

**BEFORE THE 2009 JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM**

**RESOLUTION NO. JC 09-007**

**RELATIVE TO REVIEW OF JURISDICTIONAL LIMIT FOR SMALL CLAIMS COURT**

**WHEREAS** Title 7 Guam Code Annotated § 4208, entitled “Mandatory Annual Review of Jurisdictional Limits,” provides that “In April of each year commencing with 1990, the Judicial Council shall consider adjustment of the jurisdictional limits for the Small Claims Division, and may adjust upwards the jurisdiction limits of the amount of claims allowed in the Small Claims Division based upon increases in the cost of living indices prepared by the Guam Department of Commerce and the United States government, and based upon the availability of attorneys to take small claims cases;” and

**WHEREAS**, Small Claims Referee Robert Cruz has been handling most of the small claims cases for the Superior Court of Guam for the most recent approximately two years. In this capacity, he was asked to give the Judicial Council an opinion on the appropriateness of the current jurisdictional amount; and

**WHEREAS**, at the December 2008 meeting of the Judicial Council, Referee Cruz rendered an opinion to the Judicial Council based on his research of other jurisdictions and based on his experience that the small claims jurisdictional amount should remain status quo at this time;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that after a review of the small claims jurisdictional amount under 7 GCA § 4208, which is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), the Judicial Council agrees not to take any action to maintain the small claims jurisdictional amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) until the next annual review, to take place in April 2010.

**DULY ADOPTED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009 at a duly noticed meeting of the Judicial Council of Guam.



ROBERT J. TORRES, Chairman

Date: 04-24-09

ATTEST:



JOLEEN F. RESPICIO, Secretary

Date: 04-24-09