



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, October 16, 2025 Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom Guam Judicial Center

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Hon. Robert J. Torres
Chairman

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman
Member

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido
Member

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III.
Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzone
Member

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Advisory Committee Members:

Hon. Arthur R. Barcinas

Hon. Vernon P. Perez

Hon. Elyze M. Iriarte

Hon. Dana A. Gutierrez

Hon. Alberto E. Tolentino

Hon. John C. Terlaje

Atty. Jacqueline T. Terlaje

Atty. Dean A. Manglona

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Administrator of the Courts:
Danielle T. Rosete

Judicial Council Secretary:
Jessica J. Perez-Jackson

Judicial Council Asst. Secretary:
Petrina M. Ula

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Judicial Council was called to order by the Chairman, Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, at the hour of 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chief Justice Robert J. Torres (via Zoom)
Justice F. Philip Carbullido
Justice Katherine A. Maraman
Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III
Judge Maria T. Cenzone

Also present via Zoom:

Hon. Linda L. Ingles, Family Court Referee
Mr. Dean Manglona, Guam Bar Association
Ms. Hannah Gutierrez Arroyo, Clerk of the Court, Supreme Court
Ms. Valerie Tenorio, Chief Deputy Clerk
Mr. Mardave Toledo, Deputy Administrator, Financial Affairs
Ms. Alicia Limtiaco, Office of Regulation Counsel
Ms. Jacqueline Taitano Terlaje, Guam Bar President
Ms. Joanna G. Naputi, Office of the Public Guardian
Ms. Anniea Sofia Z. Saturno, Office of the Public Guardian
Ms. Salome Vuki, Office of the Public Guardian

Present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

Judge Elyze M. Iriarte
Judge John C. Terlaje
Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Dianne Gudmalin, Finance Administrator
Ms. Barbara Jean Perez, Human Resources Administrator
Ms. Trish Suzuki, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Ms. Erica Eschbach, Staff Attorney, Supreme Court
Ms. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, Director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations
Mr. Leo S. Diaz, Marshal of the Court
Mr. Joseph Leon Guerrero, Deputy Chief Marshal
Ms. Grace Lapid Rosadino, Court Programs Administrator

Roll Call (continued):

Ms. Suzane Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney
Mr. Nathan Tennyson, Staff Attorney
Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President
Mr. Carl V. Dominguez, Procurement & Facilities Maintenance Administrator
Ms. Elaine M. Naputi, Marshal Division
Mr. Larry Roy G. Rosario, Office of the Public Guardian
Ms. Isabella Clement, Office of the Public Guardian
Ms. Amara S.A. Sulla, Office of the Public Guardian
Ms. Isabella Clement, Office of the Public Guardian
Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff
Ms. Jessica Perez-Jackson, Judicial Council Executive Secretary

II. PROOF OF DUE NOTICE OF MEETING

Due publication of the five-day Notices of Meeting of the Judicial Council, as required under the Open Government Law, was published in the Guam Daily Post. Acknowledgments are on file.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chief Justice Torres began the roll call. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Justice F. Philip Carbullido, and Justice Katherine A. Maraman, identified themselves. This meeting determined a quorum with all (3) of the five (5) Judicial Council members present during roll call. Judge Maria T. Cenzone arrived at 12:05 from trial, and Presiding Judge Lamorena arrived at 12:08 from trial.

IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes.

Chief Justice Torres asked for a motion to approve the September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Justice Maraman moved to approve the minutes, Justice Carbullido seconded the motion. Chief Justice Torres called for an oral vote. With no discussion, the Judicial Council members voted to approve the Regular Meeting minutes, subject to correction.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. eCourt and eSupervision Transition

Deputy Administrator of the Courts, Sophia Santos Diaz, provided an update on the eCourt and eSupervision transition. Ms. Santos Diaz reported that the judiciary is completing the first round of data conversion testing provided by Journal Technologies, with this initial iteration scheduled to conclude the following day. She shared that three total testing iterations are planned, and portal testing for e-filing and document viewing is also underway. Ms. Santos Diaz assured that the project remains on schedule for a January 2026 go-live.

Chief Justice Torres noted that the target transition weekend is January 9–12, 2026, during which the current system will be terminated and eCourt/eSupervision launched. He acknowledged it will be a

demanding period for MIS and subject-matter experts but expressed the judiciary's anticipation for the new system's capabilities. No questions were raised.

B. Report on FY 2026 Budget (For Informational Purposes Only)

Under the FY2026 budget update, Ms. Gudmalin reported that Bill 44-38, the FY2026 Budget Act, became law on September 29 through a legislative override, now codified as Public Law 38-60. She shared that the Judiciary received a General Fund appropriation of **\$45,007,145**, representing **4.74%** of total available General Fund appropriations.

According to Ms. Gudmalin, within Chapter 4, the Judiciary was appropriated **\$43,790,136** for general operations, including **\$43,760,000** from the General Fund and **\$29,993** (Safe Streets Funds) for contractual services for the Family Visitation Center (Erica's House). She further explained that supplemental funding for ADC and JDC, though requested separately, was incorporated into general operations funding. She also shared that the FY2026 appropriation reflects a **1.83% increase** from FY2025 but a **2.62% decrease** from the Judiciary's submitted request, and all requested positions were retained.

Ms. Gudmalin continued with below-the-line items, explaining that both the **Electronic Monitoring Program** and the **Guam Criminal Law Commission** received status quo funding for FY2026, at **\$868,157** and **\$378,845**, respectively.

Per Ms. Gudmalin, regarding allotments, the Judiciary submitted its request on October 6 due to the late passage of the bill and DOA issued the first scheduled general operations allotment on October 14, totaling **\$1,683,083**. Ms. Gudmalin reported that allotments for EM and the Criminal Law Commission are still pending, and coordination is ongoing to ensure timely receipt.

Chief Justice Torres noted the Judiciary fared well overall despite reduced revenues and expressed satisfaction that all existing filled positions were preserved. No questions were raised.

C. Report on Request to Expand Special Deputy Marshals' Duties (For Informational Purposes Only)

The Council received an update from **Marshal of the Court Leo Diaz** regarding the Special Deputy Marshals report. Chief Diaz reiterated the operational, safety, financial, legal, and community risks previously identified and confirmed the recommendation **not** to expand Special Deputy Marshal duties beyond those currently authorized by law. According to Chief Diaz, these positions—assigned to truant officers and tax collection personnel—should not be used to supplement judiciary operations.

Marshal Diaz also reported on the judiciary's continued reliance on the Volunteer Deputy Marshal Program, noting ongoing recruitment challenges due to POST certification requirements and competition from federal agencies. Chief Diaz shared that six volunteers are currently in training. The Council discussed whether increasing stipends could improve recruitment; AOC staff will prepare a financial impact report with potential recommendations for consideration at the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Judiciary FY 2026 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law

Chief Justice Torres reminded the Council that Ms. Gudmalin already provided the remittances during her report on the FY2026 budget.

B. Capital Improvement Projects Update

Administrator of the Courts Danielle Rosete updated the Council on capital improvement projects at the Guam Judicial Center. She reported that the primary project is the replacement of the facility's generator, for which a notice to proceed has been issued and a vendor selected. According to Ms. Rosete, the Judiciary is currently awaiting permit approval before construction can begin.

Ms. Rosete explained that the project will include removal of the existing generator, installation of a new generator, structural renovations recommended by the architect and engineering firm, and replacement of the underground fuel tank with an above-ground tank. She continued that once permits are issued, construction is anticipated to begin in **December 2025** and continue into early **2026**.

Ms. Rosete reported added that the second capital improvement project—the removal of the atrium and appellate courtroom skylights—has been awarded, and the contractor is in the permit stage. She shared that work will begin with the skylight outside the appellate courtroom, then proceed to the atrium, which will require removing the hanging sculpture and installing scaffolding. She further reported that construction will be scheduled after hours and on weekends to avoid disrupting court operations, with advance notice provided if daytime work is necessary. Ms. Rosete will continue updating the Council, and both capital projects are expected to be completed within six months.

During questions on the capital improvements report, a Justice Carbullido requested schematics for the new above-ground generator tank due to visibility concerns. Carl Dominguez confirmed the new generator will remain in the existing generator room, the tank will be enclosed with decorative block for improved aesthetics, and the old generator will be removed after installation.

Justice Maraman inquired about rusting areas on the metal roof. Ms. Rosete noted roof repairs were not part of the skylight contract but are being reassessed and prioritized to prevent further deterioration.

C. Resolution, JC 25- Relative to Recognizing October 2025 as Guardianship Awareness Month

The Council considered a resolution recognizing **October 2025 as Guardianship Awareness Month**. Deputy AOC Sophia Santos Diaz delivered prepared remarks on behalf of Public Guardian Andrew Perez, highlighting:

- The importance of guardianship for Guam's elders, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable individuals.
- Appreciation for Public Guardian staff.
- Key initiatives:
 - Partnership with the Civil Law Center to strengthen procedural safeguards.

- Autism & Guardianship Training Series.
- Educational video series for guardians.
- Website enhancements to improve access to resources.
- Strengthening the WINGS interdisciplinary network.

Guardianship judges, including Judge Terlaje, expressed support, commended the Public Guardian's work, and acknowledged contributions of prior judges and practitioners.

Chief Justice Torres asked for a motion to adopt the resolution; Justice Maraman moved to adopt the resolution Relative to Recognizing October 2025 as Guardianship Awareness Month; Presiding Judge Lamorena seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the resolution was adopted.

D. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, November 20, 2025)

Chief Justice Torres noted that the Council's next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Guam Bar Association Board (GBA) – President's Report

GBA President Jacque Terlaje provided a brief report:

- **2026 Annual Registration:**
 - Online registration for members is expected to open today.
 - Members will have 77 days to complete their annual registration requirements.
- **Continuing Legal Education (CLE):**
 - The Bar is co-sponsoring a CLE with Professor Rose Cuison Villazor of Rutgers University.
 - The CLE will be held **November 8 at 10:00 a.m.**, in conjunction with the **NAPABA Annual Convention (Nov. 7–9) in Denver**.
 - All Guam Bar members are invited to participate and may register through their NAPABA membership.
- **Recognition:**
 - Congratulations were extended to **Alicia Limtiaco**, elected as a **Member-At-Large** of the NAPABA Board of Governors—the first representative from the territories.
 - She is expected to be sworn in at the 2025 annual meeting and to attend the convention.

President Terlaje concluded her report.

B. Court Employees Association


IFIK President Jesse Franquez reported the following:

- **2026 Election:** Nominations have been requested; election date to be announced.
- **Fundraisers:** Four upcoming fundraisers planned to support the January holiday party.
- **General:** Members encouraged to participate and support year-end activities.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn until Thursday, November 20, 2025, and with no objections the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of November 2025.



JESSICA J. PEREZ-JACKSON
Executive Secretary
Judicial Council of Guam

As set out above, the Minutes of the October 16, 2025 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the November 20, 2025 Regular Meeting.



ROBERT J. TORRES
Chair