



Judiciary of Guam

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 1, 2026

State of the Judiciary 2026: Chief Justice Maraman Highlights STRENGTH, INNOVATION, AND A SYSTEM READY FOR TODAY'S CHALLENGES

(Hagåtña, Guam) — Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman delivered the State of the Judiciary address this morning and declared the Judiciary of Guam **“resilient, accountable, and ready to face the challenges of our time.”** Speaking before lawmakers, government leaders, and court staff, she emphasized that the courts remain both a stabilizing force in democracy and an institution adapting quickly to the needs of a changing community.

The Chief Justice described the current moment as one **“where tradition meets necessity,”** noting the rapid changes that continue to shape the justice system. Despite these shifts, she reminded the audience that the Judiciary of Guam remain **“a steadfast pillar of democracy — a check on power, a protector of rights, and a forum where disputes are resolved fairly and peacefully.”**

She stated that the Judiciary’s mission remains unchanged: to provide justice that is equal, impartial, and timely. But fulfilling that mission requires strengthening systems, improving access, and ensuring safety across all court operations. **“The work we do is indispensable,”** she said, **“yet it is undertaken on a landscape that is rapidly changing – a landscape of new social crises, new threats, new challenges, but also new opportunity.”**

A major focus of this year’s address was access — not just access to the courthouse itself, but access to information, assistance, and understanding. **“Ensuring that everyone – regardless of financial means and personal resources – can come before our courts and receive a fair resolution of disputes remains our enduring priority. Making good on that promise is the cornerstone of ensuring public confidence.”**

Chief Justice Maraman highlighted several major initiatives designed to make the court system easier to navigate:

- The recent launch of eCourt and eSupervision streamlines case management and supervision processes, reducing delays and improving efficiency.
- A newly redesigned court website, created to be simpler, clearer, and more intuitive.
- The launch of the Court Navigator Program, providing in-person support for people without attorneys, helping them understand procedures and find the services they need.
- The expansion of the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, which will soon house probation services and group counseling programs to bring essential support closer to where people live.

Chief Justice Maraman reaffirmed the Judiciary’s strong commitment to treatment courts, which combine accountability with support and rehabilitation. She highlighted recent progress in the Mental Health Court, including Guam’s participation in the national Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, which is training a group of crisis intervention coordinators. The Supreme Court has also adopted new Mental Health Court Rules

to give clearer guidance to judges, attorneys, and participants.

The Chief Justice also spoke about rising security threats to courts nationwide and locally. ***“A courthouse must be simultaneously open and secure. And judicial independence must never be undermined by threats against judicial officers... In the same breath, we must address threats that are invisible but no less pernicious – cyber threats.”***

Chief Justice Maraman also stressed that the Judiciary cannot achieve meaningful progress alone. She highlighted the essential role of partnerships across Guam’s justice and social-support systems. ***“None of these initiatives will succeed without collaboration. And no court operates in isolation. We depend on a delicate ecosystem of government agencies, non-profit organizations, defense and prosecution, law enforcement, corrections, mental health providers, and most of all, the public we serve.”***

She closed her remarks by returning to the principles that guide the Judiciary’s work, offering a clear reminder that justice serves as a mirror of the community’s values. ***“The justice system is not an abstract institution but a reflection of our values—fairness, accountability, and respect for human dignity.”***

Watch and Read:

[State of the Judiciary Video](#)

[State of the Judiciary Written Remarks](#)

[2025 Annual Report of the Judiciary of Guam](#)

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