



Judiciary of Guam

FY 2025 Travel Expenditures by Funding Source

1st Quarter (October to December 2024)

Traveler	Purpose of Travel	Source of Funds	Cost of the Travel
Arroyo, Hannah G.	The Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) Summit on November 14-17, 2024 in Boston, Massachusetts.	Local Appropriations	\$ 4,000.00
Balajadia, Ryan T.	To provide Judicial Security for Chief Justice Robert J. Torres who will attend the Pacific Judicial Council 2024 Environmental Law & Science Conference scheduled on October 28-31, 2024 in Koror, Palau.	Continuing Education Morale, Recreation & Welfare Program	2,316.89
Bonardi, Mia E.	Pacific Judicial Council 2024 Environmental Law & Science Conference on October 28-31, 2024 in Koror, Palau.	Local Appropriations	250.00
Casil, Melissa M.	The Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA) 43rd Annual Research & Treatment Conference on October 16-18, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas.	Diversion Program	4,000.00
Cenzon, Maria T.	eCourts 2024 on December 9-11, 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada.	Local Appropriations	4,202.76
Eschbach, Maria Erica R.	The Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) Summit on November 14-17, 2024 in Boston, Massachusetts.	Local Appropriations	4,014.15
Iriarte, Elyze M.	Managing Complex Litigation on October 7-10, 2024 in Nashville, Tennessee.	Local Appropriations	5,000.00

Traveler	Purpose of Travel	Source of Funds	Cost of the Travel
Lamorena, Alberto C.	The American Judges Association (AJA) Annual Conference on October 5-10, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana.	Local Appropriations	5,000.00
Perez, Vernon P.	Antiracist Courtroom and Reducing Disparity Through Nontraditional Diversion on October 21-25, 2024 in Montgomery, Alabama.	Local Appropriations	3,352.97
Prisbey, Dallin J.	Pacific Judicial Council 2024 Environmental Law & Science Conference on October 28-31, 2024 in Koror, Palau.	Local Appropriations	250.00
Shirriff, Victoria A.	Pacific Judicial Council 2024 Environmental Law & Science Conference on October 28-31, 2024 in Koror, Palau.	Local Appropriations	250.00
Sison Jr., Benjamin C.	The American Judges Association (AJA) Annual Conference on October 5-10, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana.	Local Appropriations	4,854.90
Torres, Robert J.	The American Judges Association (AJA) Annual Conference on October 5-10, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana.	Local Appropriations	4,867.97
	The Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) Summit on November 14-17, 2024 in Boston, Massachusetts; and National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Fall Events for the Chief Justices and Courts Administrators and the 29th Annual William H. Rehnquist Award on November 21, 2024 in Washington, D.C.	Local Appropriations	6,461.69
Grand Total			\$ 48,821.33



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Hannah G. Arroyo	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Appellate Judges Education Institute 2024 SUMmit	
Division	Supreme Court	Organization
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	November 14-17, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Boston, MA	


Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to attend the Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) summit for Appellate Judges, Lawyers, and Staff Attorneys. The Summit took place in Boston, MA, from November 14-17, 2024.

Conference attendees included state and federal judges and legal professionals from around the nation. The topics for the various forums were interesting, informative, and very useful to me in my work with the Judiciary. Topics ranged from AI and its use in the practice of law and of legal decision-making, to the impact on fines and fees post-Ferguson, to a very interesting ethics and transparency panel moderated by Chief Justice Torres. Among the highlights of the summit were the chat with former Solicitor General Neal Katyal and the Supreme Court review of civil and criminal cases, where Dean Erwin Chemerinsky (U.C. Berkley School of Law) presented updates and insightful commentary on recent Supreme Court decisions, highlighting the trends that seem to be emerging in U.S. jurisprudence. There were discussions on the threats to an independent judiciary and reflections on the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, in the context of the challenges we continue to face as a society.

Overall, the experience was immensely valuable, and I would recommend the participation of the Judiciary of Guam in future AJEI summits.

Please find, attached, my boarding passes.

Signature of Traveler	 <small>Digitally signed by Hannah G. Arroyo Date: 2025.01.23 08:12:42 +10'00'</small>	1/23/2025
	Signature	Date



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Mia Bonardi, Research Attorney II	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	PJC Environmental Law and Science Conference	
Division	Supreme	Organization
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Oct 28-31	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Palau	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

The conference provided an exceptional blend of legal, scientific, and indigenous perspectives on environmental challenges facing the Pacific region. The opening day set a strong foundation with Judge Michael Mosman's sessions on climate science in courts and evidentiary considerations for scientific opinions. These sessions were particularly relevant to my work as a research attorney, offering practical insights into how courts can effectively evaluate and utilize scientific evidence in environmental cases.

The second day deepened my understanding of the interconnected nature of environmental challenges in the Pacific. Dr. Yimnang Golbuu's introduction to climate science, followed by the panel on ocean governance featuring Dr. Filimon Manoni and Noah Idechong, highlighted how local actions have regional impacts. I found Mr. Idechong's words noteworthy: "In my world, we don't talk about rights, we talk about obligation, responsibility." The session on adapting to climate change and indigenous peoples' rights, led by Sherry P. Broder and a panel of experts, provided valuable context for considering traditional practices alongside modern legal frameworks.

Wednesday's sessions on marine pollution laws and recent U.S. Supreme Court environmental decisions were particularly valuable to my role. Judge M. Margaret McKeown's presentation on international law developments in climate-related litigation offered crucial insights into emerging legal trends. The discussion of recent Supreme Court decisions was especially relevant to my work, specifically the overturning of Chevron.

The conference emphasized practical solutions in the panel discussions on marine environmental policies and fisheries management. Minister Steven Victor and Dr. Peter Houk's presentations on these topics provided concrete examples of how legal frameworks can support sustainable resource management.

On the final day, we viewed Palau's incredible coral reefs. Some of the locations had been discussed during the conference. Overall, the conference successfully achieved my goal of gaining deeper insight into environmental law and science, particularly as they relate to Pacific Island communities, and will directly enhance my ability to support the Court.

Signature of Traveler	Mia Bonardi <small>Digitally signed by Mia Bonardi Date: 2025.01.24 10:52:58 +10'00'</small>	
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Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Melissa M. Casil, Administrator	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse, 43rd Annual Research & Treatment Conference	
Division	CSFC	Organization Judiciary of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	October 16 - 18 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	San Antonio, TX	


Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this year's ATSA conference representing the Judiciary of Guam. There are several highlights of this year's conference that are relevant and applicable to the treatment of sex offenders on Guam. The workshop for psycho-sexual evaluations offered information on what changes to incorporate into the current practices. First, as reference tools for best practices review of the the ATSA Code of Ethics (2017) and the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology (APA, 2012) are essential to psychosexual evaluations. In addition, it is essential to know the differences between forensic versus clinical evaluations. One of the most important aspects of the evaluation is to assess and provide any treatment symptoms. Also, what makes the evaluation different from forensic evaluations is that during the process of the psychosexual evaluation, there is a priority placed on the well-being of the individual. When conducting the evaluation, it is important to be mindful that the information being provided is from the perspective of the individual and that they are the sole source of information for the report.

Another valuable take away is the cultural aspect of working with indigenous populations. There are several ways that the Judiciary's CSFC division may incorporate indigenous cultural practices into the therapeutic setting as a means to honor different cultures present on the island. Working with indigenous groups requires more intimate knowledge of cultural practices and beliefs. This will assist in bridging gaps between western psychology practices and cultural perspectives. The connection that may be established between justice involved individuals and the judicial process may break barriers to the process of bridging gaps and addressing the needs of different cultures. From this perspective, acknowledging different world views increases co-existing cultures. This will offer a safe space to share and learn about different cultures.

A last highlight of the conference was the topic of reunification in sibling sexual abuse. Several factors influence the reunification process and the first step is understanding that a collaborative approach is necessary for this process. First, identifying all key players and the role that each entity play. The decision for reunification is a process that involves respect and consideration. At this point, the CSFC division needs to identify its role and the part it will have in the reunification process. More research needs to be done to establish and identify all the people who have a role in this process in order to have responsibility and investment in the decision to reunify. This will help to establish goals and expectations so that there is a clear understanding of how a reunification team can move forward to heal from sexual abuse.

Thank you again for the opportunity. I will be working towards identifying and implementing various ways to incorporate what I have learned into the processes and procedures of existing CSFC policies to improve how justice is delivered to individuals in the judicial system.

Signature of Traveler	 <small>Digitally signed by Melissa M. Casil Date: 2024.11.06 14:22:41 +10'00'</small>	11/6/2024
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Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

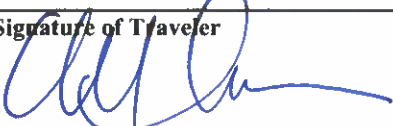
Traveler's Name/Position Title	Maria T. Cenzon, Judge, Superior Court of Guam	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	2024 eCourts Conference	
Division	Judges and Chamber	Organization Judiciary of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	December 8 to 11, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

I am co-chairperson of the Judiciary of Guam's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan Pillar of Justice 3: Embracing and Enhancing Technology. Using existing technology and technological innovations, the following are the goals of Pillar of Justice 3:

- (1) Support and sustain court improvements through technological infrastructure updates and ensure the infrastructure and facilities can support the improvements.
- (2) Improve the Judiciary website to make it more user-friendly and accessible for all court patrons
- (3) Enhance the case management system to expand electronic filing and ensure public access to electronic court files, and
- (4) Leverage technology, including artificial intelligence, to streamline operations and broaden access to justice.

With these goals in mind, I attended eCourts as part of a team which included management leads from MIS (technological expertise), Court Programs (funding sources), clerks and administration to learn more about available and future technological advancements to improve efficiencies including Artificial Intelligence (AI)(both predictive and generative), the impact and effect of AI on courts and justice systems, as well as protecting our delicate infrastructure against cyber-attacks. More importantly, eCourts provided the opportunity to meet with current JOG vendors providing products and services relating to case management, audio and visual technology for courtrooms, AI software to improve efficiencies both in and out of the courtroom, including products to consider for improving self-represented litigants.

Signature of Traveler		12/26/2024
	Signature	Date



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Maria Erica Eschbach, Staff Attorney	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	2024 Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit for Judges and Lawyers	
Division	Supreme Court	Organization Judiciary of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	November 14-17, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Westin Boston Seaport District, Boston, MA	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

I attended the annual Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) Summit for Judges and Lawyers from November 14-17, 2024, in Boston, MA. AJEI is the preeminent provider of education for appellate judges and lawyers in the United States. The 2024 Summit was attended by hundreds of judges, lawyers, and staff attorneys from across the country. The educational program featured a number of highly regarded speakers covering a wide range of topics on appellate court and appellate practice, including a fireside chat with former Solicitor General Neal Katyal, an update on recent U.S. Supreme Court opinions presented by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of the UC Berkeley School of Law, and a session moderated by Chief Justice Robert Torres focused on media influence on appellate judges. I provided planning assistance for a session on judicial transparency and ethics presented by leading practitioners in the field of judicial conduct. I participated in numerous plenary and breakout sessions and found the sessions on sua sponte decision-making and practical linguistics particularly useful in my work as Supreme Court Staff Attorney.

Please find my boarding passes attached. I also request reimbursement in the amount of \$44.63 for ground transportation to and from the airport. My Uber receipts are attached.

Signature of Traveler	Maria Erica Eschbach <small>Digitally signed by Maria Erica Eschbach Date: 2025.01.06 15:06:06 +10'00'</small>	1/6/2025
	Signature	Date




Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title		
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting		
Division		Organization
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting		
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting		

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

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Signature of Traveler 		
	Signature	Date



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Alberto C. Lamorena III	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	American Judges Association Conference	
Division	Judge Chambers	Organization Superior Court of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	October 5 - October 10, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	New Orleans	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

I attended the American Judges Association (AJA) Conference which focused on the issue of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The reason for my attendance was to learn about AI.

After attending the conference, I was enlightened, educated and amazed about AI.


Topics offered were legal writing and AI, Navigating the mind field of AI use in legal research, Improving Court Access with advanced AI; is AI safe and secure? Are you sure; what judges should know about AI and legal aspects of Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence 101; Primer and beyond. Traditional topics such as Constitutional Law update were also offered.

Although this conference gave me an introduction of AI an to know how its application to the Judiciary there is still more I need to know.

This conference and the specific topics were valuable in assisting me in presiding over my Court docket.

This Conference was financed by the Judiciary of Guam Budget.

Thank you very much for allowing me to attend this conference. I highly recommend it. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Signature of Traveler		
	Signature	Date 1/27/25



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

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As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Hon. Vernon P. Perez, Judge	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	National Judicial College - The Antiracist Courtroom & Reducing Disparity Through Nontraditional Diversions	
Division	Judges Chambers	Organization Superior Court of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	October 21 - October 25, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Montgomery, Alabama	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

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I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended this unique and special training. The history our country has endured relative to treating all peoples equally in application of the laws of the nation provides many lessons concerning racial inequality, exclusion, segregation, and the like. The United States has quite a dark history relative to the treatment of colored people.

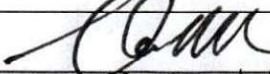
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The training exposed participants to various historical analyses of racial inequality, bias, and lack of fairness for people who necessarily endured such problems. The institutionalization of these problems has led many to lose opportunities at fairness, happiness, and has even resulted in the loss of life. The evil of hate and greed by some, if not many, has given rise for others to effectuate change for the good of all people and to provide the opportunity to prevent the repetition of the problems that plagued the United States for so long, even today.

On Guam, many parallels can be drawn from the plight of colored people in the United States with situations for many non-Chamorros or non-locals in our courts and legal systems. My experience with juries and criminal matters over the years has led me to be cautious in identifying bias and unfairness in all proceedings. This training will enhance my assessment and caution regarding bias/racism in the courtroom.

Some training highlights follow:

- Bus tour with Joanne Bland (Journeys for the Soul) and the courthouse in Selma Alabama. Ms. Bland was among the youth participants in the march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama in the 1960s. Her interest is to educate as many people as possible of the plight of black people back then on the issues of voting rights and segregation. Her time and discussions with the participants was most engaging and heart-wrenching. Her real life experiences have led me to think of how locals may have been treated during war-time on Guam and how immigrants have been postured in our legal system and in the community.
- The Constitutional Law of Otherness and Asian Americans. We received incredible information and instruction from legal professor (Chang) about the experiences and plight of Asians in America. Instruction also covered bias in courts.
- Justice and the Developing Brain. This class was incredibly edifying about the development of the brain in adolescents and young adults. The implication is that many decisions made by young adults are not the result of a fully developed brain, yet many legal dispositions historically have attempted a long-term consequence for such actions. For instance, the cognitive ability of individuals under threat is greatly differed for those under the age of 21. Cognitive ability is much worse for those under 21 years of age.
- Justice and the Developing Brain: Fantastic discussion and instruction was provided regarding the change in the law regarding long-term punishment of youth. We were able to hear from Kuntrell Jackson regarding the change of his sentence from life-without the possibility of parole to ultimate release. We even received a copy of his book.

Signature of Traveler		11/12/2024
	Signature <i>Vernon Perez</i>	Date



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Dallin Prisbrey, Research Attorney	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	PACIFIC JUDICIAL COUNCIL 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & SCIENCE CONFERENCE	
Division	Supreme	Organization
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	October 28 – 31, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Koror, Palau	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

I am writing to provide a summary of my attendance at the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC) Environmental Law and Science Conference, which took place in Koror Palau, during from October 28-31 2024. This conference offered a wealth of knowledge and insights into environmental law, climate science, and their intersections with judicial responsibilities. It was an invaluable opportunity for professional growth and the exchange of ideas.


The conference included a variety of sessions led by distinguished experts in the fields of law, climate science, and policy. One of the most impactful sessions was "Climate Science and the Courts", presented by Sherry P. Broder, of the William S. Richardson School of Law. This session provided an in-depth look into recent developments in climate science and their legal implications, including case studies like the impact of sea-level rise in Pacific Island nations and global legal frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The session emphasized how courts can address environmental degradation and uphold international legal obligations, which I found directly relevant to my role.

Another notable session was led by the Honorable M. Margaret McKeown, Senior U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, on "Significant International Law Developments in Environmental Law and Climate-Related Litigation." This session explored the evolving landscape of climate litigation worldwide, highlighting how constitutional provisions, treaties, and human rights law are being invoked to address climate issues. Judge McKeown also discussed key cases, such as *Schweiz v. Switzerland* and *Held v. Montana*, which underscore the judiciary's critical role in enforcing environmental protections and human rights in the context of climate change.

Additionally, the conference addressed barriers to enforcing environmental law, such as capacity limitations, corruption, and backlash against environmental defenders, alongside potential solutions like leveraging civic engagement and Indigenous knowledge systems. These discussions were particularly enlightening and underscored the importance of judicial leadership in fostering environmental accountability.

The insights gained from these sessions will greatly enhance my ability to address environmental and climate-related issues in my legal research and writing. I plan to incorporate these perspectives into my work by staying informed about emerging international precedents.

In conclusion, attending the PJC Environmental Law and Science Conference was an enriching experience that has deepened my understanding of the intersection between environmental science, law, and human rights. I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated and for the Judiciary's support in fostering my professional development.

Signature of Traveler		1/23/25
	Signature	Date




Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Ami Shirriff, Attorney I	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	PJC Environmental Law and Science Conferece	
Division	Judge's Chambers	Organization Superior Court of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	October 28-31, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Koror, Palau	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

The PJC conference exposed me to developments in environmental law, science, and policy that directly impact Guam. I learned from experts in science and law across the Pacific to hear about the newest developments in these fields as well as the biggest challenges facing communities. As Judge Iriarte's law clerk, we take primarily civil cases which may be impacted by these developments in environmental law. It is important for us to understand the context of the work that we do, and learning about developments and challenges in environmental law help us makde decisions to deliver justice fairly and in an inclusive manner.

Signature of Traveler		January 23, 2025
	Signature	Date




Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	BENJAMIN C. SISON JR./MAGISTRATE JUDGE	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	AJA Annual Conference-New Orleans 2024	
Division	Judicial	Organization AJA
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	October 5-10 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	New Orleans	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

Attached is the conference agenda. At the conference particular emphasis was on the use of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") for the judiciary. AI stands to greatly affect how everyone involved in the delivery of court services can more accurately and efficiently deliver these services. For judges in particular, a judge can more quickly find, gather and retrieve relevant and pertinent information to a case including information from communications between the court, court staff and patrons and 3rd parties, as well as research legal authority including statutes and case law and other legal resources. AI also permits a judge to more efficiently and accurately draft and issue judicial decisions and orders.

Signature of Traveler		
	Signature	Date January 27, 2025



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Robert J. Torres, Chief Justice	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	AJA Annual Conference	
Division	Supreme Court	Organization Judiciary of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	10/5/24 - 10/10/24	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	New Orleans, Louisiana	


Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

I am pleased to report on my attendance at the 2024 Annual Conference of the American Judges Association (AJA) held in New Orleans from October 5 to 10, 2024. The conference theme, "Welcome to the New Age: The Future of Courts in the Era of Artificial Intelligence," underscored the vital intersection of technology and the judiciary as courts navigate the emergent use of artificial intelligence (AI). With AI's increasing integration in various judicial processes, discussions were robust around balancing technological benefits and the safeguarding of fundamental legal and ethical principles.

The conference featured enlightening sessions on novel applications of AI in the courts, abusive uses of generative AI in the context of intimate partner violence and benefits of AI-powered systems for abuse survivors, legal and ethical aspects of emerging technologies in the courtroom, improving court access and service with AI chatbots (particularly interesting as it deals with one of our chief goals in my pillar of justice committees), and more. Additionally, I had the pleasure of being part of a panel discussion on "AI is Everywhere: The Resource Judge Experience" along with Presiding Judge Rodney Adams, Irving Municipal Court of Irving, Texas, Judge Rhonda Goode-Douglas, Criminal District Court, District E, from New Orleans, Louisiana, and Judge Margaret Wiebe, Provincial Court of Manitoba, from Winnipeg, Canada.

Further, as Committee on Education chair and Executive Committee member, I was able to participate in organization governance through Executive Committee meetings. Collaboration with fellow committee members reaffirmed our commitment to keep judicial officers across the nation well-informed in the latest developments in the courtroom.

In conclusion, my participation at the AJA Annual Conference offered invaluable insights into the future trajectory of AI in judicial practice. The knowledge gleaned from educational sessions and panel discussions ensure that Guam's courts embrace beneficial technologies, be wary of potential challenges, and maintain the high ethical standards fundamental to our judicial system. My attendance in the conference reaffirmed my belief in the importance of continuous education, in this case AI-related topics, for judges and staff to keep our courts secure, fair, and resilient in the face of emergent technologies.

Signature of Traveler		
	Signature	Date



Judiciary of Guam Travel Report Form

As of October 2024

Traveler's Name/Position Title	Robert J. Torres / Chief Justice	
Name of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) and National Center for State Courts 29th Annual William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence	
Division	Supreme	Organization Judiciary of Guam
Date(s) of Conference, Event, or Meeting	November 14-17, 2024 and November 21, 2024	
Location of Conference, Event, or Meeting	Boston, MA and Supreme Court of the United States	

Traveler's Report (Highlight the information you gathered at the event and how it impacts your role/responsibilities at the Judiciary. Describe how it will be beneficial to achieving the Judiciary's mission of delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services.)

As a Board member of the Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI), I attended the Summit to support its mission of enhancing judicial education on key issues. I coordinated panels on topics such as threats to judicial independence, the influence of media on public trust, and transparency reforms, providing strategies to uphold ethics, foster public confidence, and strengthen judicial accountability. The insights gained from these national discussions will benefit the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC) by informing approaches to similar challenges in Pacific jurisdictions. I plan to share these findings with colleagues in Guam and across the PJC, adapting best practices to our unique context and incorporating these topics into future conference presentations to promote judicial independence, transparency, and public trust.

Participation in the NCSC Fall Events each year is crucial to maintaining strong networks with Chief Justices and Court Administrators nationwide and to remain informed about innovative approaches to judicial administration, technology, and legal challenges. Additionally, this was the last formal NCSC event with outgoing President Mary McQueen, marking a significant transition in leadership after her 20-year tenure.

This trip also aligned with our Judiciary's strategic goals by fostering connections that facilitate grant acquisition, including State Justice Institute (SJI) funding, which supports our mission of providing accessible and equitable justice services.

Key Activities included:

- Conversation with the Chief Justices in which we discussed pressing challenges and shared best practices related to court operations, including strategies for handling case backlogs and leveraging technology for efficient case management;
- Justice Roundtable which focused on addressing disparities in access to justice and the role of state courts in promoting equity and inclusion;
- Annual Recognition Luncheon which celebrated judicial achievements, providing inspiration and an opportunity to strengthen bonds with leaders committed to judicial excellence; and
- The 29th Annual William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence Dinner which honored a distinguished judge for their exemplary contributions to the judiciary. Attending this prestigious event at the U.S. Supreme Court emphasized the importance of judicial integrity and excellence, reinforcing our Judiciary's commitment to these principles.

Attendance at the NCSC Fall Events proved invaluable for our Judiciary, supporting ongoing efforts to enhance our judicial services and secure funding. The opportunity to share and learn from other state court leaders further reinforced our commitment to transparent, inclusive, and efficient justice delivery.

Signature of Traveler		01/24/25
	Signature	Date