



JUDICIARY OF GUAM

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CHIEF JUSTICE

HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA III
PRESIDING JUDGE
KRISTINA L. BAIRD
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2022

JUDICIARY OF GUAM MOURNS THE PASSING OF ATTORNEY JOAQUIN C. ARRIOLA

(Hagåtña, Guam) - It is with profound sadness that the Judiciary of Guam received the news that Attorney Joaquin C. Arriola, Sr., passed from this life early this morning, May 4, 2022. Attorney Arriola was a stalwart not only of the legal profession in Guam, but of the community at large. He was the longest practicing lawyer in Guam, having given 67 years of service to the Judiciary of Guam, the Guam Bar Association, countless clients, and the people of Guam.

Attorney Arriola came from a generation like none other. He was a survivor of the Japanese Occupation in World War II, and among the brave group of CHamorus to venture away from post-war Guam, undeterred by any obstacle and risk, determined to obtain an education and to use that education to rebuild and reshape our island.

Attorney Arriola's legal career started as a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School in 1953 and admission that same year to the Supreme Court of Minnesota, the District Court of Guam, the Island Court of Guam, and subsequent admission to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the United States Supreme Court, and the Island and District Courts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. He founded the Arriola Law Firm, the oldest established law firm in Guam, which he proudly passed on to two of his children who followed in his footsteps – his daughter, Attorney Anita P. Arriola, and his son, Attorney Joaquin C. "Jay" Arriola, Jr.

In addition to the practice of law, Attorney Arriola dedicated himself to service to the people of Guam as a senator in the Third and Fourth Guam Legislatures, Speaker in the Ninth and Tenth Guam Legislatures, and Legislative Counsel and Parliamentarian for the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Legislatures, where he was instrumental in the passage of laws establishing and organizing Guam's legal system and the courts of Guam.

His long and storied career included his service on many boards and commissions, as legal counsel to many Government of Guam agencies, as president of the Guam Bar Association from 1954 to 1957, and as a part-time Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam from 1996 to 1999.

Well into his advanced years, Attorney Arriola appeared in court to advocate for his clients. As recently as 2017 – at nearly 92 years of age – he argued an appeal before the Supreme Court of Guam. While time is a thief of many things, it surely did not rob Attorney Arriola of his discerning legal mind, his sharp wit, and his skill as an advocate.

“Attorney Joaquin C. Arriola was held in the highest esteem by the members of our legal profession – practitioners and judicial officers alike. He will be fondly remembered as a zealous advocate for his clients, while being an utmost professional and respectful officer of the court, advancing and protecting the interests of justice and the rule of law. On behalf of a grateful justice system and legal community, I express my deepest condolences to the entire Arriola family,” said Chief Justice F. Phillip Carbullido.

For more information, please contact
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