



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, November 21, 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 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres (via Zoom)
Justice F. Philip Carbullido
Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III (via Zoom)
Justice Katherine A. Maraman
Judge Maria T. Cenzone

Also present via Zoom:

Judge Dana A. Gutierrez
Attorney Jacqueline Taitano Terlaje, Guam Bar Association, Advisory Committee Member
Attorney Dean Manglona, Guam Bar Association, Advisory Committee Member

Also present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Janice Camacho Perez, Clerk of Court, Superior Court
Ms. Barbara Jean T. Perez, Human Resources Administrator
Ms. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, Director of Policy Planning and Community Relations
Mr. Mardave Toledo, Deputy Finance Administrator
Ms. Maria Erica Eschbach, Staff Attorney
Ms. Dawn R.S. Blas, Judicial Educator
Mr. Leo S. Diaz, Marshal of the Courts
Mr. Joseph Leon Guerrero, Deputy Chief Marshal
Mr. Andrew Perez, Staff Attorney
Ms. Grace Lapid Rosadino, Court Programs Administrator
Ms. Rosanna Villagomez-Aguon, Chief Probation Officer
Ms. Trish Suzuki, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Ms. Melissa Casil, CSFC Administrator

Mr. Baldwin Quibuyen, MIS Planning & System Design Supervisor
Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff
Ms. Petrina M. Ula, Judicial Assistant, Judicial Council Assistant Secretary
Ms. Jessica J. Perez-Jackson, Administrative Services Officer, Judicial Council 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, Justice Katherine A. Maraman, and Judge Maria T. Cenzone identified themselves. Chief Justice Torres remarked that Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III arrived a few minutes later at 12:05 p.m.. This meeting determined a quorum with 4 (four) of the five Judicial Council members present.

IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: September 19, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes

Chief Justice Torres asked for a motion to approve the October 17, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes. Judge Cenzone made a motion, Justice Carbullido seconded the motion. Chief Justice Torres called an oral vote. With no discussion, the five Judicial Council members voted to approve the minutes, subject to correction.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Judiciary FY24 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law

Mr. Mardave Toledo addressed the Council regarding the collection of allotments for general operations as specified under Public Law 37-42, Chapter 4. A report was provided on the collection of the allotment, noting the receipt of approximately 15%, or \$6.6 million, of the total appropriation. Mr. Toledo added that bi-weekly allotments continue to be received on a timely basis, with the most recent received on November 12, 2024, and the next scheduled for November 26, 2024.

B. Update on Capital Improvement Projects

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts, provided updates on ongoing capital improvement projects:

- **Guam Judicial Center:**
 - Counter renovations on the 1st floor for the Clerk's Office and Financial Division are completed.

- Finalizing the setup of self-represented litigant kiosks and additional computer kiosks in the Records Review Room for patron privacy.
- **Skylight Repairs and Generator Bid Process:**
 - Continued collaboration with the architect and vendor on skylight repairs.
 - Progressing with the bid process for a new permanent generator.
- **Northern Court Satellite Flooding:**
 - Early November flooding from a burst water tank required removal of carpeting in the courtroom and chamber areas.
 - Recarpeting is underway, with court services now resumed. Magistrate Brown temporarily held hearings at the Guam Judicial Center.
- **Guam Historic Courthouse:**
 - Probation Services Division staff have moved in, and the facility is fully operational.
 - Addressing roof leakage issues at the Route 4 Building with the landlord, following the relocation of probation staff.

Ms. Rosete concluded with no additional updates and invited questions from the Council.

Justice Carbullido inquired about the costs and responsibilities related to the removal and installation of new carpeting at the Northern Court Satellite following the flooding incident:

- **Liability and Costs:**
 - The expense for the carpet replacement falls on the Judiciary of Guam, not the landlord, per the existing lease agreement.
- **Water Tank Details:**
 - The water tank, installed 15 years ago during renovations, was added to address historical water pressure issues, which are no longer a concern.
 - The tank is Judiciary property, and there is no insurance coverage for the damage.
- **Insurance and Lease Review:**
 - Legal counsel reviewed the lease and confirmed no grounds for claiming damages under the landlord's insurance or premises liability.

The Chief Justice thanked Justice Carbullido for the inquiry and invited further questions before moving to the next agenda item on E-Courts and E-Supervision.

C. eCourts and eSupervision Transition

Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts, provided an update on the transition from JustWare to E-Courts and E-Supervision:

- **E-Courts Progress:**
 - Ongoing configuration, optimization, and testing, particularly for judge assignments, reassignments, and the private attorney panel.
 - Regular weekly meetings continue with the E-Courts team to ensure steady progress.

- **E-Supervision Launch:**
 - Initial meetings with Journal Technology have begun, with a dedicated team and subject matter experts from Probation and Client Services.
 - Regular meetings will be held, though less frequent than E-Courts.
 - This component is expected to require less effort due to a smaller scope and different access needs.
- **On-Site Visit by Journal Technology:**
 - Journal Technology representatives, led by Eric Siminski and another team member, will visit from December 16th for a week.
 - Plans include active testing, workspace preparation by MIS, and a meet-and-greet with leadership on the first day to address questions and concerns.
 - Efforts are being made to schedule meetings with judicial officers, including group sessions if possible.

Presiding Judge Lamorena requested an approximate date for meeting with the Journal Technology representatives to accommodate scheduling conflicts due to heavy calendars. The Chief Justice indicated that December 18th, during the scheduled robes meeting, is the tentative date for the team to meet with judicial officers. The Journal Technology representatives will be on-site during the week of December 16th.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution, JC24-016 Relative to Ratifying the Appointment of Leo Diaz to the Position of Marshal of the Court

Under new business, Chief Justice Torres addressed the resolution to ratify the appointment of Leo Diaz as Marshal of the Court. Chief Justice Torres provided background information:

Former Marshal Troy Pangelinan resigned after relocating, prompting the formation of a search committee to identify a suitable successor. The committee conducted a thorough process, interviewed candidates, and recommended Leo Diaz for the position. His appointment will become effective upon his administration of the oath of office, scheduled for Monday at 4 PM.

Council members, including Justice Maraman, Presiding Judge Lamorena, Justice Carbullido, Judge Cenzone, and Chief Justice Torres, expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Leo Diaz's service and dedication, affirming his qualifications for the role. Leo Diaz thanked the Council for their support and shared his gratitude.

Chief Justice Torres congratulated him and expressed anticipation for his future agenda and programs.

Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III moved to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Judge Cenzone. Chief Justice Torres called on a vote. The resolution was adopted unanimously, confirming Leo Diaz's appointment as Marshal of the Court.

B. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, December 19, 2024)

Chief Justice Torres noted that the Council's next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

No Communications.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Attorney Jacque Terlaje provided the Guam Bar Association report:

- Board of Governors Election:
 - Preparations are underway for the 2025–2027 Board of Governors election.
 - The Board is anticipated to approve an electronic voting format, with the election concluding by the end of the year.
- In Memoriam:
 - Attorney Terlaje informed the Council of the passing of two attorneys: Raymond "Ray" Johnson on November 15th and Tim Roberts recently.
- Holiday Function:
 - The Guam Bar Association is planning a holiday event and will extend invitations to the Judicial Council once the date and location are confirmed.

Attorney Terlaje concluded her report, noting anticipation for the holidays.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn until December 19, 2024. Judge Cenzone seconded the motion, adjourning the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of December 2024.



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

As set out above, the Minutes of the November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the December 19, 2024 Regular Meeting.



ROBERT J. TORRES
Chair