



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024  
Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom  
Guam Judicial Center**

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Hon. Robert J. Torres  
Chairman

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman  
Member

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido  
Member

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III.  
Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzone  
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 12:05 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. Cenzone

#### Also present via Zoom:

Family Court Referee Linda L. Ingles  
Administrative Hearing Officer Kristina L. Baird  
Ms. Barbara Jean T. Perez, Human Resources Administrator

#### Also present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

Attorney Jacqueline T. Terlaje, Guam Bar Association, Advisory Committee Member  
Attorney Dean A. Manglona, Guam Bar Association, Advisory Committee Member  
Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts  
Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts  
Ms. Hannah Gutierrez Arroyo, Clerk of Court, Supreme Court  
Ms. Ma. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance Administrator  
Ms. Rohnda Calvo, Deputy Human Resources Administrator  
Ms. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, Director of Policy Planning & Community Relations  
Ms. Suzane P. Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney  
Mr. Andrew T. Perez, Staff Attorney  
Ms. Melissa M. Casil, Client Services and Family Counseling Division Administrator  
Mr. Carl V. Dominguez, Procurement and Facilities Management Administrator  
Ms. Dawn R.S. Blas, Judicial Educator  
Ms. Marcelene C. Santos, Public Guardian  
Ms. Erica H. Unpingco, Court Programs

Ms. Rosanna Villagomez-Aguon, Chief Probation Officer  
Ms. Trisha Suzuki, Deputy Chief Probation Officer  
Mr. Joseph J. Leon Guerrero, Deputy Chief Marshal  
Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President  
Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff  
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, and Justice Katherine A. Maraman identified themselves. Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III joined the meeting at 12:06 p.m. during roll call. This meeting determined a quorum with 4 (four) of the five Judicial Council members present. Judge Maria T. Cenzone joined the meeting 12:16 p.m.**

Before proceeding, Chief Justice Torres acknowledged and congratulated Justice Maraman on her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the Judiciary.

## **IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: July 18, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes**

**Chief Justice Torres asked for a motion to approve the July 18, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes. Presiding Judge Lamorena made a motion, Justice Maraman seconded the motion. Chief Justice Torres called an oral vote. With no discussion, four of the five Judicial Council members voted to approve the minutes, subject to correction.**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin reported on the status of collections for general operations as per Public Law 37-42, Chapter 4: The Judiciary of Guam received approximately 88% of the total allotment, or \$35.7 million of the total appropriation of \$40.4 million. Deposits of bi-weekly allotments have been timely, with the most recent allotment deposited on August 6. Only three bi-weekly allotments remain to be collected for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts, provided an update on the capital improvement projects, as detailed below:

- The Guam Historic Courthouse project is nearly ready for final inspection by the Department of Public Works (DPW). The network installation is 90% complete, with the second floor finished and the first floor near completion. Telephone lines are prepared, and electrical work, including a transformer and automatic transfer switch, is ongoing. A new generator is almost fully installed. Security access control features are expected to be completed this week. Staff move-in is being coordinated, with an update anticipated by the next Judicial Council meeting.
- Renovation of the financial cashier area, self-represented litigant kiosk, and clerk's office counters is progressing. The cashier area is almost complete, with carpeting being installed. Once finished, work will shift to the litigant counters and clerk's office. Some disruption for courthouse patrons is expected during this process.
- An architect is addressing ongoing condensation issues with the skylights at the Supreme Court and atrium. Plans are underway to explore hardening options for both skylights.

## **C. eCourts and eSupervision Transition**

Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts, provided the Council with a progress update on the ongoing testing and integration of the new case management system, as detailed below:

- Weekly meetings with the vendor continue, and testing has expanded to include the clerk's office, financial management, and the functions used by the Marshal Services Division. The team is also working with additional vendors for system interfaces, particularly related to the VCCH. Recent discussions with Journal Technologies and DataMax are focused on data sets and how they will be integrated across systems. The team is engaging with Probation and Client Services to clean their data in preparation for conversion to the eSupervision solution.
- The e-payment system is also under review, with discussions on incorporating e-payment functionality from the E-series system, which would allow acceptance of both debit and credit cards.
- Additionally, the team is evaluating the public access and e-filing components of the system. There will be a need to establish a fee schedule for electronic public access to documents, which will be brought before the Judicial Council for consideration. Progress is steady, with ongoing efforts to address any issues before the system goes live.
- Questions were raised about ensuring seamless integration and expanding the public access portal with the new eCourt system.

#### **D. Review of Pay Adjustments to the Guam Police Department (for Informational Purposes)**

Chief Justice Torres asked AOC Danielle Rosete to provide a report on the review of pay adjustments to the Guam Police Department (GPD). Her report is as follows:

- Following the last Judicial Council meeting, communication with the Executive Director of the POST Commission, John Lizama, confirmed that the Commission will begin reviewing pay parities for all POST Commission positions, including probation officers and court marshals. A POST Commission meeting was held on August 1st, attended by judiciary representatives. Agencies were asked to review their position description questionnaires in preparation for a study on law enforcement pay tiers.
- The Commission has been authorized to hire an HR specialist to address the pay tier structure for law enforcement positions. Judiciary HR, along with the Chief Probation Officer and Chief Marshal, is reviewing job standards and position descriptions, which were last updated in 2016-2017. This will ensure preparedness when the study begins. Updates will be provided as the POST Commission's work progresses.

Justice Carbullido asked for a point of clarification regarding activity on action for GPD officers and all law enforcement. According to AOC Rosete, it is her understanding that GPD received the adjustment and to address pay parity among other law enforcement agencies, and the POST Commission plans to conduct a comprehensive study. She further supplied that instead of applying an across-the-board increase, the POST Commission, through its Executive Director, intends to use this study to assess and address pay parity for all law enforcement positions.

Justice Carbullido asked if the expected law enforcement pay increase was accounted for in the Judiciary's budget, to which the Chief Justice responded that only the typical increases were accounted for and did not include the additional amount. Chief Justice Torres supposed that when the pay study is completed and recommendation suggested, there will have to be a push for funding of any law enforcement adjustments based on the pay study.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Certification of Commendation (E. Pinaula)**

Chief Justice asked AOC Rosete to say a few words as they present Esther Pinaula with her Certificate of Commendation and recognize her for her years of service to the Judiciary. After Ms. Rosete provided her heartfelt appreciation to Esther on behalf of the Judiciary, Chief Justice Torres also asked Presiding Judge Lamorena and other Judicial Council members to share their gratitude for Esther's service, as well. Ms. Pinaula also had a moment to share her last words to the Council and the Judiciary.

**B. Resolution, JC24-014 Relative to the Declaration of Constitution Day and Constitution Week**

**C. Resolution, JC24-015 Relative to Recognizing the Importance of Jury Service and Declaring Juror Appreciation Week**

Chief Justice Torres called upon Presiding Judge Lamorena to speak on Constitution Day and Constitution Week. Presiding Judge Lamorena introduced the resolutions for Constitution Day and Week as well as the resolution for Juror Appreciation Week, sharing how the Judiciary educates the public about the importance of the Constitution every year and thanking the citizens for their service as jurors. **Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to pass both Resolutions (for Constitution Day and Constitution Week and Jury Appreciation Week) as submitted to the Council; Justice Maraman seconded the motion.** Chief Justice Torres asked the Council if there was any discussion on the motion, to which there was none. **Chief Justice Torres called for an oral vote to adopt both Resolutions Relative to the Declaration of Constitution Day and Constitution Week 2024 and Juror Appreciation Week 2024. All five (5) Council members voted unanimously in favor of the Resolutions.**

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Chief Justice Torres shared two items for communications that were received from the Speaker of the Guam Legislature, as listed below:

1. **Budget and Bill 236-37:** The Judiciary's appropriation for FY 2025, included in Bill 236-37, closely aligns with its funding request and ensures adequate resources. The bill also extends the deadline for the Guam Criminal Law and Procedure Review Commission by an additional two years, allowing for the inclusion of criminal jury instructions and the completion of Title 8. Additionally, a proposal addressing the judiciary's fee schedule was included, simplifying the process while maintaining the legislative intent regarding the Judicial Building Fund and Client Services Fund. Management will monitor the bill as it moves through the legislative process, which must conclude by the end of August.
2. **Magistrate Appointment Hearing:** The Speaker invited attendees to the confirmation hearing for Attorney Sean Brown's appointment as a magistrate, scheduled for August 29, 2024, at 5:30 PM. Written testimony can be submitted to Senator Terlaje via email or hand-delivered to the Speaker's office. The Chief Justice confirmed attendance to support the appointment.

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Guam Bar Association president Jackie Terlaje reported that following a Supreme Court order regarding the petition for review of the bylaws, the Board of Governors convened and adopted committee structures for the association. She explained that ten members will be appointed to each of the eight standing committees, including the Alternative Disciplinary Committee, which has 14 members. Attorney Terlaje shared that a focus on wellness within the legal community was emphasized, aligning with a national trend and the Board plans to launch a series of lunch meetings to introduce the Wellness Plan to attorneys, addressing the need for serious time off.

Additionally, according to Attorney Terlaje, the Board, with encouragement from the Judiciary, is exploring the implementation of interest on earned income from trust accounts to fund public interest programs. Lastly, Ms. Terlaje said an application for affiliation with the National Association of Asian Pacific American Lawyers has been submitted to foster relationships and potentially secure grant funding for the Pacific region.


### B. Court Employees Association

IFIK president Jesse Franquez explained that the Employees’ Association is fundraising for the Judiciary’s annual Christmas party which is set for December 27<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all to support the first fundraiser, this Friday at 6 p.m. at the Venue. Mr. Franquez also updated the Council on the T-shirts, which have arrived and will be sorted for distribution. He will let everyone know when T-shirts may be picked up.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn until September 19, 2024. Judge Cenzon seconded the motion, adjourning the meeting at 12:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of September 2024.

  
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JESSICA J. PEREZ-JACKSON  
Executive Secretary  
Judicial Council of Guam

**As set out above, the Minutes of the August 15, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the September 19, 2024 Regular Meeting.**

  
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ROBERT J. TORRES  
Chair