BEFORE THE 2012 JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM
RESOLUTION NO. JC 12-009

RELATIVE TO GRANTING THE 2012 HUSTISIA AWARD TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD H. BENSON

WHEREAS, as a regular part of Law Week, the Judiciary of Guam presents a Hustisia Award, recognizing a member of our community who has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening the rule of law throughout our island community. Modeled on the American Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, the Guam Judiciary Hustisia Award is the local equivalent honor, meant to honor those in our community who contribute to the betterment of our island and the rule of law.

WHEREAS, four criteria are used in determining worthy recipients, to-wit: (1) promotion of a better understanding of the rule of law; (2) encouraging a greater respect for law and the courts; (3) generating a sense of civic responsibility, and (4) contributing to good government in the island, few stand out as proudly as Jurist Richard H. Benson.

Judge Richard H. Benson, Senior Jurist *Pro Tempore* for the Superior and Supreme Courts of Guam, is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, serving the Navy for 10 years before earning his Law Degree from the University of Michigan. He was appointed to the Island Court by Governor Camacho in 1970, and retained by the people of Guam by popular election in 1978. He resigned in 1981 to become a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, appointed by the FSM's first President Tosiwo Nakayama. He served the FSM selflessly for the next twenty years, retiring in 2001.

Since his retirement, Judge Benson has come back to the people of Guam as a Senior Judge *Pro Tem* for the Superior Court of Guam, and as a Senior Justice *Pro Tem* for the Supreme Court of Guam. He has also continued to serve the FSM Supreme Court and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands courts as a temporary justice on appeals and trial matters. As yet another mark of his dedication to justice, he has mediated over 50 cases with the Inafa' Maolek.

If humility were the measure of a man, Judge Benson would be a giant among us. For over 40 years, he has presided over cases throughout the Pacific with acute attention to island custom and culture. His legacy is this contribution to the unique jurisprudence of the Pacific. His opinions reflect his quiet thoughtfulness and relentless thoroughness. He presided over many controversial cases involving families, clans and politics, and with integrity and intelligence, followed the rule of law, regardless of public opinion. He is a gentleman lawyer -- his dignity on the bench is legend. His dedication to the law is matched only by his dedication to his chosen faith, which he continues to serve with vigor on a worldwide scale.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2012 Hustisia Award be given to the Honorable Richard H. Benson: Gentleman, Jurist, and above all, Peacemaker in Guam and the Pacific. Thank you, Judge Benson, for your lifetime of dedication, brilliance, and geniality.

DULY ADOPTED this 3rd day of May, 2012

F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO
Chief Justice of Guam &
Chairperson, Judicial Council of Guam

ROBERT J. TORRES, Member
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

KATHERINE A. MARAMAN, Member
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

ALBERTO C. LAMORENA, III, Member
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Guam

ARTHUR R. BARCINAS, Member
Judge, Superior Court of Guam

MICHAEL J. BORDALLO
Judge, Superior Court of Guam

ANITA A. SUKOLA
Judge, Superior Court of Guam

VERNON P. PEREZ
Judge, Superior Court of Guam

JAMES L. CANTO II
Judge, Superior Court of Guam

ELIZABETH BARRETT-ANDERSON
Senior Judge *Pro Tempore*, Superior Court of Guam