Judiciary's debt service which includes some leases and the maintenance of the GPD forensic lab.

Chief Justice Torres asked if there were any questions. Justice Carbullido asked Dianne what the Judiciary's annual debt service is, to which Dianne responded that the quarter payment is \$165,010, which consists of principal and interest payments, which is approximately \$660,000 on an annual basis.

## **B. Update on Capital Improvement Projects**

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts (AOC), provided an update on the capital improvement projects: carpet installation and the tiling on the second floor have been completed, and work has already started on the cubicle workstations on the second floor. She continued that the electrical lighting and tiling are progressing on the first floor along with the construction of intake counters. Ms. Rosete shared that on the exterior parts of the building, landscaping is almost complete, lighting fixtures have been installed, but there are just a few electrical items that need to be completed. She continued that the air conditioning duct work is also being worked on on the first floor, and as previously reported, air conditioning has been turned on. Ms. Rosete explained that the Judiciary is still working with the architect and the engineer and with respect to the alternate design work for the electrical panels, once that design work has been completed, there will be a meeting with the Department of Public Works representative to review it, so that the Judiciary can proceed with the installation of the electrical panels as approved by an engineer and by a department of public Works. Ms. Rosete highlighted some of the next steps which include scheduling a final inspection with the architect.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Certificate of Commendation (J. Cepeda)**

\*See page 2.

### **B. Attorney Pay Plan Update**

Chief Justice Torres asked to keep this item on today's agenda and provided an update on the Attorney Pay Plan. He recommended that the Judiciary coordinate better

with the Department of Administration on the implementation and the methodology as set forth in 4 GCA in terms of the classification and pay system. He continued that the Judiciary must stay on top of this because the Department of Administration (DOA) is in the process of revising their attorney pay plan. When DOA has completed and published their plan, the Judiciary may have to revisit and evaluate whether any adjustments will be made and the Council will be notified if any action is necessary.

**C. eCourts and eProbation Transition**

Chief Justice Torres asked Ms. Rosete to report on this item. Ms. Rosete updated the Council members about the migration and new case management system, called eCourts and eSupervision or eProbation with the current vendor, Journal Technologies. She shared that kickoff began almost a year ago, primarily driven with the Superior Court case structure. Ms. Rosete explained that once the case structures have been completed for both Superior and Supreme Courts, then the current target date to move to the next system in supporting eSupervision and Probation, as well as the financial components of the case management system, is set for the end of January. She provided that the goal of this transition is to ensure better efficiency, easy access to the system and to the documents, improved public access, and to become more paperless.

Chief Justice Torres requested that the eCourts item remain on the agenda under Old Business to provide the Council with updates and that the Judiciary expects to go live with eCourts by midyear, if not earlier.

**D. Celebration of the Grand Opening of the Guam Judicial Center and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Court Reorganization Act of 1974**

Chief Justice Torres shared that the Judiciary is looking to combine the Grand Opening of the Historic Courthouse with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in July. He expressed that the Judiciary would like to do something in conjunction with PJC and hope to invite the other jurisdictions to celebrate with us.

**E. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, February 15, 2024)**

Chief Justice Torres stated that the next Judicial Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024. There was no objection from the Council.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A. Guam Bar Association Board (GBA) – President’s Report**

Chief Justice Torres asked the Judicial Council Secretary to read the GBA President's email because she was unable to attend the meeting. The email read as follows:

- Registration completed, approximately 12 non-compliant and procedure has been undertaken to provide notice prior to Clerk's official removal
- CLE certifications close on January 31
- Passing of two GBA members in recent weeks: Robert Kono and Peter Sgro
- Scheduling of two CLE's ongoing: potential dates to be determined but looking at February 15 and March 19
- Annual Meeting date pending, based upon Law Month events, potential date March 19
- Petition for Review pending in Supreme Court, current stay of implementation of wellness and disciplinary programs


#### **B. Court Employees Association**

Mr. Jesse C. Franquez, IFIK President, provided an update on an upcoming Christmas party scheduled for January 27, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Guam. Mr. Franquez also updated the Council on the IFIK officer nominations.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn. Judge Cenzone seconded the motion, adjourning the meeting at 12:48p.m.**

Respectfully submitted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

  
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JESSICA PEREZ-JACKSON  
Executive Secretary  
Judicial Council of Guam

**As set out above, the Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the February 15, 2024 Regular meeting.**

  
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**ROBERT J. TORRES**  
Chair

**Dated:** 2/15/24