



# Judiciary of Guam

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ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Torres Leads Delegation to Philippine Supreme Court and Malacañan Palace CHIEF JUSTICE JOINED BY GUAM, NATIONAL BAR LEADERS**

(Hagåtña, Guam) — Chief Justice Robert J. Torres recently led a delegation of legal professionals on a visit to the Supreme Court of the Philippines and Malacañan Palace. The visit aimed to enhance ties, strengthen collaboration, and reinforce the rule of law in both jurisdictions.

Torres led the delegation as the first recipient of the Philippine Judges Association (PJA) President's Award. The PJA President's Award acknowledges individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the advancement of judicial officers and the evolution of jurisprudential trends, both within the Philippines and on the global stage.

*“Chief Justice Torres has been instrumental in advancing the accessibility and efficiency of court services across Guam, introducing innovative features like wireless technology and videoconferencing in courtrooms, and championing the implementation of e-filing and expanded online services,”* stated the Supreme Court of the Philippines' news release announcing Torres as the award recipient. *“He has been an invaluable resource in assisting with the Philippine Supreme Court's initiatives to institute judicial reforms using technology.”*

Joining Torres were Guam Bar Association President Jacqueline T. Terlaje, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association President Anna Mercado Clark, and National Bar Association President Dominique D. Calhoun. Both Clark and Calhoun had been invited by Chief Justice Torres to Guam, where they were able to share their insights to the legal community at the Guam Bar Association annual meeting and served as judges during the Guam High School Mock Trial finals.

The group's engagements included meetings with Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, Associate Justice Midas P. Marquez, and Executive Secretary and former Chief Justice Lucas P. Bersamin at Malacañan Palace. Through these interactions, Torres emphasized the importance of sharing best practices and modernizing to enhance the delivery of justice in both the Philippines and U.S. jurisdictions.

*“As the legal landscape continues to evolve, discussing the latest developments in our jurisdictions ensures that we are prepared to meet these challenges and deliver efficient justice to our people,”* said Chief Justice Torres. *“I extend my gratitude to Chief Justice Gesmundo, Justice Marquez, and Executive Secretary Bersamin for their hospitality, and I am hopeful that our shared efforts will help improve justice for the people of Guam and the Philippines.”*

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