



Judiciary of Guam

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judiciary Hosts Panel to Promote Civility in Leadership

(Hagåtña, Guam) — Recognizing the need to model civil behavior in and outside of the courtroom, the Judiciary of Guam, in collaboration with the District Court of Guam and the Guam Bar Association, hosted a panel discussion on Civility in Leadership at the University of Guam Lecture Hall this afternoon. The well-attended event explored practical ways to promote respectful and constructive dialogue in today's political climate and featured a diverse group of experts who shared their insights and experiences.

During his presentation, Justice F. Philip Carbullido raised the ethical responsibility of attorneys to clients, other lawyers, and judges, recommending the inclusion of civility in the oath of office for attorneys on Guam, similar to other jurisdictions.

“Being civil does not mean you’re being weak,” said Justice Carbullido. ***“This is something we can all share in government in order to be better leaders, effective leaders, where we can operate in a civil atmosphere with better decision making.”***

Exploring the impact of incivility on the mind and body, Dr. Juan Rapadas, Clinical Psychologist at the Judiciary of Guam, discussed ways to reduce anxiety and stress in the middle of chaos: ***“Incivility is bad for your health. We can’t fix an uncivilized society, but we can fix their trauma that leads to incivility.”***

Renowned diversity consultant and trainer, Dr. Samuel Betances, emphasized how educating our youth is critical to increasing inclusivity and civility, citing a study where vocational training cut recidivism by approximately thirty percent.*

“Life in fact is worth living, but it won’t be so, unless we do significant things. Civil rights, the rights of people in society, must go hand in hand with civility,” said Dr. Betances.

Approaching the topic from her personal experiences in the political arena, former Senator Mary Camacho Torres discussed solutions to cultivating civility and bipartisanship, emphasizing the need for collaboration through working sessions, social interactions, and resource sharing.

“It takes courage to enter politics...it will take even more courage to thrive,” said Senator Torres. ***“A true leader is not measured by the number of people that agree with them—but by their ability to bring people together.”***

The Judiciary of Guam expresses its gratitude to all the panelists, as well as the students, attorneys, and government officials who attended the event.

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For more information, please contact:
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* “Prison Education Reduces Recidivism.” Emory University (2017).

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