



Judiciary of Guam

Administrative Office of the Courts
Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Dr • Hagåtña, Gu. 96910
Tel: (671) 475-3544 • Fax: (671) 475-3184



HON. ROBERT J. TORRES
CHIEF JUSTICE

HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA, III
PRESIDING JUDGE

DANIELLE T. ROSETE, ESQ.
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2023

A New Era for Justice:

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY HIGHLIGHTS MODERNIZATION EFFORTS AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

(Hagåtña, Guam) The Judiciary of Guam is advancing into a new era, and we must move forward, together. That's the message Chief Justice Robert J. Torres delivered at the annual State of the Judiciary address to a session hall full of legislators, government officials, and court staff this morning.

The Chief Justice noted the challenges facing the courts in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with economic disparity, social isolation, and substance abuse contributing to criminal activity on the island.

“As the pandemic fades in our rearview mirror, the courts cannot sit idly by and expect that we will remain effective. In the wise words of a former court leader: ‘Yesterday is not tomorrow’s answer,’” said Chief Justice Torres. *“To ensure a system that truly reflects the needs and priorities of our time—we must leverage technology, bolster treatment programs, and improve access to representation. But this branch cannot do it alone.”*

Torres highlighted the value of collaborative efforts between the court system and other community stakeholders, including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and social service organizations. In 2022 alone, the Judiciary served over 200 participants and 108 children through its treatment courts and programs.

“These accomplishments exemplify all that is good in our judicial system. They reinforce that there can be rehabilitation, instead of just a revolving door; that resources are effectively spent on treatment, rather than mere retribution; and that our court system can help people regain their lives and their families,” said Torres.

With one-third of the Guam Bar approaching retirement, the Chief Justice also emphasized the importance of taking proactive measures to attract and retain young legal talent.

“If we fail to act, we will continue to drive seasoned attorneys away from local public service and towards opportunities in the federal government, private sector, or even the mainland. And we will miss out on recruiting bright and capable individuals who have the desire to serve, but lack the means to return home,” said Torres.

The Chief Justice concluded his remarks with a call for civics, civility, and collaboration in government—the 2023 theme of national Law Day.

“When our time in service comes to an end, we will not be judged solely on our individual actions or words, but on how well we served the people, together, and how well our government worked for them,” concluded Torres. *“I believe we can meet that mission I believe that with the dedicated minds of our three branches, we will build a better justice system, and with it, a brighter future.”*

Watch and Read:

[State of the Judiciary Video](#)

[State of the Judiciary written remarks](#)

[2022 Annual Report of the Judiciary of Guam](#)

###

The Judiciary of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.