



Judiciary of Guam

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CHIEF JUSTICE

HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA, III
PRESIDING JUDGE

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ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Judiciary Hosts Training to Strengthen Treatment Courts

(Hagåtña, Guam) Recognizing that treatment courts are the most successful intervention tool for reducing recidivism, the Judiciary of Guam hosted a series of training and technical assistance visit for its Adult Drug and Veterans Treatment Courts with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) this week.

The free training and assistance were facilitated by a team of experts and practitioners from NADCP's divisions, the National Drug Court Institute, and Justice for Vets. Participants discussed evidence-based practices in treatment, team development, and the role of the mentoring component in VTC.

“Treatment Court recognizes that criminal behavior is often a manifestation of underlying issues—addiction, trauma, or mental illness—and that a collaborative approach is essential to address its root cause,” said Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III who presides over the Veterans Treatment Court and Judge Maria T. Cenzon who presides over the Adult Treatment Court II.

Guam's Adult Drug Court is a voluntary program for first-time drug offenders that delivers rehabilitative treatment in a judicially supervised program using sanctions and incentives. Similarly, the Judiciary's Veterans Treatment Court is a supervised, treatment-focused collaborative for defendants who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

“Eighty percent of Guam individuals who go through adult drug courts or therapeutic courts do not re-offend—which is a higher success rate than the national average,” said Chief Justice Torres. *“This accomplishment is a testament to our team of dedicated professionals and our commitment to saving lives. It is also a powerful reminder that healing hardly ever happens alone. Almost always does it require community,”* said Chief Justice Torres.

The Judiciary of Guam thanks the National Association of Drug Court Professionals for their dedication to advancing the cause of justice in Guam.

For more information on the court's mission as well as ADC or VTC eligibility, please contact Chief Probation Officer Ms. Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon at rvaguon@guamcourts.org.

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