



**BEFORE THE 2024 JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM
RESOLUTION NO. JC24-10**

**RELATIVE TO GRANTING THE 2024 HOSTISIA AWARD TO THE
LATE HONORABLE JOAQUIN C. PEREZ**

- WHEREAS,** in annual celebration of Law Month, the Judiciary of Guam presents the Hostisia Award, an award recognizing a community member or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to improving the administration of justice and good government; and
- WHEREAS,** modeled after the American Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, the Guam Judiciary Hostisia Award is meant to honor those who contribute to the betterment of our island and the rule of law; and
- WHEREAS,** in considering the criteria used in determining worthy recipients, specifically, promotion of a better understanding of the rule of law, encouraging a greater respect for law, generating a sense of civic responsibility, and contributing to good government in the island, it is our distinct honor to grant this year's Hostisia Award to the late Honorable Joaquin Cruz Perez.

The Honorable Joaquin C. Perez is considered a "pioneer in Guam's legal and judiciary history." Born in the village of Hagåtña, Perez discovered his passion for law during his senior year at Guam Evening High School through a course on the "Laws of Guam" and, soon after, began his career in public service as a court reporter in 1935. During World War II, he continued his education, finding ways to study law even during the Imperial Japanese forces' occupation of the island.

After the war, Perez resumed his position as a court reporter and later became an island attorney in the Office of the Attorney General in 1947. He served as prosecuting attorney for the government until his appointment to the Island Court bench in 1952. In 1960, Perez became the court's chief judge and was reappointed for an eight-year term in 1964, with another reappointment by legislators in 1972.

Perez's public service extended beyond the judiciary. In the early 1950s, he uniquely served in all three branches of government simultaneously: as a member of the pre-Organic Act congress, the First (1st) Guam Legislature, and as judge pro tempore for certain civil cases. Envisioning a separate and independent judicial branch for the island, Perez played a critical role in the establishment of the Guam Historic Courthouse Guam's judicial, personally identifying the site in Hagåtña and drafting the blueprint.

On July 1, 1974, following the enactment of the Court Reorganization Act, Perez became Guam's first Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Three months later, he became the Chief Justice of the island's first Supreme Court of Guam. Throughout his illustrious career, Judge Perez is remembered for insisting on minimal distractions in his courtroom and giving every argument the careful consideration it deserved. His deep commitment to the rule of law has earned him the profound respect and admiration of his colleagues, staff, and all those who follow in his footsteps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2024 Hostisia Award be presented to the family of the late Honorable Joaquin Cruz Perez in recognition of his dedication, fairness, and unyielding pursuit of justice for the people of Guam.

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

F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO
Member
Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

KATHERINE A. MARAMAN
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Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

ALBERTO C. LAMORENA III
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MARIA T. CENZON
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