



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, October 17, 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 12:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Also present via Zoom:

Ms. Valerie D. Tenorio, Chief Deputy Clerk
Ms. Kristina L. Baird, Administrative Hearing Officer
Ms. Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, Office of Regulation Counsel

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. Hannah Gutierrez Arroyo, Clerk of Court, Supreme Court
Ms. Janice Camacho Perez, Clerk of Court, Superior Court
Ms. Barbara Jean T. Perez, Human Resources Administrator
Ms. Ma. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance Administrator
Ms. Marcelene Santos, Public Guardian
Ms. Maria Erica Eschbach, Staff Attorney
Ms. Geraldine A. Cepeda, Compiler of Laws
Ms. Dawn R.S. Blas, Judicial Educator
Ms. Sonda L. Yatar, Acting Marshal of the Courts
Mr. Joseph Leon Guerrero, Deputy Chief Marshal
Ms. Suzane P. Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney
Mr. Andrew Perez, Staff Attorney
Ms. Antonette Padua, Client Services and Family Counseling Division Administrator
Ms. Marissa Antonio, Deputy Procurement & Facilities Services Administrator
Ms. Grace Lapid Rosadino, Court Programs Administrator
Ms. Terry Perez, Probation Officer Supervisor
Mr. Shaun Perez, Management Information Systems

Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President
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. Cenon identified themselves. Chief Justice Torres remarked that Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III is excused from today's meeting and will not be attending. 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 September 19, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes. Judge Cenon made a motion, Justice Carbullido seconded the motion. Chief Justice Torres called an oral vote. With no discussion, four of the five Judicial Council members voted to approve the minutes, subject to correction.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Capital Improvement Projects

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts, provided updates on the Guam Historic Courthouse renovation and move-in process, reporting that the Probation Services Division continues its transition and expects full operation at the historic site within the next few weeks.

Regarding other capital improvement projects:

- No new updates were available on the Skylight Project, though work continues with the architect and procurement on the bid process.
- Minor improvement projects are nearing completion, including the counters on the financial and clerk's sides. The center counters are complete, with work ongoing on the side sections.
- Renovations for the self-represented litigant kiosk are finished, aiming to minimize disruption in the clerk's office area.

No further updates were provided.

B. eCourts and eSupervision Transition

Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts, provided E-Court and E-Supervision systems, highlighting ongoing testing and interface requirements. A key update is that the vendor, Journal Technologies, will be on-site from December 16th for five full days. A standing meeting scheduled for tomorrow will focus on developing an agenda to address significant issues requiring in-person coordination during the vendor's visit.

No further updates were provided.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Judiciary FY24 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin addressed the Council regarding the collection of allotments for general operations as specified under Public Law 37-42, Chapter 4. She reported that the first two biweekly allotments totaling \$1,652,774 for FY 2025 general operations were received on October 4 and October 15. Ms. Gudmalin added that the full appropriations for the following programs have also been received:

- Guam Criminal Law, Procedure, and Review: \$378,000
- Electronic Monitoring Program: \$868,000
- Family Visitation Center: \$37,000

Funds were deposited into the account on October 4.

B. Certificate of Condolence to the Family of the Late Honorable John K. Rechucher

The Council addressed a certificate of condolence for the family of the late Honorable John Rechucher, a Justice of the Palau Supreme Court Appellate Division. Justice Maraman, who also serves on that court, was invited to speak on the matter. A certificate of condolence was prepared to formally express the Judiciary's sympathies.

After Justice Maraman shared remarks about the late Honorable John Rechucher. Chief Justice Torres added that Justice Rechucher, who was a high chief, made significant contributions to discussions on culture and tradition at the recent Traditional and Cultural Law Conference in Hawaii. His passing is a great loss to the Guam Judiciary, the Palau Judiciary, and the Pacific Judicial Council.

Justice Maraman moved to approve the certificate of condolence, with Justice Carbullido seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, November 21, 2024)

Chief Justice Torres noted that the Council's next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2024 and will be a hybrid meeting.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were taken out of order. Danielle Rosete provided the following updates:

Great Guam Shakeout:

- The Judiciary participated in the Great Guam Shakeout across all facilities.
- The intercom system via the fire alarm was tested, along with a Teams message broadcast to employees, as part of efforts to improve internal communication.
- Plans are underway to coordinate a fire drill with O2 and the Chief Marshal to enhance emergency preparedness.

Relay for Life Fundraising:

- Team Supreme, led by Erica, raised over \$2,100 in two days toward their \$3,000 goal for Relay for Life, with an overall platinum goal of \$5,000.
- The event will take place on November 9, and gratitude was expressed to judicial officers and employees for their contributions.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

GBA Board of Governors Secretary Janice Camacho Perez provided an update:

NAPABA Affiliate Membership:

- The GBA has joined the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) as an affiliate, aligning with nearly 90 bar associations across the U.S. and Canada.
- GBA President Jackie Terlaje emphasized the importance of this representation, particularly for the CHamoru and Pacific Islander communities, in addressing unique challenges in the U.S.

NAIP Conference Attendance:

- GBA President will attend the National Association of IOLTA Programs conference, which focuses on supporting civil legal aid and access to justice for individuals and families living in poverty.

Lawyer Assistance Program:

- GBA is collaborating with the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) to launch a lawyer assistance program.
- Members are encouraged to register for these programs to access resources for attorney well-being, though some links are available for free without registration.
- Additional details will be shared, and Mari Crisostomo is available for further assistance.

Civil Law Center Survey:

- A survey was distributed to members in response to a request from the Public Defender Services Corporation Board of Trustees to review and comment on proposed Resolution No. 8-24.
- Member responses were collected and forwarded to the Public Defender Services Corporation.

B. Court Employees Association


Kiki McDonald, representative for the employees' association, provided updates:

- A second order for T-shirts, polo shirts, and dry-fit shirts was placed in September due to popular demand, and pending items from the first order will be arriving soon.
- The date of the Christmas party has been moved to Saturday, January 11, to accommodate members' schedules. The theme will be "Under the Sea," and attendees are encouraged to dress accordingly.
- IFIK is planning upcoming fundraisers, including a potential golf tournament. Weekly bake sales, which have been raising \$400 to \$600 per event.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn until November 21, 2024. Judge Cenzone seconded the motion, adjourning the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of November 2024.



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

As set out above, the Minutes of the October 17, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting.



ROBERT J. TORRES
Chair