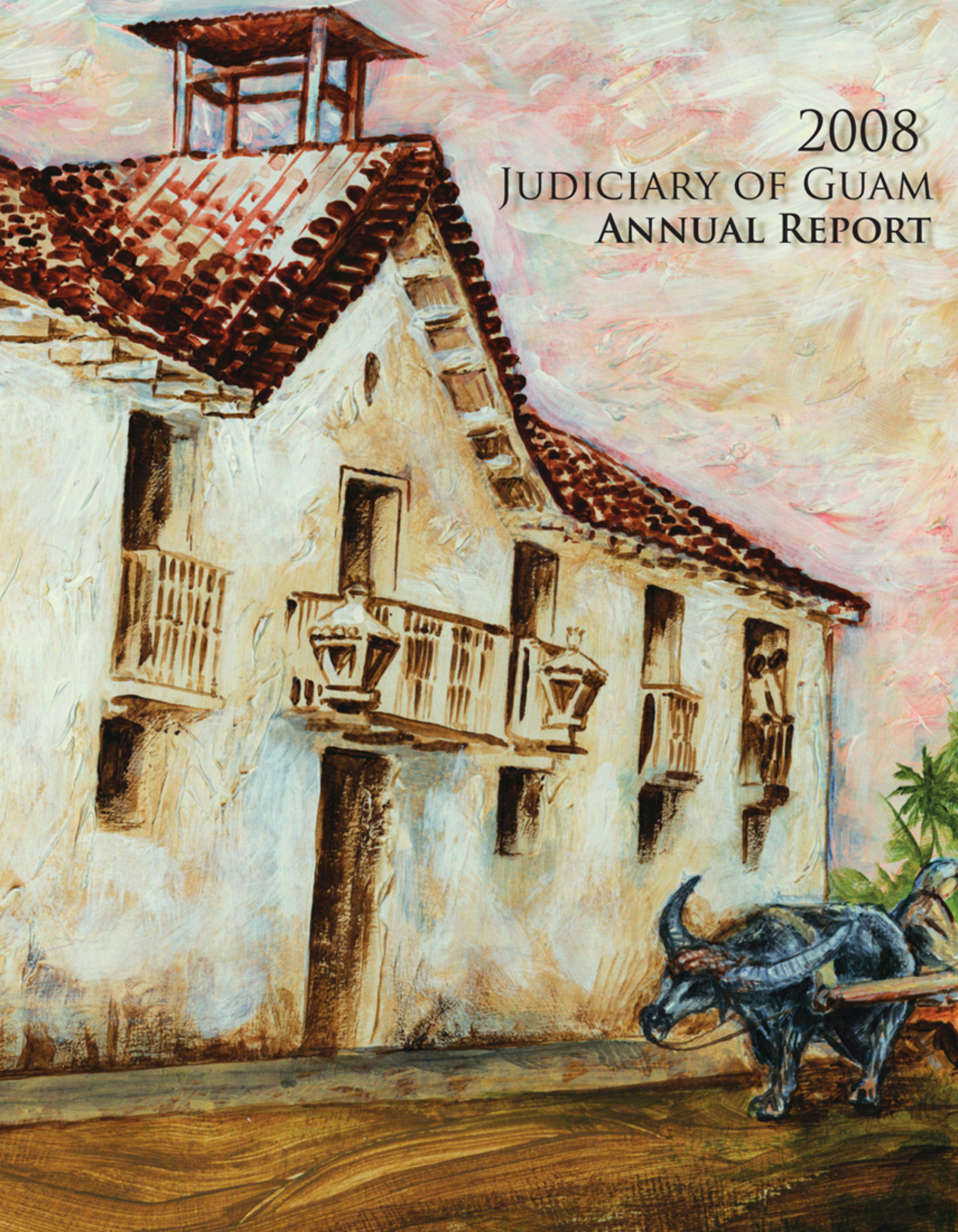
2008 Judiciary of Guam Annual Report



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Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

It is with pleasure that we present the 2008 Annual Report of the Judiciary of Guam. This Report is presented to inform the community of the various accomplishments and initiatives of the Judiciary in 2008, and to report on our activities.

The Judiciary of Guam is more than just an assembly of courtrooms. The divisions within the court system are a complex community of social workers, administrative professionals, law enforcement personnel, legal officers and other individuals who work together to create a sanctuary of fairness for all people of Guam. The many functions of the court and its people are showcased in this Annual Report to enlighten our community about what is involved in the day-to-day activities of a judicial employee.

While we have accomplished much in 2008, the Judiciary also began to feel the impact of the recent economic downturn. With a mandate from the Legislature to all government agencies and branches to cut proposed spending for fiscal year 2009, the Judiciary took immediate steps to trim expenses. More significant measures will have to be taken throughout the economic crisis in order for the Judiciary to continue to operate with the untimely resources allotted to it by the Government of Guam.

Although some scaling back is expected and necessary of all entities in times as trying as these, cutbacks in the judicial system warrant extreme caution. The Judiciary can only remain accessible to all if it receives the funding necessary to carry out vital services. We will do our utmost to prevent scaling back at the expense of the safety and rights of those who are in need of our services.

With tremendous thanks to all in the Executive Branch and in the Legislative Branch who helped us meet our goals of Access to Justice and Community Outreach this past year, we present to you the Unified Judiciary's highlights of 2008.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Robert J. Torres
Chief Justice of Guam

Perry C. Taitano
Administrator of the Courts

Justices and Judges

The Judiciary of Guam

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Jr.

This January, Chief Justice Robert John Torres completed the first year of his three-year term as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam. Appointed to the Guam Supreme Court by Governor Felix P. Camacho in 2004, Chief Justice Torres is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices, a forum comprising the highest judicial officers of the United States, its commonwealths, and its territories. He is also a designated District Court Judge for the U.S District Court of Guam and Justice Pro Tempore for the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Chief Justice Torres was born and raised on Guam, and graduated from Father Duenas Memorial High School in 1976. He received his B.B.A. in Accounting (Magna Cum Laude; Beta Gamma Sigma; Beta Alpha Psi) in 1980 from the University of Notre Dame and was awarded his Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1985.

Chief Justice Torres began his legal career as a tax practitioner in 1985 in Boston, Massachusetts at Lourie and Cutler, P.C. He was admitted to the Guam Bar Association in 1987 and returned to Guam in 1989 as a private practitioner. His practice was concentrated in tax, trusts and estates, probate, business planning and commercial matters, but his range of legal experience includes real estate, arbitration, civil and criminal litigation, and appellate experience before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First and Ninth Circuits and the Guam Supreme Court, as well as federal and local departments of internal revenue. Chief Justice Torres is licensed to practice in Massachusetts and Guam and has been admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Claims Court, U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First and Ninth Circuits, U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Massachusetts and Guam, the Supreme Court of Guam, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, and the Superior Court of Guam.

Guam lawyers elected Chief Justice Torres as President of the Guam Bar Association for three consecutive terms between 1990 and 1996. He was instrumental in securing a shared seat for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas in the American Bar Association House of Delegates, and served as their first Delegate. During the same period, Chief Justice Torres served as a member of the Guam Judicial Council, whereby he advocated for the establishment of the Guam Supreme Court and the automation of the Judiciary.

As part of his commitment to expanding access to justice, Chief Justice Torres has played a central role in expanding court services to include a northern court and other initiatives including e-filing with the Supreme Court, employing wireless technology in the courtrooms, and effecting videoconferencing in initial appearances. As Chair of the Judiciary's technology subcommittee, Chief Justice Torres continues to lay the groundwork for the design and acquisition of a modern case management system. He has also served the Judiciary of Guam as chairperson of the subcommittees that craft rules governing the practice of law on Guam, including the Rules of Evidence, Rules of Civil Procedure and Superior Court of Guam Revisions, Civil Jury Instructions, and Bar Admissions and Attorney Discipline.

Chief Justice Torres is active in Guam, Asia and the South Pacific for his involvement and positive contributions to soccer as a player, coach, and match official for Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). He now serves as one of the fifteen worldwide members of the FIFA Ethics Committee, an independent judicial body that will have a pivotal function in overseeing the bidding process for the 2018 World Cup.

Chief Justice Torres is married to Mary Camacho Torres, and they are proud parents of Vanessa, Carla, and Pele, and proud grandparents of Bobby, Olivia, Carlos, and the newest addition to the family, Francisco, born January 16, 2009.

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Justice F. Philip Carbullido

F. Philip Carbullido was appointed Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of Guam on July 3, 2000, by Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez. Mr. Carbullido was confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Twenty Fifth Guam Legislature and sworn in as an Associate Justice on October 27, 2000. Justice Carbullido served as Chief Justice from January 22, 2003, to January 15, 2008.

Justice Carbullido served as President of the Pacific Judicial Council, which consists of the Chief Justices of Guam, CNMI, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Territory of American Samoa. Justice Carbullido currently serves as Chair of the Education Committee of the Pacific Judicial Council. On the national level, his peers at the Conference of Chief Justices, which consist of the chief justices of the 50 states and the U.S. commonwealth and territories, elected him second vice-president and a member of the Board of Directors.

Justice Carbullido was born on February 5, 1953, in Tamuning, Guam. He is married to Fay Diana Garrido and they have four children: Brandon, Kristina, Adam and Steven.

Justice Carbullido attended Cathedral Grade School and graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School in 1971. He then attended the University of Oregon and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science in 1975. Upon graduation from college, Justice Carbullido attended law school at the University of California, Davis and graduated in 1978 with a Juris Doctor.

After graduating from law school, Justice Carbullido returned to Guam. He started his career in August of 1978 as a legal intern/Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General. After ten months of government work, Justice Carbullido went into private practice. He first started as an associate with the law firm of Arriola and Lamorena. Thereafter, he joined the law firm of Arriola & Cowan. In 1983, Justice Carbullido co-founded the law firm of Carbullido & Pipes, P.C. Justice Carbullido remained in private practice until his nomination to the bench.

Justice Carbullido has extensive experience in civil, commercial and administrative law. As a private practitioner, he engaged in complex real estate transactions and commercial loan documentation. Justice Carbullido was the former legal counsel to the A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority, University of Guam, Port Authority of Guam, and Guam Preservation Trust. He was also legislative counsel to the 17th Guam Legislature and legal counsel to the Committee on Health, Ecology and Welfare of the 21st and 22nd Guam Legislature as well as the Committee on Tourism and Transportation in the 22nd and 23rd Guam Legislature. Justice Carbullido also served as a board member of the Guam Finance Commission. Prior to his nomination to the Bench, he was a member of the Piti Parish Council, the Guam Visitor Industry Education Council and the Guam Hemophilia Foundation.

Justice Carbullido is a recipient of the professional-technical scholarship from the Government of Guam. He is also the recipient of the Award of Merit as one of Guam's outstanding young people of 1983 from the Pacific Jaycees.

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Justice Katherine A. Maraman

Associate Justice Katherine A. Maraman was born in Los Alamos, New Mexico. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, cum laude, from Colorado College and a Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico.

Justice Maraman began her legal career at the New Mexico Legislative Council Service until 1977 when she decided to enter private practice in Guam. She assumed the post of Assistant Legislative Counsel and eventually became minority counsel, serving until December 1987. While serving in the Guam Legislature, Justice Maraman assisted with the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and in 1985, she opened her own law office at Julale Center where she worked on various legal matters including family, probate, corporate and tax. In 1988, Justice Maraman left private practice to serve as legal advisor to then-Governor Joseph F. Ada and Lieutenant Governor Frank F. Blas. In 1994, Governor Ada appointed Justice Maraman to serve as a judge for the Superior Court.

As a judge for the Superior Court, Justice Maraman initially oversaw cases in the Family Court and sought to improve the adjudication process for family cases. She was instrumental in creating a therapeutic court to serve the most vulnerable members of the Guam community. During her tenure in the Superior Court, Justice Maraman also oversaw civil cases as well as criminal felony and misdemeanor cases. In this capacity, she established a docket specializing in criminal cases where a defendant's mental state was at issue.

On May 28, 2007, Governor Felix P. Camacho appointed her to the Guam Supreme Court and on February 21, 2008, she took the oath of office to become an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In March 2008, Justice Maraman became a part-time Associate Justice on the Palau Supreme Court upon nomination by the President of Palau.

Justice Maraman serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guam and co-chairs the Supreme Court Committees on Criminal Jury Instructions, Rules of Evidence and Rules of Civil Procedure.

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Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III

The initiation of innovative court programs has been the hallmark of the 20-year tenure of Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena, III. He is a believer in "therapeutic justice," which emphasizes the rehabilitation of criminal defendants so they may become productive members of our society.

Reflecting the Presiding Judge's belief in these principles, the Superior Court saw the introduction of the Adult Drug Court, as well as the Juvenile Drug Court. A new division, Client Services and Family Counseling, was also created to provide forensic psychological counseling to individuals and groups, to aid rehabilitation of those who commit family violence offenses, and to assist family members and victims – especially children – who are so deeply affected by these crimes. Furthermore, there are plans to create a DUI Court, to address those addicted to alcohol. He was also the founder of the Pacific Judicial Council, an organization whose membership includes all the courts of Micronesia, and implemented the Criminal Justice Information System, a justice wide area network, and the Criminal Sexual Registry Program. He served as a Senator in the 15th to 19th Guam Legislature.

In addition to his duties as presiding judge and judge of the Family Violence Court, Presiding Judge Lamorena is a member of the Judicial Council and the Public Defenders Corporation Board of Trustees. He received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois, Urbana in 1971 and a B.A. in Accounting from the University of Texas, Austin in 1974. He received his J.D. from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa in 1977.

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Judge Steven S. Unpingco

According to Judge Steven Unpingco, his role as a judge presents an opportunity at a life-long learning process. He sees the challenges for a judge of the trial court as many and myriad: from the deviation from traditional courts and the creation of problem-solving therapeutic courts designed to collaborate with social service agencies in order to address societal problems, to the introduction of hard science in the courtroom and the use of powerful biological DNA evidence and expert medical testimony. Moreover, judges are faced with increasingly difficult procedural issues, arising from complex civil litigation and intergovernmental special proceedings cases, such as those seeking mandamus, injunctive and declaratory relief.

In coping with and facing these challenges, apart from immersing himself in continuing judicial education and reading, Judge Unpingco, like many citizens of the island, finds comfort in activities that take him outdoors: fishing, farming, and riding a Harley.

Judge Unpingco has served the Superior Court bench for 13 years. Prior to judging, he was a general practitioner for 14 years and served as Legal Counsel to several senators and the Governor of Guam. He also joined the faculty at the University of Guam in 1984 and was granted full tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. He was a recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award and served as Chairman of the Public Administration and Legal Studies Unit.

He received a B.A. with Honors in Political Science from St. Louis University in 1979, and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco in 1982.

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Judge Michael J. Bordallo

Since joining the Superior Court in 1998, Judge Michael Bordallo's docket has consisted mainly of cases involving regulatory law, business law and civil litigation. The nature of his caseload, and ultimately, of his numerous decisions and orders, is primarily commercial litigation and as such, have a direct effect on whether investors and business people may comfortably rely on the rule of law, predict their costs, and manage their risks accordingly. An effective judiciary – one that is predictable – stimulates economic growth by minimizing risks and transaction costs, enforcing property rights, checking abuses of government power, and above all else, upholding the rule of law. Drawing upon his nine years of experience as an attorney in private practice, Judge Bordallo objectively evaluates complex civil cases with calm deliberation and thoughtful analysis. His decisions, which are noteworthy for their clarity and conciseness, reflect his belief in stare decisis and assist government officials, commercial litigants, and any citizen of Guam, in the proper application of business and commercial statutes and regulations.

In addition, Judge Bordallo has played an essential role in improving the internal workings of the Judiciary, by spearheading efforts to revive the Judicial Council, and to institute procedures for the random assignment of cases to all the judges. Judge Bordallo also took an interest in improving the legal resources available to the public and served as President of the Board of Trustees for the Law Library from 2000 through 2005. He believes in remaining part of the community and continues to be involved in the local soccer organization.

Judge Bordallo received a B.B.A. in 1983 and a J.D. in 1987 from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. He is married to the former Carla Benito, and they have three children.

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Judge Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson

The Juvenile Drug Court program offers the youth of Guam an opportunity at a life free of drugs, alcohol, and the problems associated with substance abuse. Spearheading this project was Judge Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, who established the first drug court program for the territory in 2002. Her years of work culminated in December 2005, when the Guam Juvenile Drug Court was created as a court of record of the Superior Court of Guam.

Judge Barrett-Anderson's work also occurs on the national level. She was selected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in 2005. She also currently serves as Governor Felix P. Camacho's representative on President Bush's Federal Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice, and represents Guam's voice on issues critical to juvenile justice and delinquency.

Domestic violence is another area of focus for Judge Barrett-Anderson, and she has been instrumental in the development of rules of procedure and practice in the field of domestic violence. She is also the program director for the Guam Domestic Violence Bench Book project, a guide for judges in their handling of domestic violence cases.

Judge Barrett-Anderson has spent nearly 25 years in public service to the people of Guam, having served as Guam's Attorney General (1987-1994), Legal Counsel to the Department of Education (1981-1985), and a member of the 23rd and 24th Guam Legislatures.

She is a proud graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam Class of 1971, and in 2004 was invested into the Academy of Our Lady Hall of Fame. She received a B.S. in Political Science from the University of San Francisco in 1974. In 1979, she received a J.D. from the University Santa Clara School of Law, and has been honored by her alma mater to the University of Santa Clara Hall of Judges. She is married to Daniel Anderson and they have three children.

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Judge Anita A. Sukola

Since joining the Superior Court of Guam, Judge Anita Sukola has handled a diverse docket ranging from cases involving family violence to complex civil litigation. She once served as the primary family violence judge, and is currently assigned to the court of general jurisdiction. Judge Sukola has participated in numerous legal classes to develop her skills in the areas of civil litigation, domestic violence and criminal law.

Judge Sukola is an active member of the Judiciary of Guam. She is currently a member of the Committee on Self-represented Litigants, which is chaired by Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido. The Committee's mission is to make justice accessible to all. Judge Sukola is also a member of the committee responsible for developing proposed criminal jury instructions.

Prior to her appointment in 2002, Judge Sukola was a private practitioner with Lujan & Sukola. She also served in various government positions: as legislative counsel for the Committee on Education, the Chamorro land Trust Commission, and the Port Authority of Guam; as an associate Public Defender; and as the Deputy Director and subsequently, the Director of the Department of Education.

She received a B.A in History and Secondary Education from Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, and a J.D. from the People's College of Law in Los Angeles, California in 1983. Judge Sukola is at present an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guam teaching Personal Law.

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Judge Arthur R. Barcinas

Upon his appointment and confirmation to the Superior Court of Guam in 2004, Judge Arthur R. Barcinas brought to the Superior Court a strong belief that the indigent have the same right as the wealthy to competent representation. During his 14-year career as an attorney in private practice, he represented indigent parties in numerous pro bono cases. He also served as the Chairman of the Chamorro Land Trust Commission Board, an entity that sought to promote land ownership by local residents. He has served as the Chairman for the Law Library Board, which is responsible for ensuring that the island's repository for legal documents receives necessary support, both in terms of resources and funding.

Judge Barcinas has been an active participant in several Judiciary subcommittees, advising on issues relating to Pro Se Litigation, Criminal Jury Instructions, Bar Admissions and Attorney Discipline, and the Rules of Civil Procedure and Superior Court Rules Revisions. He is also a voting member of the Judicial Council. Before taking the bench, Judge Barcinas served as the Hearings Officer for Small Claims Court for eight years. He also served as a Traffic Court Judge Pro Tem, and as an Administrative Hearings Officer. He is currently assigned to Family Court I and Juvenile Drug Court, in addition to a general jurisdiction caseload.

Judge Barcinas received a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1986, and a J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1989. He has three wonderful daughters.

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Judge Vernon P. Perez

Judge Vernon Perez was sworn in on September 18, 2008. He considers his appointment to the bench to be a great but humble honor. He is committed to serving the people of Guam and ensuring that all matters that come before him are given fair treatment. He believes that his duty as a Judge is to stay true to the dictates of the law and to embrace fully the legal rights of all the parties before him.

Judge Perez comes to the bench with a rich background full of life experiences that more than adequately prepare him for his duties as a Judge in a Court of General Jurisdiction. His diverse work experience includes: five years serving as the Executive Director for the Guam Civil Service Commission; six years working as an Assistant Attorney General in the Family Section of the Attorney General's Office; two years serving as the Press Secretary for Congressman Ben Blaz; and two years working as a Math and Reading instructor at F.B.L.G. Middle School. In between his regular work obligations, Judge Perez serves in the Guam Army National Guard as a Deputy Staff Judge Advocate General. He also finds time to head the choir for his local church and play the guitar in various forums.

Judge Perez received a B.A. in Economics and Management Science from the University of California in 1987, and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from San Diego State University in 1988. He received his J.D. from the University of Hawaii, Richardson School of Law in 1997. He is married to Gloria Propst Perez, and they have three spectacular children.

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Administrative Hearing Officer Linda L. Ingles

Administrative Hearing Officer Linda Ingles comes to the bench with a strong commitment to the children and families of Guam. Her goal is to assist children and their families by giving them access to justice, ever mindful that, in matters dealing with children, she must act in their best interests at all times. She does this in the context of some of the most contentious cases in the judicial system, where the caseload is frequently staggering.

Working with an expedited process, Administrative Hearing Officer Ingles strives to ensure a timely judicial response to the paternity, financial, and support needs of Guam's children, including the establishment, modification, enforcement and collection of child support. In addition to hearing cases involving child support issues, she also deals with truancies, beyond control cases, and other juvenile matters. In 2008, Administrative Hearing Officer Ingles presided over 1,113 new cases, including 518 child support cases, 542 truancy matters, and 53 beyond control and other juvenile proceedings.

Not only does Administrative Hearing Officer Ingles take seriously her role in protecting the rights of children, she also seeks to do justice and observe the due process rights of the parents. For example, under the Access and Visitation Program, she receives referrals from the Attorney General's Office for parents having problems with visitation or who do not have visitation with their children at all. The program allows these parents the opportunity to come before Administrative Hearing Officer Ingles to have their side heard and, if appropriate, have visitation established.

Administrative Hearing Officer Linda Ingles joined the Superior Court in 1995, having developed deep roots in the local community through her hands-on experience as a practicing lawyer in the public and private sectors on Guam. She earned a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Oregon and her J.D. from Whittier College, which now has a nationally recognized Children's Rights Center.

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Year in Review

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2008 Year in Review

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Time Standards for Trial Court

On July 11, 2006, the Judicial Efficiency Act became law through Public Law 28-137:1. Subsequently, on September 15, 2006, the Supreme Court adopted Administrative Rule 06-001 regarding Case Management & Disposition. The Rule established time standards for the disposition of cases and other matters pending before the Superior Court of Guam. The time standards contribute to the Judiciary's mission to increase accountability and transparency.

The time standards created two types of time lines: (1) time limits to rule on motions, and (2) time limits for disposition of cases. Administrative Rule 06-001 requires that all motions be decided within 90 days, and that other matters, such as bench trials, be decided within 120 days. The Administrative Rule also requires that all criminal cases be resolved within twelve months and all civil cases within eighteen months.

Since the enactment, the Judiciary has consistently provided current information regarding compliance with time standards on its website. Keeping these statistics has steadily improved the efficiency of our judges, thereby improving the efficiency of the trial court. The Judiciary will continue to report compliance as part of its commitment to provide timely and meaningful information to the public regarding the functioning of the Judiciary.

Administrative Rule 06-001 and the time standards adopted therein can be viewed on the Judiciary's website at http://www.guamsupremecourt.com/Efficiency/jed.html.

Subcommittee Reports

In a combined effort with the Guam Bar to improve the delivery of services to the public, justices and judges of the Judiciary of Guam sit as chairpersons or co-chairpersons on various subcommittees that are tasked with examining certain aspects of Guam law. In many cases, these subcommittees suggest and draft new versions of Guam law and new versions of rules governing the practice of law. These subcommittees additionally provide an opportunity for breaking new ground in law and procedure. On the whole, the subcommittees are important in providing an opportunity for members of the bench, the bar and the community to speak openly and in a more informal setting about issues important to the administration of justice.

Two noteworthy reform measures adopted in 2008 are:

Revisions to Indigent Defense Rule

The Standing Committee for the Private Attorney Panel, chaired by Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido and staffed by Attorney Hannah Gutierrez-Arroyo, administers the panel, reviews and makes recommendations on attorney applications, and, from time to time, revises the Indigent Defense Rule, Miscellaneous Rule 1.1 of the Local Rules of the Superior Court.

In 2008, the Supreme Court revised the Indigent Defense Rule though Promulgation Order No. 06-006-06, which, among other things, raised the pay cap from $7500 to $15,000 for attorneys appointed to criminal cases where the defendant faces life imprisonment – recognizing the attendant complexities and the amount of work expended in defending these serious cases.

Revisions to Rules for Temporary Admission

Each year, the Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) oversees the admission of new attorneys into the practice of law in Guam. In addition to reviewing applicants for regular admission (i.e., by examination), the BOLE also reviews the applications of those seeking temporary admission as a government attorney.

In August 8, 2008, the Supreme Court promulgated an order revising the rules for temporary admission (Promulgation Order Nos. 06-007-03 and 06-007-04). Now, attorneys admitted temporarily as a government attorney may practice in that status for a period of five years instead of two. Another important change resulting from that promulgation order is that all temporary admittees are now required to undergo a character and fitness investigation as would all those admitted by exam. The goal is to more thoroughly screen and evaluate every attorney seeking the privilege of practicing in the courts of Guam – whether they are seeking regular admission or temporary admission – in the hopes of protecting the integrity of the profession as a whole, and most especially, the clients they serve.

In addition, in October 2008, the BOLE had the distinct honor of having Judge Alex Kozinski, Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, deliver the keynote address at the swearing in of new attorneys to the Guam Bar.

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Directive

With the passage of the appropriations law for fiscal year 2009, Public Law 29-113, the Legislature mandated that the Government of Guam reduce its proposed FY 2009 spending by between six and ten percent. This resulted in a decrease of over $2.5 million from the Judiciary's proposed FY 2009 budget submission.

To address the budget shortfalls, the Judiciary issued a Directive on October 13, 2008, which took firm and necessary measures to live within the budget. Specifically, the Judiciary decided to:

- Freeze all hiring for vacant full-time positions, except for federally-funded positions and positions essential and critical to the functioning of the Judiciary, at the discretion of the Chief Justice after consultation with the Administrator of the Courts; and
- Postpone for at least six months the implementation of the Judiciary's plan to open the Northern Court Satellite.

In addition, the Judiciary instituted measures designed to save resources, such as two-sided printing, premium parking spots for carpools, and other daily cost-cutting measures in anticipation of continuance of the global trend toward a declining economy.

Law Week 2008

"The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity"

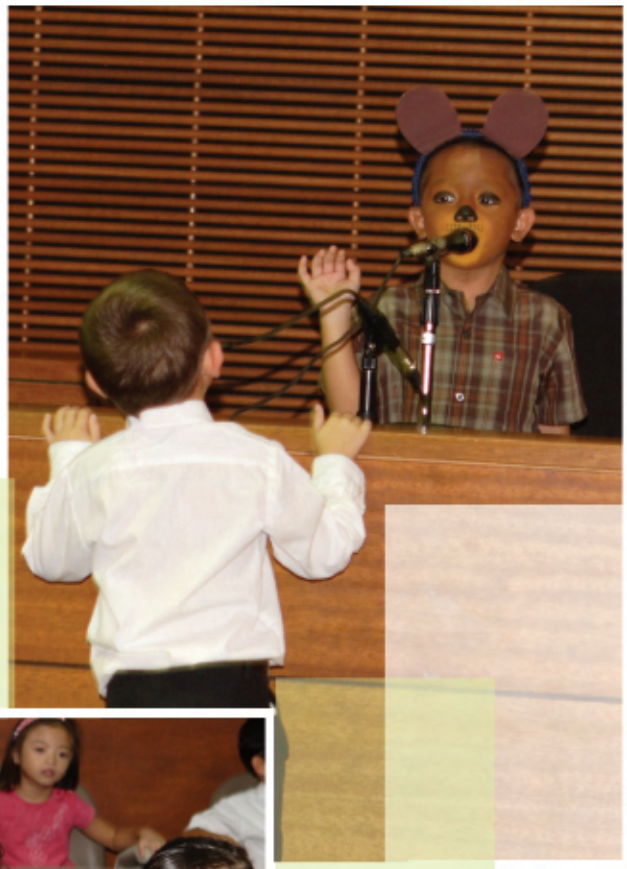
May 1, 2008, marked the 50th anniversary of Law Day, a program of the American Bar Association's Division for Public Education. In commemoration of Law Day, the Judiciary of Guam and the Guam Bar Association (GBA) co-hosted a series of events that were designed to bring the community together to celebrate the rule of law, emphasize the accessibility of the courts, and raise awareness about the legal resources available on the island. The theme of Law Day 2008 was "The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity." Joining forces to recognize the importance of Law Day, all three branches of the Government of Guam issued proclamations declaring May 1 as Law Day and April 27 to May 4 as Law Week.

Law Fair

One of the highlights of Law Week was the two-day Law Fair held over the weekend of May 3 and 4. Members of the legal and law enforcement community, various non-profit organizations and court-related community service partners were invited to participate in the first annual Law Fair, which included a series of weekend community events designed to educate the public about the services provided by these members. In addition to sports events, cultural entertainment, and displays by the participants, those in attendance were able to attend mini-classes on practical legal topics conducted by Guam lawyers and court personnel.

Fairy Tale Mock Trials

Children played a vital role in the Law Week celebration. Fairy tale mock trials mixed with laughter and learning were performed throughout Law Week, with participation from kindergarten and middle school students. Spectators were able to observe three highly contested trials: **Big Bad Wolf v. The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks v. The Three Bears,** and **Village of Sheepfold v. Joey Wolfcryer.** The plays have been proven to be an effective learning tool for students to develop useful knowledge about the law, questioning techniques, critical thinking, and oral advocacy skills.



Essay and Art Contest

The Law Week festivities included an art contest and an essay contest. The art contest asked students from grades K-5 to reflect on the importance of having school rules. Meanwhile, students in grades 6-12 were asked to submit essays on how laws help or hurt the community on Guam. Seventy-five pieces of artwork and 50 essays were submitted by students from across the island. From those submissions, the following students were chosen as winners:

Art Contest Winners

K – 2nd Grade:

First Place	Nolan Miles – Santa Barbara Catholic School
Second Place	Kristoffer Aquino – Wettengel Elementary School
Third Place	Lydia Rose Alves – Santa Barbara Catholic School

3rd – 5th Grade:

First Place	Hannah Perez – Bishop Baumgartner Memorial Catholic School
Second Place	Charisse Minatoya - Bishop Baumgartner Memorial Catholic School
Third Place	Bella Moon – Harvest Christian Academy

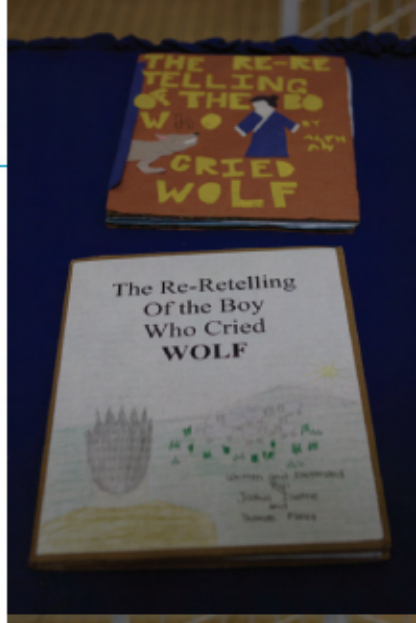
Essay Contest Winners

6th – 8th Grade:

First Place	Kara Michelle Rubio – Saint Anthony Catholic School
Second Place	Christian Schweizer – Saint Anthony Catholic School
Third Place	Lauren Montinola – Saint Anthony Catholic School
Honorable Mention	Kara Duenas – Saint Anthony Catholic School

9th – 12th Grade:

First Place	Joy White – Simon Sanchez High School
Second Place	Tabitha Caser Espina – Simon Sanchez High School
Third Place	Angelia Blas – Simon Sanchez High School
Honorable Mention	Tara Benavente – Trinity Christian School



"Children At Risk: The Juvenile Justice System" Video

Law Day on Guam was also the occasion for the public release of a video about teen drug use. Through federal grant, the Judiciary, in collaboration with the Guam Public School System, produced a video entitled "Children At Risk: The Juvenile Justice System." The video was developed to help students understand the consequences of their decisions and to address what happens when students enter into the juvenile justice system.

Oral Argument Outreach at University of Guam

During Law Week, University of Guam students witnessed first-hand the appellate process in action. The Supreme Court held an outreach Oral Argument hearing at the UOG Student Auditorium. Students had the opportunity to watch attorneys argue their case before a panel of Supreme Court justices. After the hearing, the students participated in a question-and-answer session with the Justices and the attorneys.

First Husticia Award

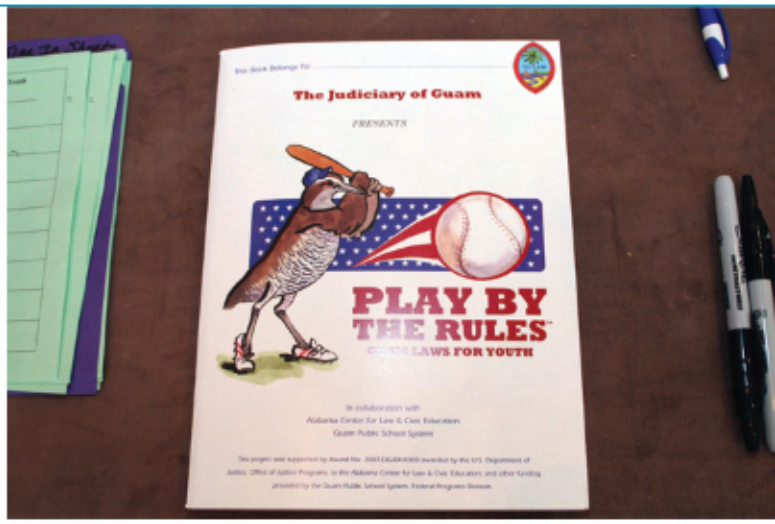
At a special award presentation at the conclusion of Law Week, the Judiciary presented the first Husticia Award (modeled on the ABA's Liberty Award) to the men and women of the Armed Forces. Representatives from each branch of the Military were invited to receive this first-ever honor. The keynote speaker of Law Day and the Husticia Award Presentation was Cerila Rapadas, long-time Executive Director of Catholic Social Services. She was honored as representing Guam's many community service providers and partners who help ensure access to justice and preserve the rule of law every day.

2008 Law Day Outstanding Activity Award

The American Bar Association presented the Guam Bar Association and the Judiciary of Guam with the 2008 Law Day Outstanding Activity Award in the greater than $5,000 budget category. ABA President H. Thomas Wells, Jr. commented, "This year's Law Day theme encouraged us all to examine the rule of law, our role in its sustainability, and its importance in protecting our democracy. The Guam Bar Association and the Judiciary of Guam did an extraordinary job bringing Law Day to life for citizens of the island."

Relay For Life – Silver Membership

The Judiciary participated in the American Cancer Society's 2008 Relay For Life on May 23, 2008, by occupying its own canopy on the Relay For Life field, and manning both tent and track for twelve continuous hours. Team Kotte also raised $3000 in charitable contributions to the American Cancer Society, which earned the Judiciary the honor of the Silver Level of contributors.



Curriculum designed to prevent crime:

Guam Awarded $200,000 Funding For Youth Law Education Program

In 2008, the Judiciary of Guam was named the recipient of $200,000 in funding to participate in an innovative national education program that teaches middle-school students about laws through a curriculum of best practices proven to prevent youth crime.

Guam was one of four states and/or jurisdictions in the U.S. that was awarded funds to take part in Play by the Rules ™ (PBR), an award-winning crime-prevention model for teaching state-specific law to seventh-grade students.

PBR utilizes state-specific illustrated textbooks written in language easily understood by its target audience. Through caricature versions of state birds as textbook "mascots," the curriculum invites student engagement through a baseball theme. The official bird of Guam, the Ko'ko or Guam rail, is used to interest youth in learning about law. Topics addressed in the textbook include the rule of law, juvenile justice, crimes, weapons, alcohol and other drugs, family law, recreation law, school law, transportation, employment law, civic responsibility, technology and Internet safety. The playbook is based on 200 of Guam's laws, and is designed to teach over 4,000 middle-school students accountability and the knowledge of the laws. The book was unveiled on September 26, 2008, at Supreme Court of Guam's Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom.

PBR was created and is directed by the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education (ACLCE). It is taught as a part of the seventh-grade civics curriculum in all Alabama public schools. The program is entering its seventh year and has impacted more than 400,000 students so far. The ACLCE is a nonprofit corporation located at the Cumberland School of Law on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, AL. The organization was awarded a $1.2 million grant from a U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Grant last year to expand the outreach of its PBR program to other states and jurisdictions. Guam's middle-school students join youth in Alabama, Texas, Connecticut and Nevada as program participants. The Guam Public School System has also been a tremendous asset in helping to make this program possible on Guam.

Mock Trial Competition

Every year, students from Guam's public and private high schools face off in the Judiciary's courtrooms during the High School Mock Trial Competition. The purpose of the mock trial program is to educate Guam's high school students about our legal system, the work of attorneys, and the law, as well as to encourage students to consider careers in the law. After several months of research and practice, and several weeks of preliminary and final rounds of competition, the team from Academy of Our Lady of Guam was declared the winner for 2008. The team went on to represent Guam in the National High School Mock Trial Championship Tournament in Wilmington, Delaware.

Guam Juvenile Justice Conference

The Guam Juvenile Justice Conference was hosted and organized by the Judiciary of Guam, Juvenile Drug Court Section to provide training on the components of drug courts, drug testing, adolescent issues, anger and stress management for youth, cyber-crimes, and other youth practitioner curriculum. Approximately 180 participants from the Guam Public School System, Department of Youth Affairs, Guam Police Department, Social Workers, Probation Officers, and Youth Service Providers participated in this training event. The Section coordinated with local and federal agencies in providing both local and off-island trainers (from the National Drug Court Institute, G.R.E.A.T., and Play by the Rules) without expending Judiciary funds.

Self-represented Litigants

The number of self-represented litigants continues to rise. In order to ensure that these persons have meaningful access to the courts, in August of 2008, a Court Interpreter Program/Self-Represented Litigant Committee was formed to help address this and other issues. The CIP/SRL committee has been collaborating with the Guam Legal Services Corporation to install a Self-Help Interactive Court Forms Kiosk. The committee has been working on court forms, including those for uncontested divorces and legal guardianships. In partnership with the Guam Legal Services Corporation's talented staff, the Judiciary has installed the cabinetry needed to support the kiosks in the Judicial Center Building, as well as the computers. Interactive software capable of generating forms will soon follow.

Interpreters' Training with Department of Labor

Language barriers should not deny litigants meaningful participation in court proceedings. To this end, the Judiciary took on a pioneering role in the community in October 2008 when it partnered with the Guam Department of Labor and the University of Guam in sponsoring the first-ever Interpreters' Certification Program on Guam. The Guam Pilot Court Interpreter Training was conducted by Dr. Suzanne M. Zeng, Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Center for Interpretation and Translation Studies (CITS), and by Debi Tulang-De Silva, J.D., Project Director of the Office on Equality and Access to the Courts (OEAC) at the Hawaii State Judiciary. The program trained interpreters in the languages of Chuukese, Yapese, Pohnpeian, Palauan, Chinese, Chamorro, Korean, Japanese, ASL, Tagalog, Ilocano, Vietnamese and Marshallese.

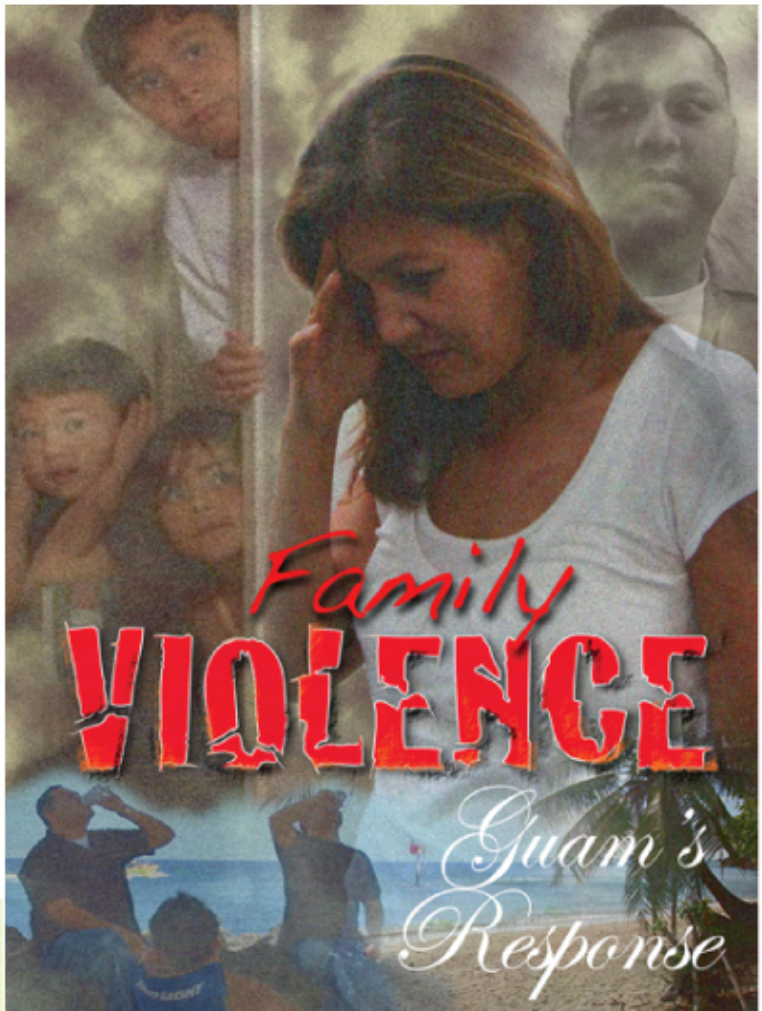
Domestic Violence Awareness

The Judiciary has long dealt with the aftermath of domestic violence. 2008 has been unprecedented in terms of the Judiciary's continued efforts to raise awareness about the seriousness of domestic violence on our island, particularly in October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Premiere of Educational Video on Family Violence

On October 1, the Judiciary premiered the video "Family Violence: Guam's Response." The video was produced on location by the Judiciary, and featured a cast and crew which included judges, court employees, police officers, corrections officers, victims advocates, attorneys, and other partners. The video told the story of the "Cruses," a family suffering from family violence. It offered viewers the opportunity to follow a family violence case, while portraying the system-wide response to family violence on Guam.

The video was aired throughout the month of October on KUAM Channel 2, and can be downloaded from www.kuam.com. The video was also widely distributed throughout the island to government and non-government agencies, religious groups, public and private high schools, the University of Guam, and Guam Community College, among others. The hope is that the video is shared with as many people possible, and that it serves to promote both awareness and prevention.



Silent Witness Ceremony Gives Voice to Victims

On October 15, the Judiciary held the 12th Annual Silent Witness Ceremony under the direction of the Honorable Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson. The Silent Witness Project is a national initiative with the mission of promoting peace, healing, and responsibility in adult relationships. The exhibit was conceived in 1990 by a group of women artists and writers in Minnesota. They created 26 red figures, each bearing the description and name of a woman whose life ended violently that very year at the hands of someone they once loved. The silhouettes gave a voice to those who were silenced by domestic violence.

The Judiciary's Silent Witness Ceremony featured similar silhouettes that were displayed in the Judicial Center atrium. The figures were also part of an outreach event at the Agana Shopping Center on October 11.

Mental Health Court

The Office of Court Programs has initiated a project with grant funds to create a new Mental Health Court under the Superior Court of Guam. The goals of this new court will be to identify best practices for promptly identifying, treating, and judicially monitoring persons who are mentally impaired and who end up in the criminal justice system. The Mental Health Court concept is to provide these offenders with a continuum of care. It is designed to lower recidivism rates of Guam's mentally impaired population, increase treatment, and coordinate cases involving persons who are involved in the criminal justice system as well as the mental health system. The Judiciary of Guam hired a new Mental Health Court Coordinator in 2008 to oversee this new treatment approach. The Mental Health Coordinator is tasked with developing a management information system to view and update participant information, to identify the data needed by the Judges and stakeholders to measure the program's success, and to ensure that law enforcement is prepared to respond to calls involving persons with mental impairments in our community.

Adult Drug Court

The Adult Drug Court Program reached its fifth year of operation in August 2008. The program seeks to integrate substance abuse treatment, sanctions and incentives with case processing so that non-violent defendants in drug-related cases are placed in a judicially supervised rehabilitation program. Under the traditional system of punitive sanctions, these defendants rarely received substance abuse treatment in a systematic form, and in many cases, they received little or even no threat of sanctions. The focus in the program is a treatment approach that results in cost-savings to the criminal justice system, and increases the likelihood of successful, rehabilitated community members. Through a collaborative team approach, the members of the judicial system and these criminal offenders work together toward successful recovery and reintegration into the community as productive, law-abiding citizens.

Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) of the Judiciary of Guam was implemented in 2002 to provide judicial supervision for non-violent juvenile drug offenders. There are two tracks of JDC in operation, Intensive and Non-Intensive. The intensive track is a four-phased, comprehensive, strength-based approach to substance abuse treatment. The non-intensive track treatment plan includes referrals to Sanctuary Inc. Referrals in this track are increasing on a weekly basis, with an average of six cases or more per week. JDC also provides judicial monitoring and substance abuse treatment and education. JDC has made progress in a new feature, the Juvenile Tracker Project.

Based on evaluations and surveys conducted of the 100 participants in the intensive track, frequent and random drug testing is a critical factor in keeping juvenile's drug free. Drug testing is the number one deterrent for participants. The JDC program responds to positive drug testing with immediate sanctions (48 hours of automatic detention) and prompt violation reported to the Court. Positive drug testing also results in increased monitoring and treatment sessions. Experience has shown that a juvenile who tests positive in the early stages of treatment and probation is not likely to re-offend for the remainder of the program.

Facilities Master Plan

On November 24, 2008, the Judiciary awarded a contract for the development of a comprehensive facilities master plan. The master plan will address present and future facility needs of the Judiciary of Guam, including the development of a new satellite court in northern Guam, where significant population growth is projected in the near future. The planning team of Albert H. Tsutsui, A.I.A., Inc., and Planning Design Partners, Inc., were selected to prepare the master plan. In addition, the planning team will be augmented by the National Center of State Courts to assist in the requirements analysis process and to provide an added review of the final master plan. This project is expected to be completed in April 2009.

Northern Court Satellite

Due to a reduction in the Judiciary's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009, in October 2008 the Judiciary initiated several cost-cutting measures, including a six-month postponement of the implementation of a Northern Court Satellite (NCS). NCS will accommodate the needs of current northern residents, as well as prepare for the increase in demand for court services expected as a result of the anticipated military buildup. The Judiciary has selected the Dededo Mall commercial facility as the location of the new court. Negotiations to lease the Dededo Mall are currently underway. The Mall will be renovated in order to make the facility conducive for court operations. Occupancy is expected in 2009.

Forensic Science Laboratory

On December 31, 2008, the Judiciary's Procurement & Facilities Division, in partnership with the Guam Police Department, completed work on a new Guam Police Crime Lab. The 14,753 sq. ft. state of the art facility provides the island's law enforcement with the capabilities to examine firearms, drugs, and fingerprints. Eventually, the lab will also include DNA, toxicology and arson testing capabilities, as well as an automated fingerprint identification system.

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- Procurement & Facilities Division
- Marshals Division
- Management Information Systems
- Courts and Ministerial Division
- Probation Services Division
- Office of the Public Guardian
- Compiler of Laws

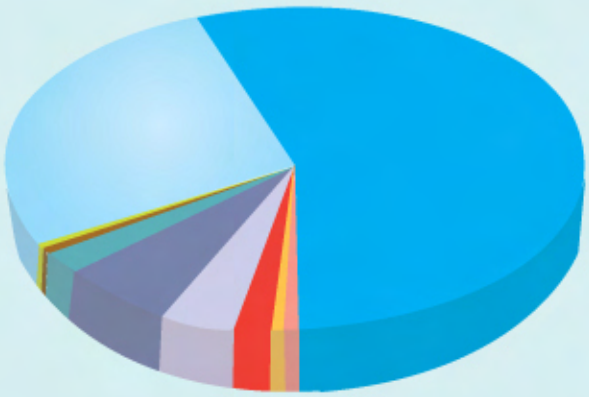
Navigating the Court System

The Supreme Court of Guam is the highest court of the judicial branch of Guam, answerable only to the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear appeals over any cause decided by the Superior Court of Guam or other courts created by Guam law; has supervisory jurisdiction over the Superior Court and all other courts created by Guam law; and has original jurisdiction over proceedings necessary to protect its appellate jurisdiction and supervisory authority. The court also has jurisdiction to issue all orders and writs in aid of its appellate, supervisory, and original jurisdiction.

The Justices of the Supreme Court of Guam are:
Chief Justice Robert J. Torres
Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido
Associate Justice Katherine A. Maraman

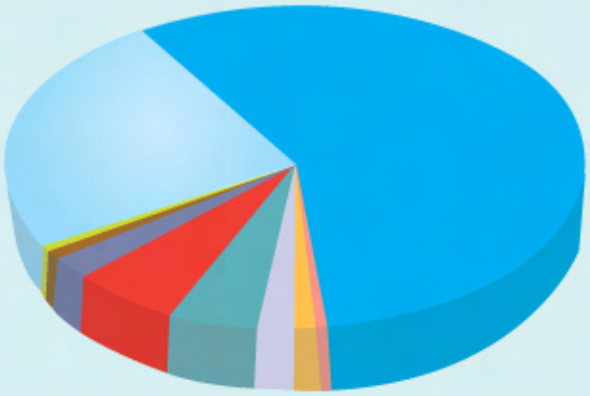
Cases and Actions Filed

Appellate Procedure	0
Atty. Discipline	12
Certified Question	0
Civil Cases	103
Criminal Cases	41
Pro Hac Vice	7
Promulgation Orders	3
Writ of Habeas Corpus	0
Writ of Mandamus	3
Writ of Prohibition	0
TOTAL:	**169**



Orders and Opinions Issued

Appellate Procedure	0
Atty. Discipline	3
Certified Question	0
Civil Cases	96
Criminal Cases	33
Pro Hac Vice	3
Promulgation Orders	8
Writ of Habeas Corpus	0
Writ of Mandamus	7
Writ of Prohibition	2
TOTAL:	**152**



Superior Court of Guam

The people of Guam have their "day in court" in the Superior Court of Guam, a court of general jurisdiction. Seven judges preside over the cases brought before them, which range from felony and misdemeanor criminal cases and juvenile delinquency cases, to civil matters involving more than $10,000, to family-related cases such as divorce and child support proceedings. The judges also hear special proceedings cases, as well as small claims and traffic court cases. Child support cases and certain juvenile matters are heard by the Court Referee and Administrative Hearings Officer.

The Judges and Hearings Officer of the Superior Court of Guam are:

- Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III
- Judge Steven S. Unpingco
- Judge Michael J. Bordallo
- Judge Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson
- Judge Anita A. Sukola
- Judge Arthur R. Barcinas
- Judge Vernon P. Perez
- Administrative Hearings Officer Linda L. Ingles

Administrative Office of the Courts

This Office performs the administrative functions for the Supreme Court and the Superior Court. It is responsible for the efficient and responsible management of all divisions of the Judiciary. Incorporated into this officer are the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, the Staff Attorney, the Policy Planning & Community Affairs Officer, and other offices crucial to the smooth operation of the courts.

The Administrator of the Courts is Perry C. Taitano.

Court Programs Office

The Court Programs Office is responsible for obtaining federal grants to fund new Judiciary programs and to ensure the continuation of existing programs. These grants enhance the Judiciary's ability to develop programs that would not otherwise be possible through local appropriations.

In 2008, the Office successfully secured, renewed and monitored the following grants: DYA Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, Guam Mental Health Court Pilot Project, an Effective Sentencing and Management Considering Culture and Tradition Grant, a Child Support Grant, Domestic Violence Judicial Education Grant, Children at Risk Grant, Sex Offender Management Program Planning Grant, a Criminal Justice Records Improvement Integration Project Grant, and a National Criminal History Improvement Grant, all in addition to the Play By The Rules Grant discussed herein.

Client Services and Family Counseling

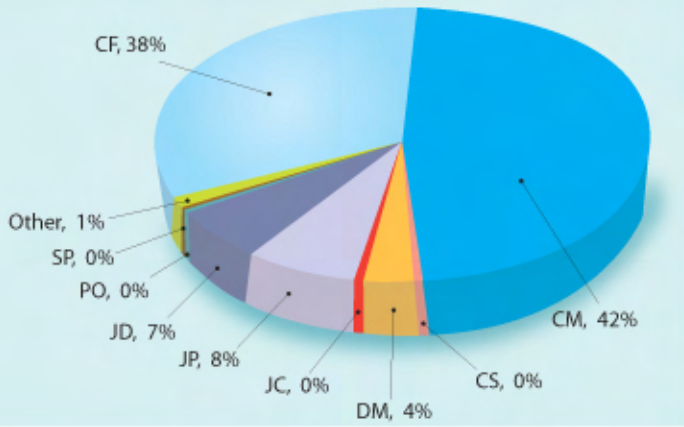
This Division of the Judiciary continues to provide a wide array of services to address the changing behavioral health care needs of the individuals and families that come before the Court. Client Services and Family Counseling ("CSFC") is involved in most cases in the judiciary which involve family violence, sexual abuse, substance use/abuse, juvenile delinquent behaviors, and abused and/or neglected children. While demand for services in all our programs continues to be strong, the numbers are particularly concentrated in family violence and criminal sexual conduct cases.

In 2008, CSFC provided services to segments of Guam's population which are not serviced by any other government agency, including the following services: individual counseling, couples/conciliation counseling, and family counseling. In addition, CSFC runs a Domestic Violence Men's Group, a Non-English Speaking Men's Group, a Women's Offender's Group, and a Sex Offenders Group.

OPEN CASES CY 2008

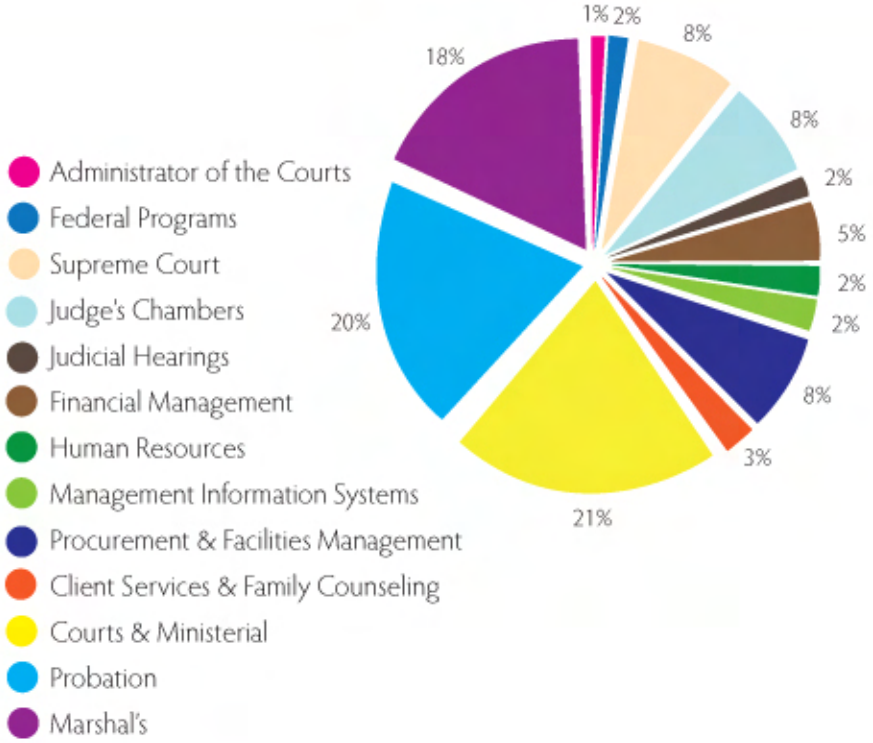
Caseload beginning 2008

Criminal Felony	305
Criminal Misdemeanor	329
Child Support	3
Domestic Cases	29
Juvenile Delinquency	54
Juvenile Proceedings	61
Special Proceedings	2
Juvenile Drug Court	2
Protective Order	3
Other	8
Total Caseload	796



Human Resources Division

In 2008, the Human Resources Division conducted two sessions of New Employee Orientation which included training on a Code of Conduct for Non-Judge Employees and Title VII training. Human Resources also conducted mandatory training of all employees who were unable to attend the 2007 sessions of Ethics and Customer Service in the Courts. In addition, there was training on Waste Management Awareness and the new air conditioning units, as well as continued Firearms Requalification Training for peace officers. 283 employees received refresher and follow-up EEO training. CPR/First Aid/AED Training was made available to 52 judicial employees, and Supervision and Leadership Training was provided to 40 judicial employees.



Financial Management Division

The Financial Management Division (FMD), responsible for effective management of Judiciary financial resources, and obligation of its Trust Funds established by the court, plays an integral part in the Judiciary's operations. Its duties include internal audit, financial reporting, budget, revenue and expenditure forecast, accounts payable, payroll for 336 active employees of the Judiciary, federal and local appropriations, accounts receivable, cash collection and disbursement, automation, and providing guidance for financial policies and procedures. In addition, FMD implemented the provisions of Public Law 29-105 relative to public safety and law enforcement compensation. All of these services were rendered while the FTE expenditures were reduced by two percent from FY 2007 to FY 2008, and utility costs rose 40%. In addition, FMD devoted much of FY 2008 working toward a Web-Based Service online payment system, which will include an online payment plan that accepts both debit and credit card payment for fines, fees and restitution payments.

Procurement & Facilities Division

The Procurement and Facilities Management Division handles purchases, capital improvements and maintenance of the Judicial complex building and grounds.

Due to the hard work of this Division, the people of Guam became owners of a new Guam Police Forensic Science Laboratory. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the Forensic Science Laboratory on February 10, 2009. On November 24, 2008, the Judiciary awarded a contract for the development of a comprehensive facilities master plan. The master plan will address present and future facility needs of the Judiciary of Guam with a vision of constructing a new court building in northern Guam, where significant population growth is projected in the near future. The Procurement & Facilities Division also replaced aging air conditioning units.

Marshals Division

The Marshal's Division is primarily responsible for overseeing all aspects of court security, as well as for personally serving certain court documents, including warrants and restraining orders. In 2008, the Division underwent training in Dignitary Protection and Judicial Security. This one-week course introduced a basic training format including firearms techniques, officer survival, protective services, tactical tracking, and other subjects. The Division also conducted training at the Pacific Judicial Conference held in Kolonia, Pohnpei, for 25 law enforcement personnel from other Micronesian islands. Also in 2008, the Division increased security around court facilities by erecting custom-posted signs and wooden barricades. Additionally, the Marshal's Field Office completed service of a total of 22,967 documents.

Management Information Systems

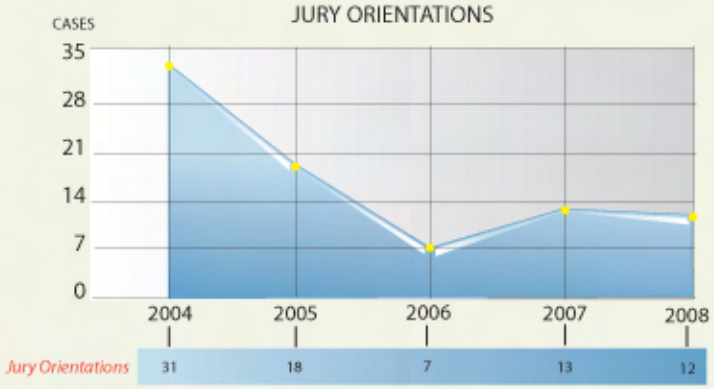
The Management Information Systems Division (MIS) is responsible for all aspects of the Judiciary's computer network and information systems, including the development, installation, operation, and maintenance of hardware and software systems infrastructure.

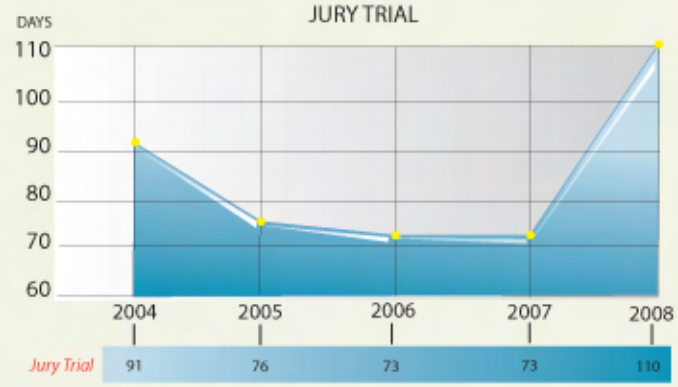
In 2008, MIS performed a much-needed upgrade of the Judiciary's computer system, the AS400, thereby assuring the health of the Judiciary's electronically stored information. In addition, MIS added new scanners to their inventory in aid of the Document Imaging Project.

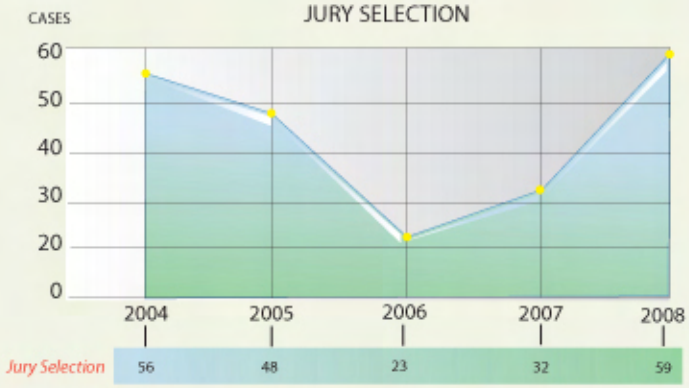
The Courts and Ministerial Division is the first point of contact for most citizens of Guam seeking the services of the Judiciary. This division accepts the filing of pleadings, and proceeds to route these pleadings to the appropriate courtroom or other destination. This Division oversees many functions, including:

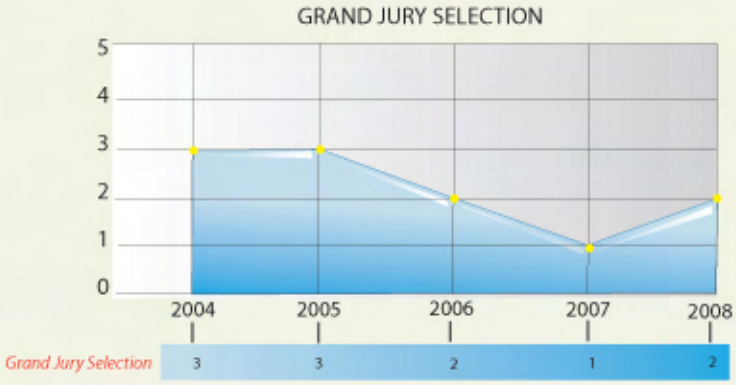
Juror Services, which is responsible for providing jurors for both grand jury proceedings (indictments) and jury trials. The number of jury trials in the Judiciary of Guam almost doubled between 2007 and 2008.

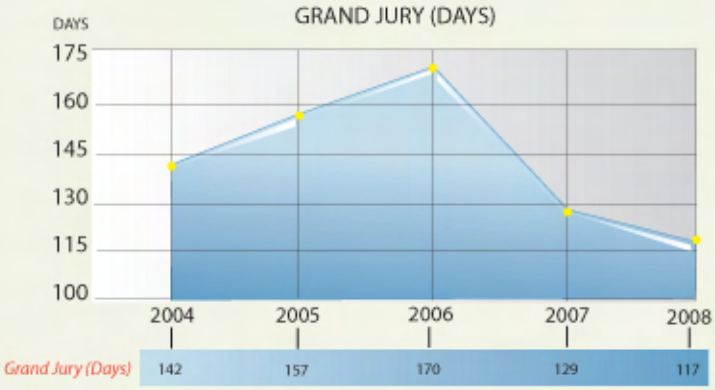
FIVE-YEAR CASE COMPARATIVE JURY MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

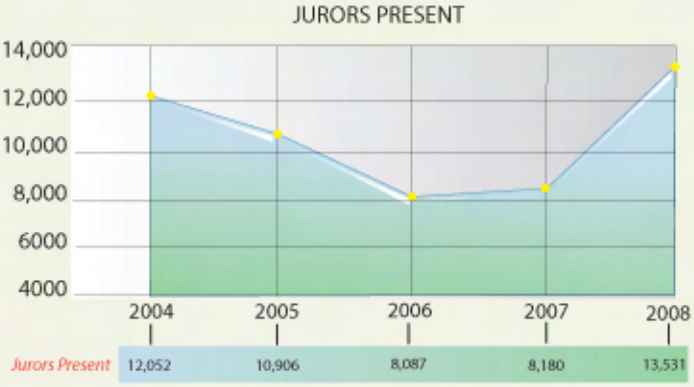








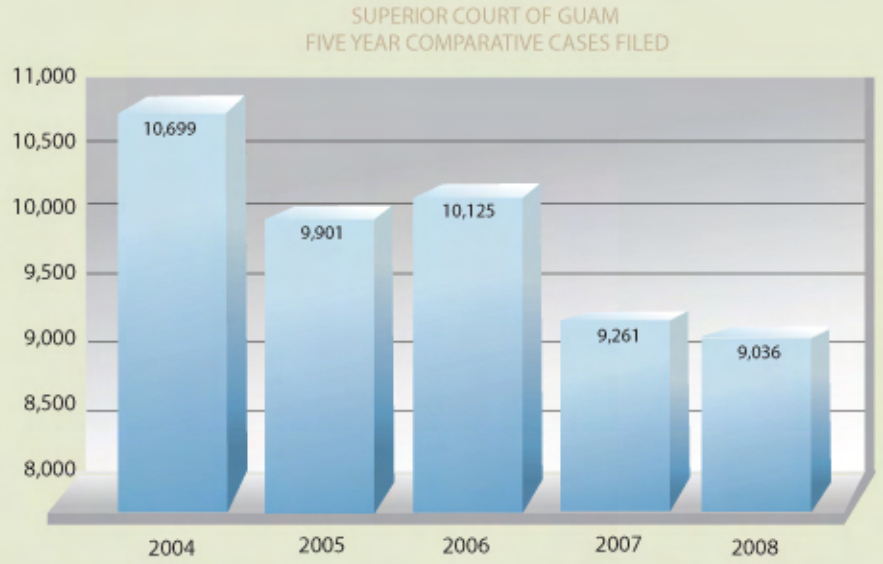




Intake (where court patrons file pleadings), Records (which maintains and secures Judiciary records), Team Chambers (which provides direct support to the trial court judges), and Master Calendar Case (which processes all civil collection cases).

FIVE YEAR COMPARATIVE CASES FILED

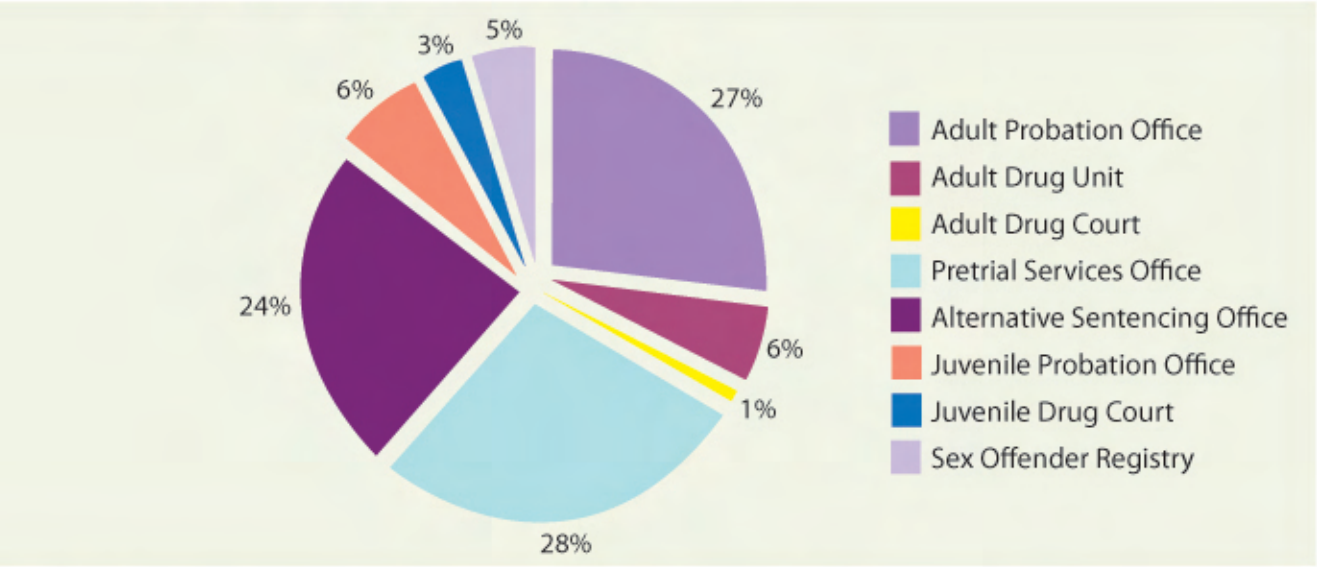
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
ADOPTION	54	56	66	59	67
CHILD SUPPORT	579	576	575	607	476
CIVIL	1,322	1,307	1,529	1,569	1,553
CRIMINAL FELONY	449	485	564	618	618
CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR	975	940	1,044	1,084	1,194
DOMESTIC	2,153	2,494	927	881	868
JUVENILE DIVISION (JD)	465	242	264	362	405
JUVENILE SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS (JP)	955	947	979	983	944
JUVENILE DRUG COURT (JC)	144	141	214	169	151
LAND REGISTRATION	4	2	4	1	3
PROBATE	146	162	157	172	215
SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS	273	219	199	228	247
SMALL CLAIMS	3,178	2,329	3,539	2,443	2,214
FOREIGN ORDERS	2	1	3	2	0
PROTECTIVE ORDERS	n/a	n/a	61	83	81
GRAND TOTALS:	**10,699**	**9,901**	**10,125**	**9,261**	**9,036**



PROBATION SERVICES DIVISION

The mission of the Probation Services Division is to assist in keeping our island community safe and secure through the enforcement of court orders on adult and juvenile offenders released into the community in lieu of incarceration. The Probation Services Division houses the following entities: Adult Probation Services, Adult Drug Court, Adult Drug Unit, Pretrial Services Office, Juvenile Probation Services, Juvenile Drug Court, Alternative Sentencing Office, Sex Offender Registry, Mental Health Court and Office Duty and Intake.

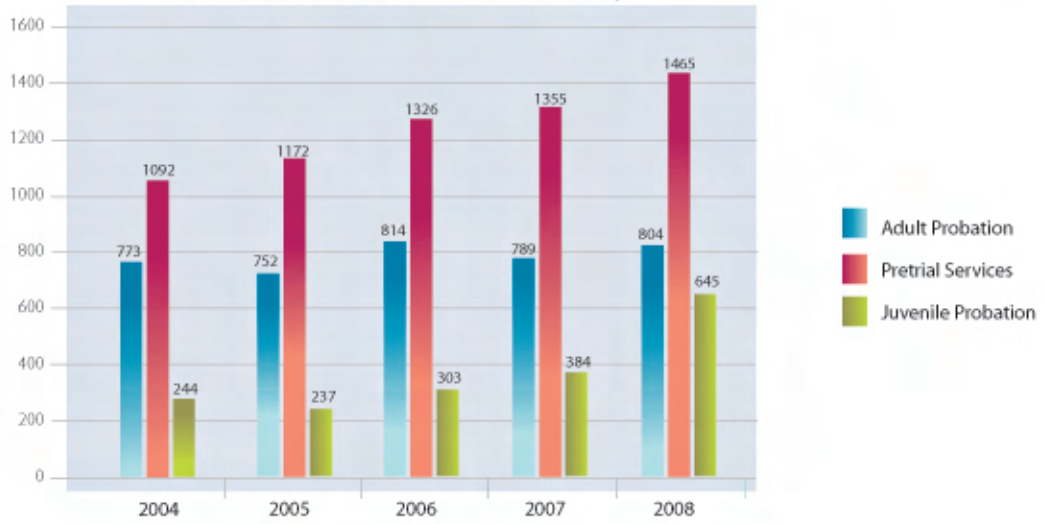
2008 PSD Case Load Distribution Chart



The Probation Services Division is mandated to perform the following functions:

- Supervise and monitor criminal offenders placed on probation or pretrial release
- Conduct drug testing in adults and juvenile offenders and coordinate the functions of the therapeutic drug courts
- Register and maintain the Island's Sex Offender Registry pursuant to Title 9 GCA, Chapter 89
- Provide comprehensive reports to the courts for offender disposition and sentencing to include victim compensation in the form of restitution
- Attend Multidisciplinary Team Treatment Meetings for both adult and juvenile offenders
- Conduct awareness outreach programs and career education lectures to Guam Public School System students
- Coordinate community service special projects at the request of government and non-profit organizations.

2008 PSD Section Year End Statistical Summary

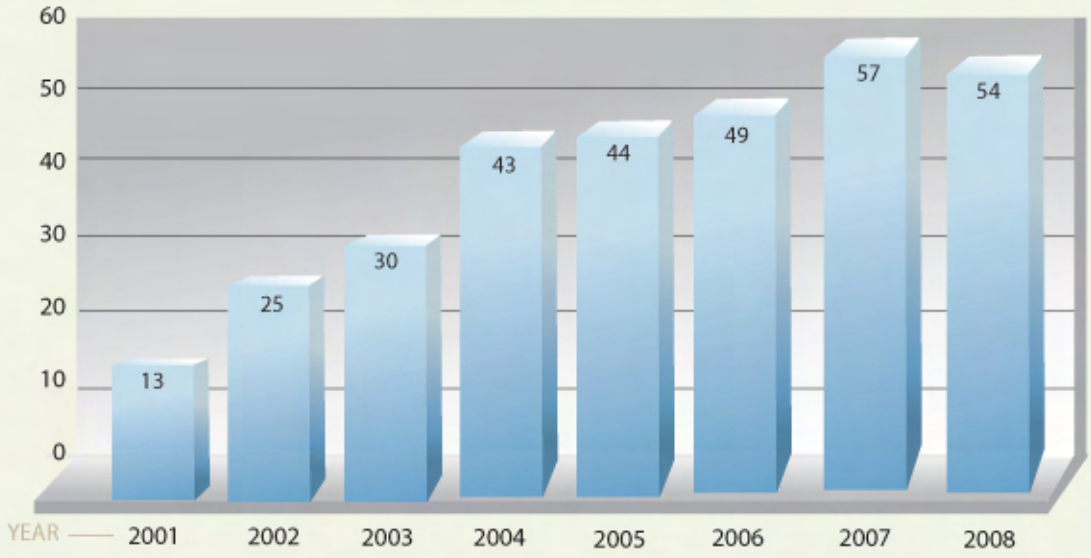


The Public Guardian steps in when infirmity, disability or advanced age render a person unable to manage their own affairs. The Office of the Public Guardian employs an appointed Public Guardian and his/her staff, who support the mission. The Superior Court appoints the Public Guardian when a showing is made that a person is in need of a guardian and there is no other suitable candidate. The Public Guardian can also be appointed co-Guardian with another appointed Guardian.

The Office of the Public Guardian provides services to families when there is a member why may need a guardian appointed. One of the missions of the Public Guardian may be to manage the finances of the wards. The office may also assist guardians in fulfilling their responsibilities to their wards, and may investigate when there is suspicion of abuse or neglect.

Referral Source	2007 TOTALS	2008 TOTALS
Individuals	43	57
Guam Memorial Hospital	14	6
Senior Law Service	14	7
Catholic Social Services	8	6
Naval Hospital	7	2
Adult Protective Services	6	2
Attorneys in Private Practice	5	1
DISID / DVR	5	1
DMHSA	4	4
Public Defender Services Corp.	4	1
Superior Court	3	6
DPHSS	3	1
Health Care Providers	2	3
Attorney General	2	1
Veterans Affairs	2	1
Guam Legal Services Corp.	2	2
Guma Mami	1	1
District Court	1	3
Hospice	1	1
Servicio Para Manamko	1	
Social Security Admin.	1	
GHURA	1	
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	1	
TOTAL	131	106

Active Guardianships



The Office of the Compiler of Laws continues its function of updating Guam statutes and other mandates pursuant to Title 1 Guam Code Annotated Chapter 16. The office maintains its commitment to provide free access to the updated laws of Guam on its website: www.guamcourts.org/CompilerofLaws. In addition, the Compiler is also the Executive Director of the Guam Law Library. He continues his management of the Law Library, and, along with the compiler staff, is working to improve services to the public.

The office assists in the revision of Guam law through its involvement with the Uniform Commercial Code taskforce created by the Guam Legislature and with the Governor's Law Revision Commission on Juvenile Justice.

It continues to assist the Judiciary of Guam in improving the administration of justice whenever called upon to participate in the review of court policies, rules and regulations.

Supreme Court of Guam

Three Justices

The Supreme Court is the "court of last resort" in Guam. It is answerable only to the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of Guam hears appeals from any cause decided by the Superior Court of Guam or other courts created by Guam law. It has supervisory jurisdiction over the Superior Court and all other courts created by Guam law, as well as original jurisdiction over proceedings necessary to protect its appellate jurisdiction and supervisory authority.

Superior Court of Guam

Seven Judges, One Hearings Officer, One Referee

The Superior Court is Guam's trial court of general jurisdiction. It includes the Adult Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Family Violence Court, Mental Health Court, and Judicial Hearing Division (Child Support). Among the cases it hears are:

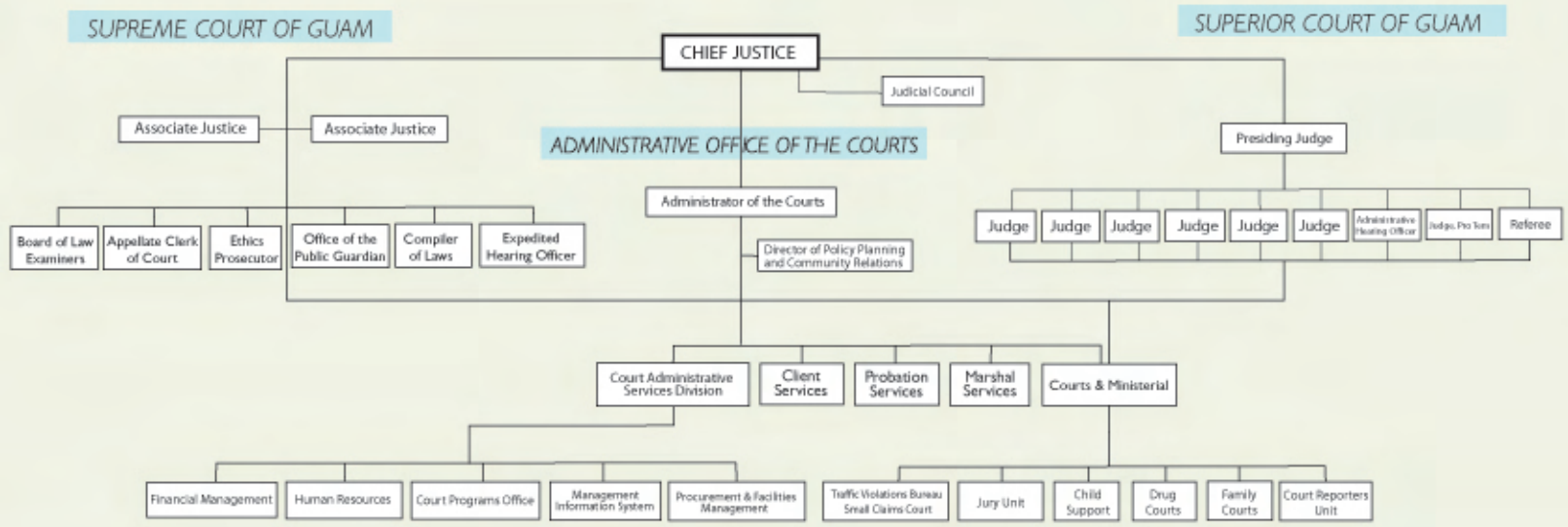
- Civil matters
- Criminal cases (both felony and misdemeanor)
- Domestic relations cases
- Juvenile matters
- Probate cases
- Appeals from Small Claims Court, Traffic Court, and decisions of administrative agencies

Small Claims Court
(not of record)

Traffic Court
(not of record)

Unified Judiciary of Guam

Administrative Organizational Structure



Pre-War 1900
Old Court House Casa Tribunal
Agana, Guam

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