



BEFORE THE 2016 JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

RESOLUTION NO. JC16- 011

RELATIVE TO RECOGNITION OF MAY 2016 AS NATIONAL DRUG COURT AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, in 1998, in response to the increase in controlled substance cases, the Superior Court of Guam sought alternative adjudicative solutions to traditional drug case adjudications; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, following a nationwide trend of treating criminal defendants charged with possession of user-quantities of controlled substances as persons in need of drug rehabilitation treatment, the Superior Court of Guam sought and was granted a Department of Justice grant for the implementation of an Adult Drug Court, first presided over by Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and a Juvenile Drug Court, first presided over by Judge Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, extending a program to supervise non-violent participants in a judicially monitored program of drug treatment and rehabilitation, implementing programs that included supporting a positive lifestyle by providing strength-based intensive intervention within criminal and juvenile justice system, rehabilitation tailored to the needs of participants and their families, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Superior Court of Guam Adult Drug Court commenced in August 2003 and graduated its first class in January 2005, and the Superior Court of Guam Juvenile Drug Court commenced in February 2002 and graduated its first class on May 9, 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, with Administrative Rule 05-03, the Judiciary of Guam created “collaborative therapeutic drug courts as courts of record for the Superior court of Guam,” thereby designating the Juvenile and Adult Drug Courts as therapeutic courts, to give first time drug offenders with no prior record the benefit of an intensive treatment program, holding them accountable for their behavior, and using immediate, continuous and intensive supervision to increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood tasked the Probation Officers for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands to study the feasibility of adopting a therapeutic drug-court program modeled after other federal drug courts to address the controlled substance problem, and a model was thereafter adopted; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the District Court of Guam implemented its Federal Drug Re-Entry Program (DORE) entitled *Programan Hinalom Talo*, to be the seventh federal re-entry court in the United States and the first federal re-entry court in the Pacific Region, and its first graduation was held in September 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the Judiciary of Guam opened its second Adult Drug Court in 2009, known as Adult Drug Court II to provide treatment opportunity for participants with prior convictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Judiciary of Guam continues to recognize its Adult Drug Court and its Juvenile Drug Court as effective in the rehabilitation and recovery of drug participants by means of close court monitoring, regular drug testing, and holistic drug treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, May is celebrated nationally as National Drug Court Month, and this year’s National Drug Court Month theme is “Criminal Justice Reform in Action,” recognizing that drug courts are among the most successful criminal justice intervention programs both locally and federally, and also that drug courts help reduce recidivism and improve drug abuse treatment outcomes, and do so at less expense than any other criminal justice strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, during this 2016 Drug Court Month, the Judiciary will hold community outreach events celebrating therapeutic justice, including drug court graduations of the Adult Drug Court presided over by Judge Vernon P. Perez, and of the Juvenile Drug Court presided over by Judge Anita A. Sukola. The Judiciary of Guam and the District Court of Guam will hold outreach events as well, reaching into the schools, shopping malls and media outlets to spread the message that drug courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Judicial Council does hereby recognize the month of May 2016 as National Drug Court Month, recognizing drug courts and other therapeutic courts as the cornerstone of criminal justice reform sweeping the nation. The Judicial Council on behalf of the Judiciary of Guam urges the people of Guam to use this occasion to reflect on the positive changes brought by local and federal Drug Courts to the community, and to salute the federal and local Drug Court professionals who make these contributions.

**DULY ADOPTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016 at a duly noticed meeting of the Judicial Council of Guam

**ROBERT J. TORRES**  
Chairperson, Judicial Council of Guam  
& Chief Justice of Guam

**F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO**  
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