

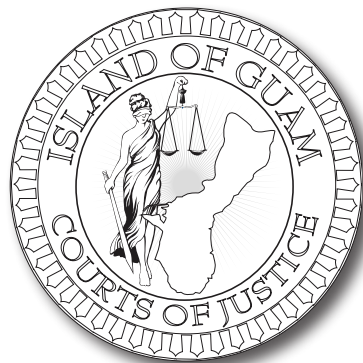


JUDICIARY OF  
GUAM

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**Annual  
Report  
2024**





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FROM YOUR

# Chief Justice & Administrator of the Courts



Håfa adai,

On behalf of the Judiciary of Guam, we are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report. This publication offers a comprehensive account of the Judiciary’s work over the past year—its programs, services, and initiatives, as well as the individuals who make our continued progress possible.

In 2024, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Court Reorganization Act, a milestone that reaffirmed the importance of an independent judicial branch in our democracy. It was a year marked by renewal and forward movement: we launched our 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, completed major facility improvements, and expanded the use of technology to improve court services and accessibility. We also continued to invest in treatment and recovery programs, publicized performance measures, and deepened our outreach to schools and community partners.

As reflected throughout this report, our work is guided by a commitment to fairness, accountability, and transparency. We remain dedicated to providing court services that are accessible, respectful, and responsive to the needs of all who come before us.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the judicial officers, employees, and partners whose dedication sustains the administration of justice in our island community. Most of all, we are grateful for the continued trust placed in the courts and look forward to building on this progress in the years to come.



*Robert J. Torres*  
Robert J. Torres  
Chief Justice of Guam

*Danielle T. Rosete*  
Danielle T. Rosete, Esq.  
Administrator of the Courts

*Guam History  
Courtroom Museum*



**SPANISH PERIOD (1565-1898)**

After the arrival of the Treaty of Paris in 1898, Guam changed from a Spanish colony to a U.S. possession. Initially, the United States left most of the existing Spanish judicial system intact, but changing the appellate court from the Spanish Supreme Court to the jurisdiction of the American judicial system. The local government served as the supreme authority in law-making, administration and interpretation of laws for the island. By 1903, an island court and a court of appeals were established to replace their Spanish predecessors.

**WWII JAPANESE ERA (1941-1944)**

During the Japanese occupation of Guam from 1941 to 1944, the judicial system was completely dismantled. The Japanese military government established a military court system, which was based on the Japanese legal system. The military court system was composed of a military court and a military court of appeals. The military court system was based on the Japanese legal system, which was a civil law system. The military court system was based on the Japanese legal system, which was a civil law system. The military court system was based on the Japanese legal system, which was a civil law system.

**EARLY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (1898-1941)**

After the arrival of the Treaty of Paris in 1898, Guam changed from a Spanish colony to a U.S. possession. Initially, the United States left most of the existing Spanish judicial system intact, but changing the appellate court from the Spanish Supreme Court to the jurisdiction of the American judicial system. The local government served as the supreme authority in law-making, administration and interpretation of laws for the island. By 1903, an island court and a court of appeals were established to replace their Spanish predecessors.

While under American rule, Guam continued to differ in law, rulings and decisions that were based on the Spanish and Filipino codes. In December 1903, the judicial branch completely did away with the Spanish system and reorganized under American law and court systems, borrowing from California's penal code, civil code, and code of civil procedure and probate.

By 1905, the courts themselves had completely reorganized from the Spanish system. The Court of Appeals was the Guamanian Supreme Court from which there was no other appeal. Note it was Guamanian or military and American dependents could still appeal to higher American jurisdictions. The Board Court was the court of general jurisdiction for both criminal and civil cases, except those assigned by law to other courts. The Justice Court, having a fine of over \$100 or imprisonment for more than 60 days or both and a fine of less than \$500 or imprisonment for less than one year or both, included the predecessor for the small claims court. The Police Court levied misdemeanor penalties where punishment did not exceed six months imprisonment or a fine of \$100 or both.



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# Court Governance

## Judicial Council

The Judicial Council of Guam is the governing body of the Judiciary of Guam. By law, it is composed of all full-time justices of the Supreme Court, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, and a delegated Superior Court Judge.

The Judicial Council recommends policies for the administration of the judicial branch and administers the merit system for the branch, including hearing all classified employee appeals. With the advice of the Judicial Council, the Chief Justice governs the divisions of the Judiciary.

The Judicial Council meets once a month for its regular meeting; public notice is provided for each meeting and the public is welcome to attend. Beginning in March 2020, the option to hold Judicial Council meetings remotely was initiated and beginning in May 2020, meetings were live streamed on the Judiciary of Guam's YouTube channel.

All the decisions made by the council, known as resolutions, are available on the Judiciary of Guam website. In 2024, the Judicial Council adopted 18 resolutions relating to court operations and activities including:

- The approval of the Judiciary of Guam Budget for Fiscal Year 2025,
- The approval of updating the Attorney Pay Plan and the Judiciary's Classification and Compensation Policy
- The approval of the appointment of the Marshal of the Courts
- The declaration of Law Day and Law Month, and
- The declaration of Constitution Day and Constitution Week

### **Current Judicial Council Members:**

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres

Justice F. Philip Carbullido

Justice Katherine A. Maraman

Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III

Judge Maria T. Cenzon



# Supreme Court of Guam

# Justices



**Robert J. Torres**

CHIEF JUSTICE

**Appointed**

2004

**Education**

University of Notre Dame

Harvard Law School



**F. Philip Carbullido**

JUSTICE

**Appointed**

2000

**Education**

University of Oregon

Univeristy of California, Davis



**Katherine A. Maraman**

JUSTICE

**Appointed**

2008

**Education**

Colorado College

University of New Mexico

# SUPREME COURT

**The Supreme Court of Guam** has jurisdiction to hear appeals over any case decided by the Superior Court of Guam or other courts created by Guam law. Additionally, the Supreme Court has supervisory jurisdiction over the Superior Court and all other courts created by Guam law, and it has original jurisdiction over proceedings necessary to protect its appellate jurisdiction and supervisory authority. The Supreme Court also has the authority to make and promulgate rules governing the practice and procedure in the courts of Guam.



18

Total  
Opinions

The Supreme Court’s authority extends to attorney and judicial discipline and the practice of law in Guam, including admission to practice law and the conduct and discipline of persons admitted to practice law. The Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) is comprised of the Chief Justice of Guam (chairperson), the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court (members), and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and the President of the Guam Bar Association (ex-officio members). The Supreme Court Clerk of Court serves as the ex-officio secretary-treasurer of the Board. The Board administers the Guam bar examination and manages the review of the character and fitness of all applicants for admission.

The Supreme Court saw a marked **increase in case filings in 2024, with an over 40% increase from 2023**. While the court saw a slight decrease in civil appeals, criminal appeals nearly doubled compared to each of the last five years. The court also received **a high number of writ petitions in 2024—nearly the same number as those filed in the years 2020–2023 combined**.

The Justices of the Supreme Court of Guam are:

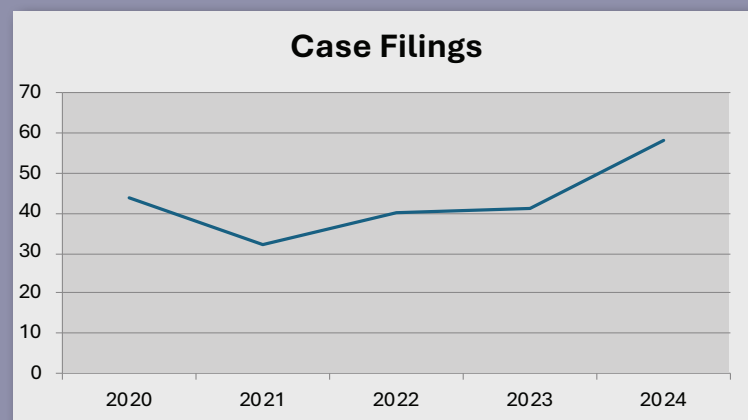
- Chief Justice Robert J. Torres
- Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido
- Associate Justice Katherine A. Maraman

CASE TYPE	ORDERS ISSUED
Administrative Order	10
CaCCV Administrative Rules	3
Appellate Procedure	0
Attorney Discipline	3
Certified Question	15
Civil Case	44
Criminal Case	78
Pro Hac Vice	1
Promulgation Order	5
Writ of Certiorari	0
Writ of Habeas Corpus	5
Writ of Mandamus	3
Writ of Prohibition	3
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>172</b>

# SUPREME COURT

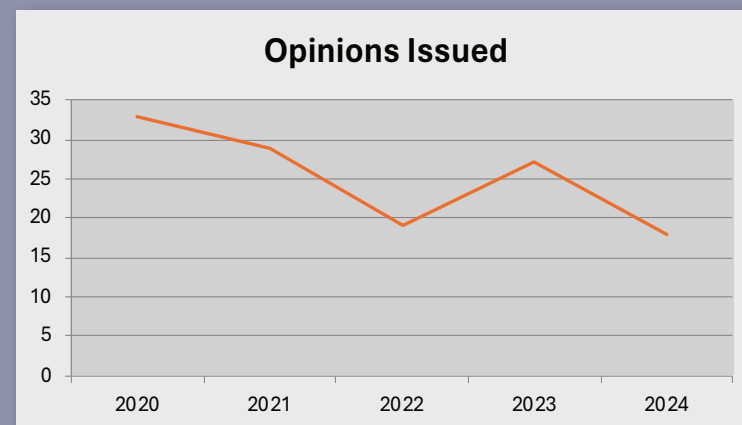
## Total Case Filings – Five-Year Trend

CASE TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appellate Procedure	0	0	0	0	0
Attorney Discipline	1	4	2	3	1
Certified Question	2	0	0	1	1
Civil Case	22	11	18	17	13
Criminal Case	12	15	13	15	27
Pro Hac Vice	0	0	0	0	1
Promulgation Order	3	1	0	2	0
Writ of Habeas Corpus	1	0	3	0	4
Writ of Mandamus	1	0	0	1	5
Writ of Prohibition	1	1	3	2	2
Writ of Certiorari	1	1	1	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>54</b>



## Total Opinions Issued – Five-Year Trend

CASE TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil	19	17	6	10	6
Criminal	12	11	13	16	9
Certified Question	0	1	0	1	1
Writ/ Other Original Jurisdiction	2	0	0	0	2
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>





# Superior Court of Guam

# Judges



**Alberto C. Lamorena III**  
PRESIDING JUDGE

**Appointed**  
1988

**Education**  
University of Illinois  
University of Texas  
Drake University



**Arthur R. Barcinas**  
JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2005

**Education**  
University of Hawaii, Manoa  
Gonzaga University School of Law



**Vernon P. Perez**  
JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2008

**Education**  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School  
of Law



**Maria T. Cenzone**  
JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2012

**Education**  
Marquette University  
Loyola University Chicago School of Law

# Superior Court of Guam

# Judges



**Elyze M. Iriarte**  
JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2016

**Education**  
University of Chicago  
University of Southern California School of Law



**Dana A. Gutierrez**  
JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2020

**Education**  
University of Southern California  
University of Southern California School of Law



**Albert E. Tolentino**  
JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2021

**Education**  
University of San Francisco  
University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law



**John C. Terlaje**  
JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2023

**Education**  
University of Guam  
Thomas Cooley Law School

Superior Court of Guam

# Judicial Officers



**Jonathan R. Quan**  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2018

**Education**  
University of Pennsylvania  
Loyola Law School



**Sean Edward Brown**  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**Appointed**  
2024

**Education**  
University of California, Riverside  
California Western School of Law



**Linda L. Ingles**  
FAMILY COURT REFEREE

**Appointed**  
2017

**Education**  
University of Guam  
Thomas Cooley Law School



**Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.**  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICER

**Appointed**  
2016

**Education**  
University of Hawaii, Manoa  
Boston College Law School

# SUPERIOR COURT

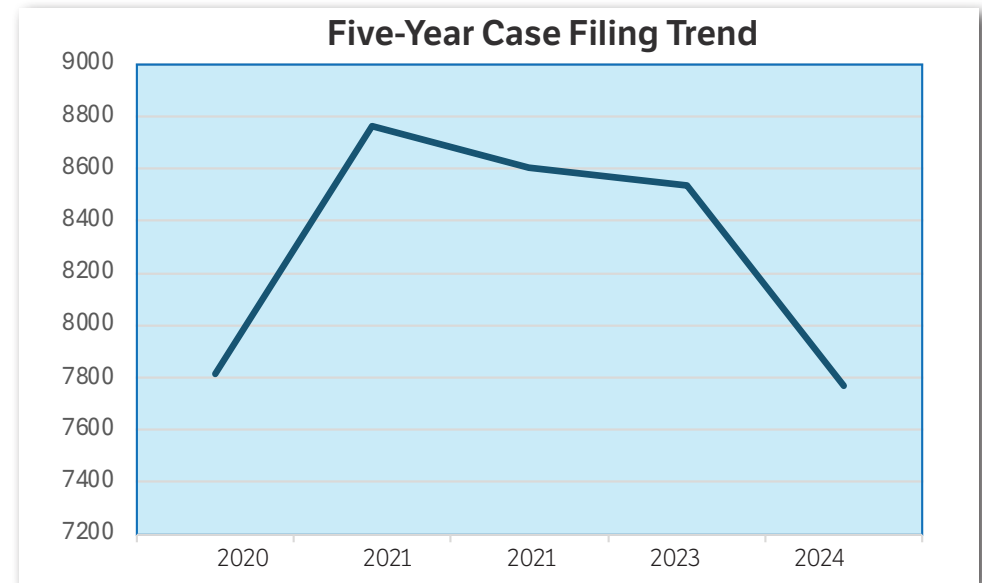
**The Superior Court of Guam** is the island’s court of general jurisdiction. It is composed of eight judges, two magistrates, a Family Court Referee, and an Administrative Hearings Officer. The eight judges preside over a variety of cases at the Hagåtña Court and the Northern Court Satellite, from felony and misdemeanor cases, juvenile matters, civil matters, divorce and custody cases, to probate

and special proceedings. The magistrates have jurisdiction over certain proceedings in criminal and civil cases, uncontested divorces, and matters heard before the Small Claims Court and Traffic Court. The Family Court Referee presides over juvenile, domestic custody, and child support matters.

The Administrative Hearings Officer presides over child support cases. Juvenile Proceedings cases include juvenile guardianship matters, truancy, status offenses, and juvenile abuse and neglect cases. Domestic cases include divorce actions, custody, paternity, and child support issues.

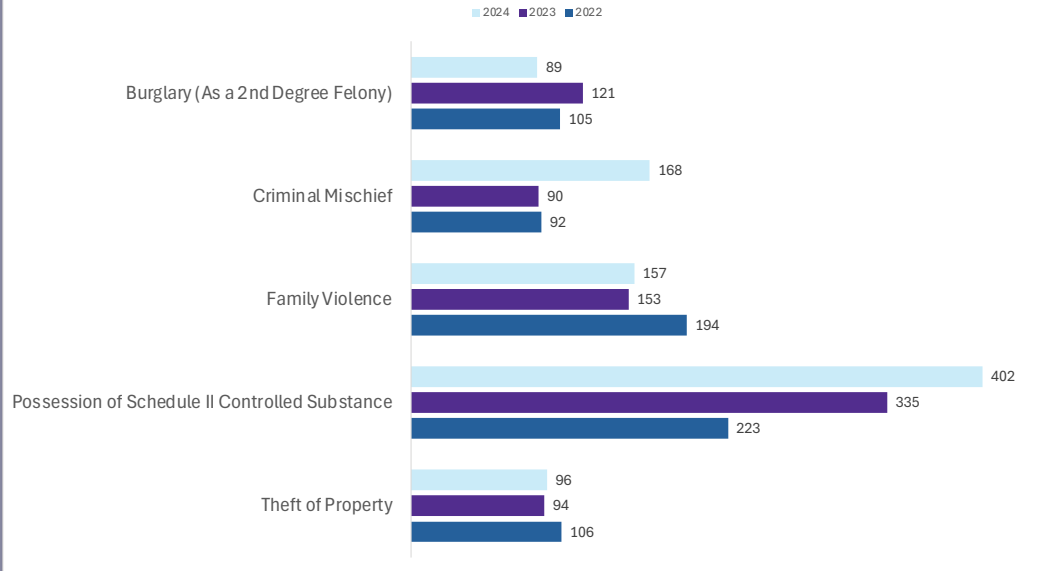
## Five-Year Comparative Cases Filed

CASE TYPE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adoption	23	30	21	24	14
Child Support	88	138	112	144	90
Civil	1,087	929	723	751	696
Criminal Felony	623	674	754	847	888
Criminal Misdemeanor	514	511	469	444	427
Domestic	458	534	459	437	449
Foreign Orders	0	2	1	2	2
Juvenile Delinquency	126	88	173	182	86
Juvenile Special Proceedings	259	305	328	310	331
Land Registration	0	4	3	4	1
Probate	168	240	239	228	214
Special Proceedings	238	210	176	163	179
Protective Orders	126	138	109	119	76
Restitution (Collections)	159	187	116	95	117
Small Claims	576	765	709	711	741
Traffic	3,369	4,008	4,214	4,073	3,456
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,814</b>	<b>8,763</b>	<b>8,606</b>	<b>8,534</b>	<b>7,767</b>

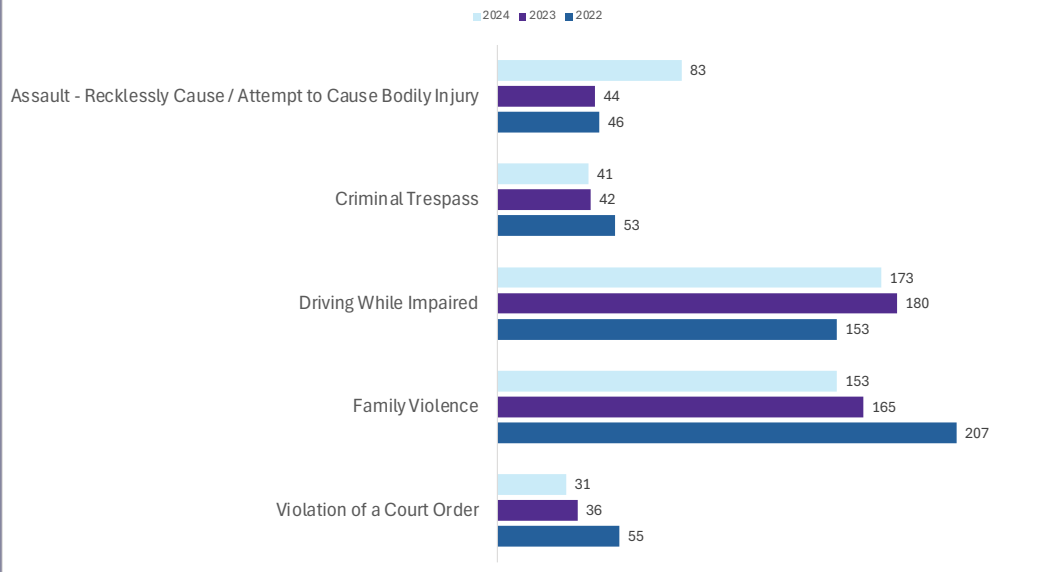


# SUPERIOR COURT

Top 5 Felony Charges - Last 3 yrs



Top 5 Misdemeanor Charges - Last 3 yrs



## Causes of Action for Civil Cases

Buyer Plaintiff	2
Tort Other	7
Landlord/Tenant Other	5
Intentional Tort	2
Foreclosure Lien	6
Petition for Judicial Review	1
Dissolution of Corporation	4
Medical Malpractice	1
Slander/Libel/Defamation	1
Eminent Domain	1
Civil Forfeiture	1
Seller Plaintiff/Debt Collection	516
Unlawful Detainer	56
Automobile Tort	17
Civil Other	22
Civil Restraining Orders	13
Quiet Title / Partition	14
Real Property Other	4
Premises Liability	12
Contract Other	7
Fraud	4



696

Civil Cases  
Filed



76

Protection  
Order  
Cases



449

Total  
Domestic  
Cases

# Treatment Courts

The Superior Court of Guam established the first Drug Court in 2002, pursuant to Guam Public Law No. 26-125. Since then, the Judiciary has expanded to eight specialty courts, which have witnessed **over 1,200 graduates, with hundreds enrolled in the programs collectively.**

## Adult Drug Court

The Adult Drug Court (ADC) provides intensive treatment and counseling services to help participants with their substance misuse disorders. Eligible participants must undergo intensive supervision, frequent random drug and alcohol testing, and agree to sanctions for failure to comply with program guidelines. The treatment court is divided into two tracks—ADC I for first-time possession offenders and ADC II for repeat offenders whose offenses were related to drug or alcohol use. In 2024, the program served 163 participants.

*Judge Alberto E. Tolentino presides over the Adult Drug Court I and III and Judge Maria T. Cenzon presides over the Adult Drug Court II.*

## Juvenile Drug Court

The Juvenile Drug Court involves juvenile cases with a drug or alcohol offense. Eligible juveniles participate in group counseling sessions, life skills workshops, and recreational therapy sessions and are subject to drug treatment services and random drug testing throughout the program. In 2024, the treatment court had 34 participants.

*Judge John C. Terlaje presides over the Juvenile Drug Court.*

## Family Violence Court

The Family Violence Court addresses all criminal felony and misdemeanor cases with a family violence charge. Because of the high-volume docket, the cases are assigned equally to two judges. Participants in the program attend individual and group counseling supervised by treatment court staff.

*Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III presides over the Family Violence Court docket.*

## Mental Health Court

The Mental Health Court strives to provide sustainable and adequate treatment for adult defendants who are mentally impaired or developmentally disabled—a segment of our population that is often misunderstood and under-serviced. The court ensures qualified individuals are appropriately screened, evaluated, and treated. Wraparound community-based treatment and services are provided to participants diagnosed with a mental illness. The program had 44 participants in 2024.

*Judge Arthur R. Barcinas presides over the Mental Health Court.*

# SUPERIOR COURT TREATMENT COURTS

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## Veterans Treatment Court

The Veterans Treatment Court assists justice-involved veterans, diverting them from incarceration into treatment, judicial monitoring, and supervision. Eligible participants receive specialized services and support through a network of service providers, including the Guam Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Guam VET Center, and the Guam Veterans Affairs Office. In 2024, 39 veterans participated in the program.

*Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III presides over the Veterans Treatment Court.*

## Driving While Impaired Treatment Court

The Driving While Impaired Treatment Court serves eligible defendants charged with Driving While Impaired and Driving Under the Influence offenses. The treatment program aims to improve the quality of life of participants by providing supervised holistic treatment to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. A total of 54 individuals were served in the treatment court in 2024.

*Judge Vernon P. Perez presides over the DWI Treatment Court.*



163

Adult Drug Court  
Participants



34

Juvenile Drug Treatment  
Court Participants



44

Mental Health Court  
Participants



39

Veteran Treatment  
Court Participants



54

DWITC  
Participants



149

GFRP  
Participants

## Guam Adult Reentry Court Program

The Guam Adult Reentry Court Program strives to provide the necessary tools and skills to individuals transitioning from incarceration or parole into the community, aiming to reduce recidivism rates and increase public safety. Twenty-four participants were served in 2024.

*Judge Elyze M. Iriarte presides over the Guam Adult Reentry Court Program.*

## Guam Family Recovery Program

The Guam Family Recovery Program aims to promote the health, safety, and welfare of children from abuse and neglect where parental substance misuse is a factor. The program seeks to strengthen families by providing collaborative, culturally respectful, and family-centered treatment and services through increased judicial oversight. In 2024, the program served 34 adult participants and 115 children.

*Family Court Referee Linda L. Ingles presides over the Guam Family Recovery Program.*

JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

# Year in Review

**January 16:** Chief Justice Robert J. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Joshua F. Tenorio re-convened the Juvenile Justice Reform Collaborative. Originally launched in 2014 under Chief Justice Torres, the Collaborative was revived to tackle new challenges following the pandemic, including the need for better data collection and sharing, statutory reform, increased probation involvement, and stronger partnerships with service providers. From the Collaborative, five subcommittees were established: Dual Status Youth, Data Collection and Sharing, Statutory and Rule Changes, Juvenile Referral Process and Detention, and Family Engagement and Community Resources.

**February 21-22:** In collaboration with the National Center for State Courts, the Judiciary of Guam held a two-day working summit to establish the court's next Strategic Plan for 2024-2027. Attendees included the Strategic Planning Team, judicial officers, court staff, and community stakeholders. Participants identified strengths and challenges and discussed strategies on how the court can improve services to best safeguard the law and public trust of the people.

**March 1-10:** As part of an initiative with the American Bar Association, the Judiciary of Guam participated in National Judicial Outreach Week. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres started off the week hosting several local high school mock trial teams at the Guam Judicial Center. The visits consisted of a question-and-answer session in the Chief Justice's chambers followed by a tour of a courtroom. Several judicial officers also volunteered to judge a number of the high school mock trials. At the end of each mock trial, judges shared words of advice and encouragement to the students in ways to improve in the mock trials, continuing their studies, and the pursuit of a legal career.



Attendees at the two-day working summit to establish the Judiciary's next Strategic Plan.



Chief Justice Robert J. Torres and the Guam High School Mock Trial Team.

# YEAR IN REVIEW



**March 18:** The Guam High School Mock Trial Championship game took off at the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom before a judging panel of Justices Katherine A. Maraman (presiding judge), F. Philip Carbullido, Judge John C. Terlaje, and guest judges Anna Mercado Clark, Esq. (President of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association) and Dominique Calhoun, Esq. (President of the National Bar Association), The Father Dueñas Memorial School prevailed as the 2024 GHSMT Champion and went on to proudly represent Guam at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Wilmington, Delaware.

**April 22-23:** On April 22, the Judicial Council of Guam and Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero, in collaboration with the U.S. District Court of Guam and the Guam Bar Association, proclaimed May 1st as Law Day and designated April 22 to May 20, 2024, as Law Month. Students from Agueda I. Johnston Middle School were also present and read the proclamation during the ceremony. On April 23, the Guam Legislature, led by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, presented the Judiciary with a Law Month Resolution. Along with Speaker Terlaje, Senators Sabina F. Perez, Amanda L. Shelton, Telo T. Taitague, Joanne M. Brown, and Frank Blas, Jr., attended the ceremony to support the courts. Both the resolutions and proclamation recognized this year's theme "Voices of Democracy," which highlights the power of the people in shaping our island's course.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

**April 29:** Every year, the Supreme Court of Guam brings the courtroom to the classroom by hosting an Outreach Oral Argument at a local high school, allowing students to witness an appellate hearing firsthand. In 2024, the Supreme Court of Guam held its outreach OA at the University of Guam (UOG) School of Business and Public Administration building on *People v. Towai*, CRA23-010. Over 100 people—comprised of students and faculty from George Washington High School and UOG plus members of the Guam Bar Association—were in attendance. After the hearing, students asked attorneys and judicial officers questions, deepening their understanding of the judicial process and constitutional principles.

**April 29-May 1:** Guam’s elementary and middle school students participated in the Judiciary’s annual fairy tale mock trials—a unique, interactive learning experience where students assume roles in a courtroom drama involving beloved storybook characters.



Above: Fairy Tale Mock Trial; Right: Former Senator Mary C. Torres and husband Chief Justice Robert J. Torres greet attendees as they depart the 2024 State of the



Above: Outreach Oral Arguments at the University of Guam with students and faculty from George Washington High School and UOG plus members of the Guam Bar Association

**May 1:** Chief Justice Robert J. Torres delivered the annual State of the Judiciary address to a session hall full of legislators, community leaders, and court staff. Emphasizing the need to “defend democracy,” the Chief Justice remarked on the recent rise of serious threats to judicial officers with attacks on U.S. judges doubling in the last three years, endangering the impartiality of the branch. To preserve the branch’s independence, Torres highlighted judicial security, sustainable funding as critical, and data-driven decision-making.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

**May 9:** Recognizing recent trends of low voter turn-out among island residents, the Judiciary of Guam held a forum entitled “Voices of Democracy: Engaging Young Voters” at the University of Guam Fine Arts auditorium. The panel encouraged young voters to understand their role in shaping policy and government, with speakers emphasizing the power of youth voices in elections and policymaking.

**May 11:** Law Month concluded with the Judiciary’s Race Judicata of the justice system and into long-term recovery. In celebration of Treatment Court Month, the Judiciary of Guam has hosted various events and activities throughout May, including the Adult Drug Court I & II Combined Graduation, Guam Adult Reentry Court Graduation, Juvenile Drug Court Softball Recreational Therapy, Guam Family Recovery Program Emergency Medical Services for Children Health Fair, and Treatment Court Month Outreach.

**May 21:** Recognizing treatment as the most successful justice intervention for people with substance abuse and mental health disorders, the Judiciary of Guam joined Acting Governor Joshua F. Tenorio to proclaim May 2024 as Treatment Court Month in Guam. The proclamation ceremony recognized and celebrated treatment courts for leading people out of the justice system and into long-term recovery. In celebration of Treatment Court Month, the Judiciary of Guam has hosted various events and activities throughout May, including the Adult Drug Court I & II Combined Graduation, Guam Adult Reentry Court Graduation, Juvenile Drug Court Softball Recreational Therapy, Guam Family Recovery Program Emergency Medical Services for Children Health Fair, and Treatment Court Month Outreach.

**June 20:** On June 20, the Judiciary proudly hosted a graduation ceremony for the Driving While Intoxicated Treatment Court. The event was a testament to the transformative power of DWITC, the collective efforts of treatment providers and community partners in supporting the graduates’ journey towards a healthier, brighter future.



Above: Chief Justice Robert Torres takes his annual carabao ride to open Race Judicata 2024.



Above: Chief Justice Robert Torres takes his annual carabao ride to open Race Judicata 2024.

# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**July 5-6:** In July, the Judiciary of Guam celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Court Reorganization Act. Enacted in July of 1974, this landmark law established the island's first Supreme and Superior Court. The celebration was an opportunity to engage the community in understanding the role of the Judiciary and its lasting impact on civic life. Residents, legal professionals, and students alike took part in events that highlighted the progress of the justice system and its continued commitment to serving the people of Guam.



Above: Legal Education Summit attendees included numerous attorneys, jurists, and civic leaders.

**Legal Education Summit:** The Judiciary hosted a premier legal education event featuring distinguished legal scholars, including U.S. Court of Appeals Judge J. Michelle Childs and Philippine Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo. The summit explored the evolution of judicial independence, the role of courts in democracy, and the importance of civic participation in shaping legal systems. Attendees included attorneys, jurists, and civic leaders, all engaging in critical discussions about law and governance.

**Hostisia Award:** (left) Chief Justice Torres presents the Hostisia Award to the family of the late Honorable Joaquin Cruz Perez.



\*\*Additional photos courtesy of the Office of the Governor

# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**Time Capsule Opening at the Guam Judicial Center:** The Judiciary unveiled a time capsule that had been sealed when the Guam Judicial Center first opened 32 years ago. Inside, artifacts captured the aspirations of a young judiciary, reminding the community how far Guam's legal system has progressed.

**Ribbon Cutting of the Guam Historic Courthouse:** The celebration continued with the grand reopening of the Guam Historic Courthouse, the first judicial building funded by Guam's civil government. The courthouse stands as a symbol of Guam's commitment to a separate and independent judicial branch. Throughout its history, the courthouse has been the backdrop of significant legal and social milestones, including landmark cases, the establishment of the Family Court, the alternative sentencing program, and the first discussions on developing Guam's Supreme Court. With its restoration, the courthouse now serves as a living monument to the rule of law, allowing the public to engage with the island's legal heritage through its museum and historical displays.

**50th Anniversary Gala:** Rounding out the celebration was the 50th Anniversary Gala held at the Dusit Thani Resort on July 6, where employees, retirees, friends, and family were honored and entertained with a night of recognition, dancing, and music. Biba Kotte!



Cutting the cake: (from left) Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, Speaker Therese Terlaje, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero, Judiciary of Guam Employees' Association President Jesse Franquez, and Administrator of the Courts Danielle Rosete.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**July 21:** The Judiciary of Guam proudly participated in the 80th Liberation Day Parade, embracing this year's theme, *Todu i Tiempo i Pås Para Hita* (Peace for Us Always). This theme encouraged island residents to honor sacrifices of prior generations by striving toward a future where peace is a constant reality. Members of the Judiciary joined the community in a heartfelt display of unity and remembrance, demonstrating their commitment to justice and tranquility in Guam.

**August 8:** The Judiciary celebrated graduates who completed the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court. The JDTC is designed to reduce substance misuse and criminal behavior and empower juveniles and families to support a positive lifestyle through strength-based intensive intervention and rehabilitation services.

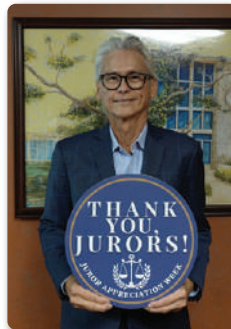


Above: Judiciary of Guam marches in the 80th Liberation Day Parade.



Above: Judge Arthur R. Barcinas congratulates Juvenile Drug Treatment Court graduates. Right (from left): Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Judge Dana A. Gutierrez and staff, and Referee Linda L. Ingles thank Guam's jurors for honoring their civic duty.

**September 9-13:** Recognizing the invaluable contributions of jurors to our justice system—lawmakers, the Governor, and Lieutenant Governor joined the Judiciary of Guam in declaring Juror Appreciation Week from September 9 to 13, 2024. The annual event honors the more than 13,000 citizens who report for jury duty each year, enabling thousands of cases to be fairly adjudicated in the local courts. A resolution was also introduced by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje of the 37th Guam Legislature and presented at the Guam Congress Building on September 9th.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

**September 17-23:** The Judiciary of Guam, together with the Office of the Governor and the Guam Legislature, held a joint proclamation and resolution presentation commemorating September 17th as Constitution Day and September 17-23 as Constitution Week. Observed annually across the United States, the occasion celebrates the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and serves as a reminder of the nation's founding principles of freedom and democracy, promotes civic engagement, and educates the public on the document's significance. As part of the festivities, the court held outreach presentations in middle and high schools throughout the week, where law clerks, research attorneys, and judicial officers educated island youth about the importance of the Constitution and the rights it guarantees.



**October 14:** The 2024 season of the Guam High School Mock Trial Competition kicked off with “Courtroom Connections.” Participants attended an acting workshop to improve their performance skills, received tips from courtroom reporters and artists, and learned the rules of the competition. The event ended with a meet-and-greet, allowing competitors and coaches from all schools to connect and relax before the trials began.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**October 21:** The Honorable Sean Edward Brown was officially sworn in as a Magistrate Judge. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres administered the oath at a ceremony attended by Brown's family, esteemed guests, and members of the Judiciary. In addition to a broad range of civil matters, magistrate judges preside over initial appearances in criminal cases, handle arraignments, order pre-trial conditions, and enter judgments.

**October 23-31:** During Red Ribbon Week, the Juvenile Probation Office, Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, and Alternative Sentencing Office conducted outreach presentations to various elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the island. The presentations focused on probation services, detailing community support, intervention strategies, and rehabilitation for drug-related offenses, promoting positive lifestyle changes. A critical component of the outreach was the 'See Something, Say Something' initiative, educating students on how to respond if approached by strangers offering drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.



Above: Judiciary of Guam employees participate in the Red Ribbon Wave.



Above: The Honorable Robert J. Torres swears in Magistrate Judge Sean Edward Brown.

**October 25:** The Judiciary celebrated Halloween by hosting its annual trunk-or-treat event at the Guam Judicial Center. Each division went all out with creative and themed displays, transforming their trunks into haunted scenes, enchanted worlds, and fun-filled adventures. Kids enjoyed trick-or-treating as staff handed out candy, creating an evening full of laughter, community spirit, and Halloween magic!



# YEAR IN REVIEW



**November 9:** Members of the Judiciary came together for the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life event. Court employees walked, ran, and stood in solidarity with cancer survivors and fighters, demonstrating the Judiciary's dedication to community involvement and support for critical health causes.

**November 16:** Recognized for his leadership in advancing appellate judicial education, Chief Justice Torres was selected to chair the Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI) Annual Summit in 2025. The AJEI Summit, organized by the National Judicial College, is the premier forum for appellate judicial education in the United States. At the 2024 summit in Boston, Massachusetts, Torres moderated a plenary session on the challenges of media scrutiny, misinformation, and the need for courts to communicate effectively with the public while maintaining transparency and impartiality. Torres' panel featured Julia Allison, founder of Reimagine Media; Justin Elliott, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist at ProPublica; Professor Noah Feldman of Harvard Law School; and Peter Shaplen, a media trainer and crisis communicator.



**November 25:** Leo S. Diaz officially assumed the role of Marshal of the Courts in a swearing-in ceremony by Chief Justice Robert J. Torres. The ceremony, attended by Diaz's family, Judiciary members, and distinguished guests.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

**November 27:** (Right) The Judiciary continued its annual tradition of hosting a Thanksgiving luncheon in the Guam Judicial Center atrium and celebrated employees who made milestone years of service achievements. The Court also hosted a canned food and snack drive throughout November, benefiting Catholic Social Services Guam and Juvenile Probation clientele.



**December 17:** (Left) The Judiciary hosted an orientation for incoming legislators to strengthen communication with our sister branch. Newly elected senators and legislative leadership received an overview of the courts' role, the latest updates from the Criminal Law and Procedure Review Commission, and insights into the criminal pretrial process from our magistrates. The Court also discussed the Judiciary's budget, policy priorities, and opportunities for future collaboration.

**December 20:** The Judiciary hosted its final Juvenile Justice Reform general meeting. The five subcommittees, in their final report, presented key findings and recommendations, outlined actionable objectives and timelines, and discussed long-term initiatives to the Chief Justice, Lt. Governor, and the AOC. A complete report with all recommendations is published on the Judiciary's website.

**December 23:** (Right) Every year, the Judiciary comes together for a meaningful cause—hosting a Christmas gift basket drive for the wards served by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). Essential items, such as toiletries, lunch bags, water bottles, socks, towels, and blankets, were distributed among the sixty-eight wards under the care of the OPG.



# Judicial Administration

## **Administrative Office of the Courts**

The Administrative Office of the Courts has the primary responsibility of ensuring the efficient and effective operations of the Judiciary of Guam. The Office oversees the following five divisions of the Judiciary: Court Administrative Services, Client Services, Probation Services, Marshal Services, and Courts and Ministerial.

The Administrator of the Courts (AOC) serves as the Judiciary's chief executive officer responsible for the management and direction of all operations and personnel under the organizational structure of the Unified Judiciary of Guam. Under direction from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the AOC provides leadership, planning, direction and supervision of court operations. The AOC is a liaison to advisory working groups and committees of justices, judges, and administrators that provide recommendations and advice for policy-making, business practice change, and service delivery. The AOC also oversees the Deputy Administrator of the Courts, the Director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations, the Public Information Officer, and staff attorneys.

*Danielle T. Rosete • Administrator of the Courts*

# JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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## **Court Administrative Services**

### **Court Programs**

*Mary Grace L. Rosadino • Court Programs Administrator*

The mission of the Court Programs Office is to provide grant management, program management, and coordination expertise in support of Judiciary of Guam services for the community. This includes identifying alternate funding sources such as grant programs, developing grant proposals, administering federal direct grants and local subgrants, and coordinating activities in varying areas. The Court Programs Office ensures compliance with federal and local mandates, rules, and regulations which govern the management of grants, cooperative agreements, or other funds awarded to the Judiciary of Guam. The Court Programs Office also liaises with various local and federal agencies to coordinate projects and oversees the development and submission of grant mandated reports.

### **Financial Management Division**

*Ma. Dianne Gudmalin • Finance Administrator*

The Financial Management Division (FMD) is responsible for effectively managing the Judiciary's financial resources and obligations. FMD oversees the financial activities of the various funds under the Judiciary's purview, including the Operational Fund, and a number of fiduciary funds such as Trust, Traffic Court, Guardianship, Land Condemnation, Jury, Judicial Client Service, Safe Streets Act, and the Judicial Building Fund.

### **Human Resources Office**

*Barbara Jean T. Perez • Human Resources Administrator*

Human Resources' primary purpose is to retain and motivate a workforce that is competent, highly skilled, and professional; create work opportunities to attract prospective employees that will have a valuable impact and align with the current workforce; and promote a work culture rooted in core values such as professionalism, integrity, and excellence within the courts. The tenets of inclusion and diversity, professional growth, and employee health and wellbeing are prioritized to maximize organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

### **Judicial Education Center**

*Dawn R.S. Blas • Judicial Educator*

The Judicial Educator is responsible for researching, developing, implementing, and managing an interrelated system of educational and training opportunities designed to meet the professional needs of its judicial employees. In collaboration with the Human Resources team, the Judicial Educator works to administer these opportunities to employees throughout the year.

### **Management Information Systems**

*Robert S. Rabago • MIS Administrator*

The Management Information Systems (MIS) oversees the Judiciary's computer network and information systems at the Guam Judicial Center, Guam Historic Courthouse, San Ramon Building, Route 4 Building, Sinajana Warehouse, Northern Court Satellite, and the Office of the Compiler of Laws. The MIS division stewards the enhancement of technology applications, infrastructure, and modern, agile, mobile, and data-driven court services.

# JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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## **Procurement & Facilities Management**

*Carl V. Dominguez • Procurement & Facilities Management Administrator*

The Procurement and Facilities Management (PFM) Division has two primary responsibilities in supporting Judiciary operations. PFM has a procurement staff that administers the purchases and contracts for supplies, services, construction professional consulting services, including architectural and engineering services and group health insurance for Judiciary employees. The division is also responsible for maintenance of all Judiciary facilities and grounds. Procurement also manages capital improvement projects, including those associated with the Judicial Building Fund and negotiates and manages contracts with services provided by vendors.

## **Client Services and Family Counseling**

*Melissa N. Casil • Client Services & Family Counseling Administrator*

The Client Services and Family Counseling (CSFC) Division's mission is to provide clinical services to support the judicial process. CSFC's role is to evaluate all court-ordered defendants and their families and to make recommendations to the judicial officers regarding behavioral health care, needs, and additional support. In addition, CSFC provides court-involved individuals and their families with various therapeutic, psychological, consultative, and educational services. Therapists work collaboratively with each other, probation, and other agencies to provide the highest quality of care to ensure individualized, holistic, and integrated services. CSFC is committed to the importance of therapeutic outcomes for its clients and will continue to be proactive, responsive, and creative in ensuring that CSFC programs meet the

needs of those served. CSFC continues to work on developing and promoting a uniform spectrum of services, case management practices, and decision-making tools to respond effectively to the needs of individuals, families and children. In addition, continuing professional education and maintaining professional ethics and standards are vital to maintaining quality services.

## **Probation Services**

*Rosanna Villagomez-Aguon • Chief Probation Officer*

The Probation Services Division's mission is to reduce the incidence and impact of criminal behavior of justice-involved juveniles and adults by using evidence-based practices and treatment strategies that change criminal thinking, produce positive outcomes, and ultimately increase community safety. The Division is responsible for managing and monitoring court orders for justice-involved juveniles and adults placed on supervised release, both pre and post adjudicated, deferred, or regular probation placed by the Honorable Courts in lieu of detention or incarceration, as mandated by Title 7, Guam Code Annotated, Section 8110. The Judiciary of Guam is also the central repository for all Sex Offender registration, pursuant to Title 9, Guam Code Annotated, Section 89.09, which is administratively maintained by the Probation Services Division.

# JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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## Marshal Services

*Leo S. Diaz • Marshal of the Court (November 2024 to present)*

*Troy M. Pangelinan • Marshal of the Court (2018-2024)*

The Marshal Services Division is responsible for safeguarding the safety and security of the judicial branch—from judicial officers and employees to attorneys, witnesses, and jurors to court patrons who need court services. The division also oversees and manages the security and safety of the judicial branch’s physical facilities in Hagåtña and Dededo. In Hagåtña, the facilities include: the Guam Judicial Center, which houses the Supreme Court, Superior Court, the Office of the Administrator of the Courts, the Clerk’s and Ministerial Division, Client Services and Family Counseling Division, and other administrative offices; the Historic Courthouse; the Judicial Education Center in the Guam Law Library Building; the San Ramon Building that houses administrative offices; and the Route 4 building, which is currently used for the Probation Services Division and Office of the Public Guardian. The division is also responsible for the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, and Erica’s House Family Visitation Center. In addition, the statutory mandate of the Marshals Services Division includes providing security for all court hearings; serving process, writs and orders; executing warrants; and performing other duties as provided by law, rule, or Judicial Council resolution.

## Courts and Ministerial

*Janice M. Camacho-Perez • Clerk of Superior Court*

The Superior Court of Guam’s Courts and Ministerial Division (C&M) employs more than ninety personnel in clerical, court reporter, and foreign language interpreter services. Led by the Clerk of Court, C&M staff are responsible for the processing of all Superior Court filings

and the management of case records and provides support to twelve judicial officers, including Superior Court Judges, two Magistrates, an Administrative Hearings Officer, and a Referee.

## Supreme Court

Supreme Court

*Hannah G. Arroyo • Clerk of Supreme Court*

The Supreme Court of Guam has jurisdiction to hear appeals over any cause decided by the Superior Court of Guam or other courts created by Guam law. Additionally, the Supreme Court has supervisory jurisdiction over the Superior Court and all other courts created by Guam law, and it has original jurisdiction over proceedings necessary to protect its appellate jurisdiction and supervisory authority. The Supreme Court also has the authority to make and promulgate rules governing the practice and procedure in the courts of Guam.

Compiler of Laws

*Geraldine A. Cepeda • Compiler of Laws*

The Office of the Compiler of Laws is responsible for publishing primary sources of Guam law, including the statutory code (Guam Code Annotated or GCA), government regulations (Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations or GAR), Supreme Court of Guam Opinions, Superior Court of Guam Decisions and Orders. These resources are published online through the Compiler of Laws website and can be accessed free of charge. The Compiler’s Office website also provides access to other legal resources, including Executive Orders, Session Laws of the Guam Legislature, and Attorney General Opinions.

# JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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## Office of the Public Guardian

*Andrew T. Perez • Public Guardian (2024-Present)*

*Marcelene C. Santos • Public Guardian (2009-2024)*

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) was created by statute and established in 2001. The basic statutory duties of OPG are:

- To serve as the Guardian for elderly and disabled adults who are not able to understand or adequately participate in decisions concerning their care, and have no relatives or friends willing and able to act as guardian.
- To assist the Court, as the Court may request or direct, in guardianship matters.
- To advise and assist guardians.
- To offer guidance and counsel, without court appointment as guardian, to those persons who request such assistance or to those on whose behalf it is requested for the purpose of encouraging maximum self-reliance and independence.
- To develop outreach about guardianships and related matters in the community.

## Office of Regulation Counsel

*Alicia A. G. Limtiaco • Regulation Counsel*

The Office of Regulation Counsel is a component of the Comprehensive Lawyer Regulatory System, established by the Guam Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement and Disability Proceedings adopted in 2021. These rules created the Commission on Lawyer Regulation, Office of Regulation Counsel, Investigative Committee, and Hearing Panel, which govern matters formerly handled by the Guam Bar Ethics Committee and Office of the Ethics Prosecutor. The duties of Regulation Counsel include, but are not limited to:

- Receiving information and complaints regarding the conduct of lawyers over whom the court has jurisdiction;
- Evaluating all information to determine whether it concerns a lawyer subject to the jurisdiction of the court;
- Determining whether the facts stated in a complaint or other information regarding the conduct of a lawyer provide grounds for further action under these rules;
- Investigating and prosecuting complaints as authorized by the Investigative Committee and the Hearing Panel;
- Coordinating and communicating with other jurisdictions in which a lawyer is admitted regarding discipline and disability matters; and
- Collaborating with the Commission on Lawyer Regulation on training programs and materials and conducting public awareness and education efforts regarding the Comprehensive Lawyer Regulatory System.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Improving Court Operations and Services

### **Investing in Treatment**

Treatment courts are fundamental to our work and remain the most successful justice intervention for people with substance use and mental health disorders. Rather than continuing the revolving door of addiction and related crime, these courts break the cycle by holding individuals accountable while connecting them with the treatment and support needed to change their lives. On average, the courts save taxpayers \$6,000 for every individual they serve.

Under the guidance of Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, the first Drug Court in Guam was established in 2002 and has expanded to include adult, family, and juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans treatment courts. Since then, the courts have graduated over a thousand adults and juveniles, with hundreds enrolled in its programs.

In the last year alone, the Judiciary served 392 individuals across our treatment courts—representing an 8% increase when compared to the year before. The Guam Family Recovery Program has also served 115 children, aiming to safely reunite them with their parents. These outcomes demonstrate the critical impact of our courts on individuals and families. With continued support and funding, we can expand these life-changing programs, providing hope, recovery, and a brighter future for many more in our community.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Enhancing Our Facilities

In our ongoing commitment to enhancing access to justice, the Judiciary of Guam has undertaken significant renovations and expansions in services this past year. The renovation of the Guam Historic Courthouse was completed in the summer of 2024. This extensive project allowed our Probation personnel to return to an upgraded building, and has significantly improved their work environment. Furthermore, it has freed up additional space in the Guam Judicial Center and the Route 4 Building, paving the way for further enhancements that boost employee productivity and service delivery.



Above: (from left) Senator Jesse Lujan, Senator Roy Quinata, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena, III, Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio, Speaker Therese Terlaje, and Justice F. Philip Carbullido at the Guam Historic Courthouse ribbon cutting ceremony in July.



Above: Newly installed service counters at Financial Management.

We also redesigned and modernized service counters at the Guam Judicial Center. The new Courts & Ministerial and Finance counters are not only more visually appealing but also more accessible and user-friendly, making our services more approachable for both the public and our staff.

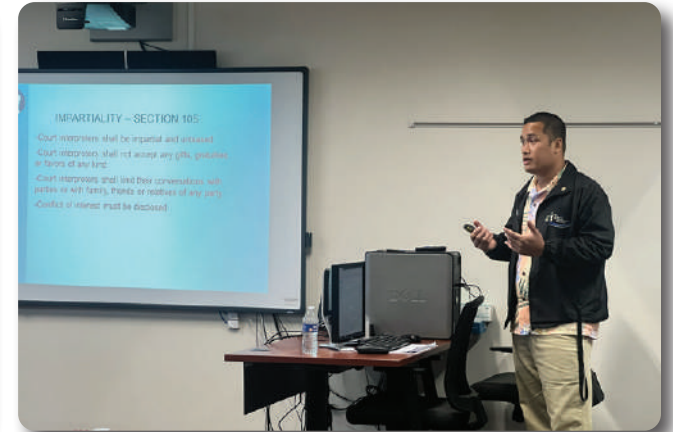
# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Language Access

Expanding language access is another cornerstone of our efforts to ensure justice for all. Our Court Interpreter Registry Program (CIRP) plays a vital role in bridging communication gaps for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH). These professionals assist in a variety of settings, from attorney consultations to probation interviews, ensuring that language barriers do not hinder justice.

Currently, the Judiciary offers interpreter services in 14 different languages, including American Sign Language. In the last year, our Court Interpreter Resource Program (CIRP) supported 4,907 court hearings and 1,427 non-courtroom activities, such as meetings with attorneys, probation officers, counselors, and classes.

The CIRP also administers a Chuukese Directed Work Class for the Probation Services Division's Alternate Sentencing Office. Through these initiatives, the Judiciary of Guam continues to strive towards a more accessible and inclusive justice system, ensuring that all community members can engage with and benefit from our services effectively.



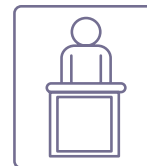
14

Languages



67

Registered Interpreters



4,907

Court Hearings



1,427

Non-courtroom Activities

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Case-Related Financial Services

The Judiciary's Financial Management Division continues to manage financial transactions essential to court operations and the community's needs.



17,400

traffic clearances processed



15,300

court clearances processed



15,000

transactions for collected fines, fees, and restitution payments



8,800

check payments distributed to over 3,000 jurors



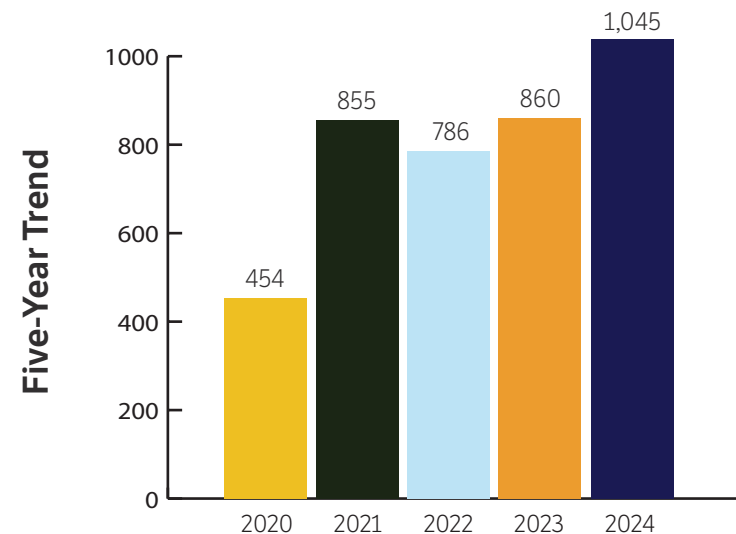
840

cases provided indigent defense services

## Client Services and Family Counseling

In 2024, the Judiciary of Guam collaborated with the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) through an interagency agreement with our Client Services and Family Counseling (CSFC) division. This partnership enables CSFC to screen for individuals who are considered low-risk and have minimal needs, ensuring they receive the appropriate educational and therapeutic support. By allowing CSFC to handle these cases directly, the agreement helps lighten the load on GBHWC, enabling them to focus resources on individuals requiring more intensive care.

Walk-in intakes and assessments at CSFC saw an increase of 20% over the past year. While CSFC therapists are available to meet and evaluate individuals following their court appearances, students from the University of Guam's Psychology Master of Arts/Master of Science in Clinical Psychology program have been instrumental in supporting our therapists. This hands-on experience helps them hone their skills while the Court provides services to those in need.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Increasing Public Trust and Confidence

### Access to the Courtroom

The Judiciary is constantly striving to bring the courts to the people.

One of our most impactful ways is through virtual and hybrid hearings. Through Video Conferencing Technology (VCT) grant funds, we upgraded our visual and sound systems, internet bandwidth, courtroom audio and video equipment, and virtual platform subscriptions. Remote hearings have made the Judiciary more accessible to court users—eliminating the need to drive to the courthouse, secure childcare, or even take time off work. This convenience is especially beneficial for those with mobility issues, living in remote areas, or where litigant safety is a concern.

The Judiciary also continues to provide public access to the courts while ensuring the right of any party to a fair judicial proceeding. To this end, the Court permits electronic coverage of judicial proceedings to credentialed media, keeping the public informed while ensuring courtroom decorum. In the last year alone, we processed over 160 electronic coverage requests for our media partners.



107

Media Questions



28

Public Records  
Requests



112

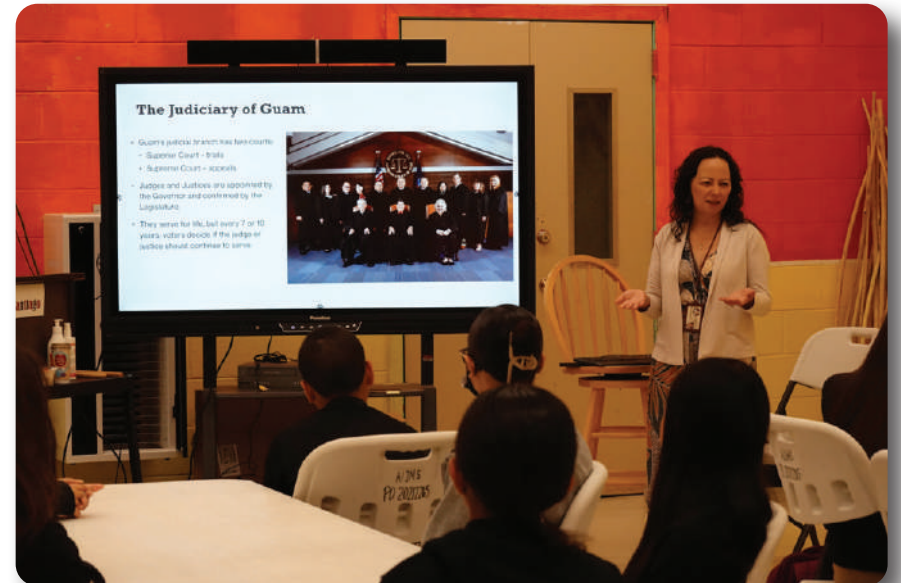
Electronic Coverage  
Requests

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Educating the Community

Almost every week, Judiciary employees are presenting at a career day, conducting a school tour, or hosting aspiring attorneys. Our Law Month, Treatment Court, and Mental Health Awareness month activities provide even more opportunities for public outreach. These efforts plant seeds of interest in the next generation of leaders by providing a greater understanding of and participation in our democracy—inspiring greater trust and confidence in our court system.

Additionally, the Judiciary regularly coordinates court tours for schools or visiting groups, giving the community firsthand experience of the judicial process. By providing access to the courtroom, we continue to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the justice system, regardless of their circumstances.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are required for all defendants within the Judiciary of Guam. Currently, our Probation Services Division Pretrial Office utilizes the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) which provides risk assessment instruments at pretrial, community supervision, prison intake, and community reentry.

- **ORAS – Pretrial Assessment Tool (PAT):** predicts both a defendant’s likelihood of failure to appear and the risk of committing new offenses during pretrial probation. Assessment using this tool is done at time of arrest/jail. It aids in bail, release, and supervision decisions.
- **ORAS – Community Supervision Screening Tool (CSST):** accompanies the full community supervision tool (ORAS-CST) and is to be used with offenders in the community. This can include those on probation or parole. Assessment using this tool is conducted at time of disposition.
- **ORAS –Community Supervision Tool (CST):** predicts an offender’s likelihood of recidivism in the community. This can include those on probation or parole. The ORAS-CST aids in the disposition and decisions/case management. Assessment is conducted at time of disposition.
- **ORAS –Reentry Tool or Supplemental Reentry Tool:** assesses offenders who have been in prison four years or longer and are returning to the community. It aids in release decisions, especially regarding types of release, such as intensive supervision. It also assists in developing a case plan by assessing the risk level for recidivism, identifying the needs to be targeted that are related to risk and how to respond while responding to barriers that may impact the offender.

## Lethality Assessment

In 2024, the Judiciary included a new lethality assessment, the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), to its repertoire of tools to assess the likelihood of repeat offenses by offenders with a history of assault against intimate partners. This initiative, led by Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III and Judge Maria T. Cenzone, aims to enhance offender risk management and victim safety. The Judiciary hosted a facilitator training in March, which was attended by Judiciary probation officers and Guam Police Department officers from the Central Precinct and the Domestic Assault Response Team (DART).



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

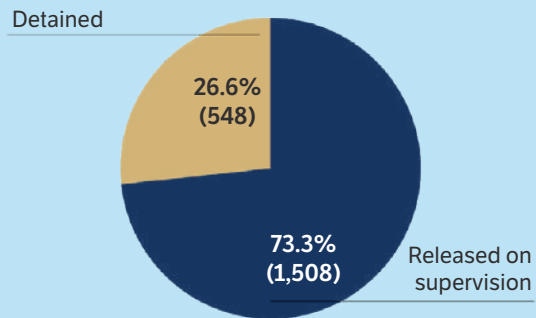
## Publicizing Performance Measures

In 2023, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres tasked the Office with tracking the performance and effectiveness of our pretrial justice system. The Judiciary of Guam now publishes these performance snapshots on a quarterly basis. The reports continue to demonstrate that a majority of people in the system are abiding by the law.

### Pretrial Release Rate

This measure reflects the percentage of individuals in the pretrial population who are released or remain in the community while awaiting the resolution of their cases.

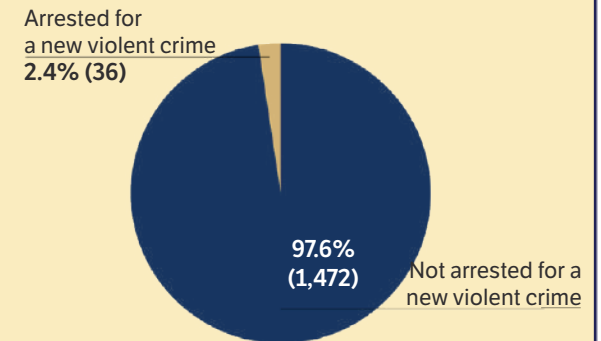
Of the 2,056 defendants awaiting case disposition:



### Public Safety Rate

This measure shows the percentage of individuals on pretrial release who were not arrested for a new jailable offense while on pretrial release.

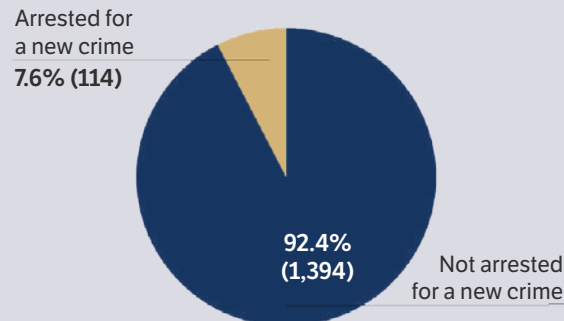
Of the 1,508 defendants on pretrial release:



### Arrest-Free Rate

This measure shows the percentage of individuals who were not arrested for a new jailable offense.

Of the 1,508 defendants on pretrial release:



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Embracing and Enhancing Technology

Most of our services—including traffic citations, court clearances, fines, and fees—can be resolved online. We’ve installed cameras and speakers in all of our courtrooms, and we livestream the Supreme Court of Guam’s hearings. In 2024, the Judiciary of Guam made significant progress in using technology to make our courts work better and more efficiently.

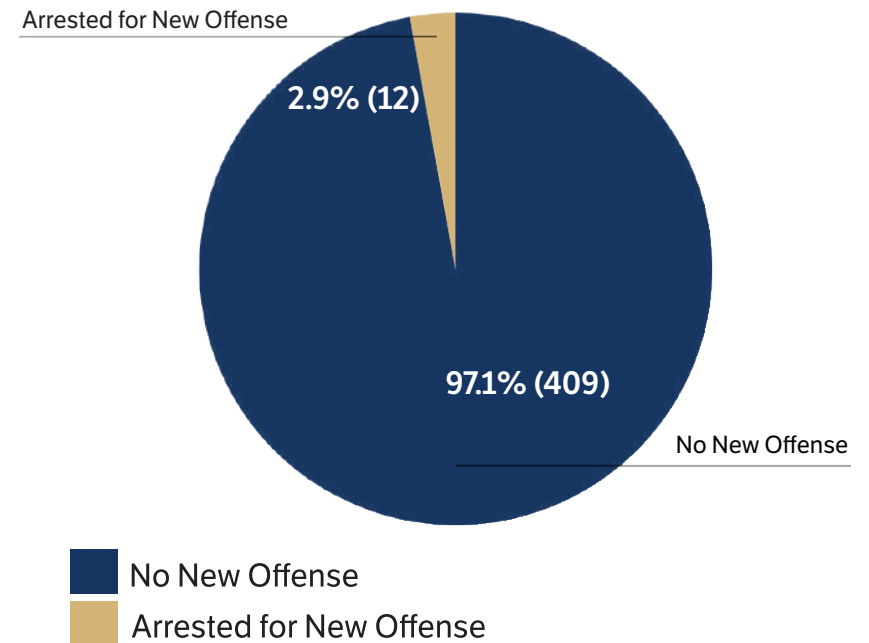
### Expanding Electronic Monitoring

The Judiciary is also leveraging technology to better promote public safety in the community. The goal of our Electronic Monitoring program has always been to reduce recidivism and community risk. Officers in the EM Unit are tasked with supervising and monitoring defendants 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. These officers must be on standby to respond to any alerts triggered by a client’s non-compliance. They are also required to immediately search for, apprehend, and detain defendants who violate terms such as house arrest, curfews, and stay-away orders from designated exclusion zones, or when there is a low battery alert from failure to charge monitoring anklets.

The Judiciary expanded its EM program to include post-conviction and treatment court cases as a sanction prior to revocation. EM has also been used as an alternate placement of defendants whose cases are on appeal with the Supreme Court of Guam.

This initiative not only saves money but also reduces recidivism. Based on the cost of incarceration compared with the cost of running the program, **EM saves the Department of Corrections over \$3 million**. Since its inception in 2019, there have been only eight incidents where an EM participant was arrested and charged with a new offense, representing just 2% of our total EM population.

### Electronic Monitoring Participants



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## Wellness Driven Workforce

The Judiciary continues to emphasize the importance of having qualified judicial officers and staff to ensure the efficient and consistent administration of justice. To achieve our goal of being a high-functioning court, the branch remains committed to recruiting competent employees, providing them with essential education and training, and offering services and programs that recognize and promote their advancement.

### Training

- **POST Certification:** In addition to our focus on court operations, the branch continues to fulfill the Peace Officer Standard Training (POST) certification requirements for our law enforcement personnel. This includes coordinating essential training, such as first aid, CPR, and AED training, in collaboration with the Guam Fire Department.
- **Ethics:** Under Guam Law (4 GCA § 15409(c)), all Government of Guam employees must participate in an ethics program within their first six months of employment, with a refresher course every four years. We are proud to report that the Judiciary continues to be 100% compliant with the law.
- **Guardianship:** the Court also offer guardianship training to ensure that guardians are well-prepared to care for their wards. This training involves completing a self-paced training module, examining relevant resources, and achieving a satisfactory score on the assessment. In the past year, 35 guardians have successfully completed this training.

### Employee Programs

Our employee programs are designed to be diverse and impactful:

- **Leadership Development Academy:** The LDA provides our employees with advanced training and tools to become effective leaders and further expands our ability to succession plan in all areas of court management.
- **Employee Recognition Program:** Our ERP promotes teamwork and a healthy workforce through sports activities like softball, volleyball, bowling, and pickleball.
- **Employee Assistance Program:** Established in January 18, 2019, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a voluntary, work-based program that helps employees navigate various life challenges by providing cost-free and confidential referral service to employees who have personal and/or work-related problems that may affect attendance, work performance, and/or conduct. The program is a product of the Judiciary of Guam's commitment to providing a productive working environment for all its employees, volunteers, and interns.

# DIRECTORY

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## SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

### Chambers of

Chief Justice Justice Robert J. Torres..... (671) 475-3300  
Associate Justice F. Philip Carbullido ..... (671) 475-3413  
Associate Justice Katherine A. Maraman..... (671) 475-3589

Clerk of Court ..... (671) 475-3120/3162  
Staff Attorney ..... (671) 475-3395  
Supreme Court Security Section..... (671) 475-3119  
Facsimile..... (671) 475-3140  
Court eMail ..... justice@guamcourts.gov

## GUAM BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS (BOLE)

C/O Supreme Court ..... (671) 475-3180  
Facsimile..... (671) 475-3181  
eMail ..... bole@guamcourts.gov

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN

Main ..... (671) 475-3173  
Facsimile..... (671) 472-0381  
eMail ..... publicguardian@guamcourts.gov

## GUAM LAW LIBRARY

Compiler of Laws ..... (671) 477-7623  
Facsimile..... (671) 472-1246  
eMail ..... guamcompiler@gmail.com

## OFFICE OF REGULATION COUNSEL

Main ..... (671) 475-3167  
eMail ..... regulationcounsel@guamcourts.gov

## SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM

### Chambers of

Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III ..... (671) 475-3410  
Judge Arthur R. Barcinas ..... (671) 475-3502  
Judge Vernon P. Perez ..... (671) 475-3223  
Judge Maria T. Cenzone ..... (671) 475-3346  
Judge Elyze M. Iriarte..... (671) 475-3336  
Judge Dana A. Guetierrez..... (671) 475-3384  
Judge John C. Terlaje ..... (671) 475-7020  
Judge Alberto E. Tolentino ..... (671) 475-3323  
Magistrate Judge Jonathan R. Quan ..... (671) 475-3142  
Magistrate Judge Sean E. Brown..... (671) 635-2519  
Family Court Referee Linda L. Ingles ..... (671) 475-3183

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Administrator of the Courts ..... (671) 475-3544  
Director of Policy Planning and Community Relations ..... (671) 475-3186  
Court Programs ..... (671) 300-3202  
Judicial Educator..... (671) 475-3191  
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office ..... (671) 475-3374  
Employee Assistance Program & ADA Coordinator ..... (671) 300-7993  
eMail ..... ada@guamcourts.gov



# DIRECTORY

## NORTHERN COURT SATELLITE

Main/Traffic/Small Claims..... (671) 635-2510/2512  
eMail ..... traffic@guamcourts.org  
MCC..... (671) 635-2513  
Child Support .....(671) 635-2501/2502  
Facsimile..... (671) 635-0067

## HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

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TDD..... (671) 477-6953/3239  
Facsimile..... (671) 475-8520

## JUDICIAL HEARING DIVISION

Child Support Office ..... (671) 475-3142/3494  
Facsimile..... (671) 477-5023

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Deputy Marshal of the Courts ..... (671) 475-3315  
Automation Section ..... (671) 475-3545  
Criminal Section..... (671) 475-3487  
Civil/Small Claims Section..... (671) 475-3513  
Traffic Section.....(671) 475-3445  
Child Support Section .....(671) 475-3508  
Security Section .....(671) 475-3161  
Post 1 ..... (671) 475-3576

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Pre-Trial .....(671) 475-3466/3318  
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Adult Probation Services ..... (671) 475-3375  
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Adult Drug Unit ..... (671) 475-3461  
Facsimile..... (671) 477-4944  
TDD..... (671) 477-8627

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Facsimile.....(671) 472-5450  
TDD..... (671) 477-8043

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Clerk of Court ..... (671) 300-7993  
Traffic Violations Bureau ..... (671) 475-3121/3274  
eMail ..... traffic@guamcourts.org  
Small Claims ..... (671) 475-3326  
Jury Commissioner .....(671) 475-3440  
Records .....(671) 475-3449/3370  
eMail ..... scog.records@guamcourts.org  
Court Interpreter Registry Program..... (671) 475-3299  
Facsimile..... (671) 472-0078

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Accounts Payable ..... (671) 475-3197  
Payroll ..... (671) 472-3214



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