



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom
Guam Judicial Center

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Hon. Katherine A. Maraman
Chair

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido
Member

Hon. Robert J. Torres
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:
Shelterihna Alokoa

Judicial Council Asst. Secretary:
Jessica J. Perez-Jackson

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Judicial Council was called to order by the Chair, Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman, at the hour of 12:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Present in the Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Sophia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator
Ms. Hannah Gutierrez Arroyo, Clerk of Court, Supreme Court
Ms. Janice Camacho-Perez, Clerk of Court, Superior Court
Ms. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance Administrator
Ms. Geraldine Cepeda, Compiler of Laws/GLL Executive Director
Mr. Leo S. Diaz, Marshal of the Court
Ms. Trisha T. Suzuki, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Ms. Grace Lapid Rosadino, Court Programs Administrator
Ms. Maria Erica Eschbach, Staff Attorney, Supreme Court
Ms. Suzane Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney
Mr. Nathan Tennyson, Staff Attorney
Mr. Carl V. Dominguez, Procurement & Facilities Maintenance Administrator
Ms. Lisa V. Baza, Judicial Educator
Mr. Robert Rabago, Management Information Systems Administrator
Mr. Baldwin Quibuyen, MIS Planning & System Design Supervisor
Mr. Andrew Perez, Public Guardian
Ms. Joleen F. Respicio, MIS Program Coordinator IV
Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff
Ms. Jessica Perez-Jackson, Judicial Council Executive Secretary

Present via Zoom:

Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President
Mr. Mardave Toledo
Mr. Dean Manglona

II. PROOF OF DUE NOTICE OF MEETING

Chief Justice Maraman began by reading a Certification of Emergency. Her honor noted that the meeting notice was scheduled to run on April 15 and 20. She reported that due to Super Typhoon Sinlaku, the Pacific Daily News (PDN) was unable to publish their April 15, 2026 edition with the Council's notice. She added the PDN was able to run the notice on April 16. Her Honor noted that as Chair, she certified that this was permissible under the emergency clause of the Open Government law due to the natural disaster and the island being in Condition of Readiness 1. She concluded that the second notice was able to be published on April 20 as scheduled.

Due publication of the Notices of Meeting of the Judicial Council, as required under the Open Government Law, was published in the Pacific Daily News. Acknowledgments are on file.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman began the roll call. Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Justice Robert J. Torres, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and Judge Maria T. Cenzon identified themselves. A quorum was established, with five (5) of the members present.

IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: March 19, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes.

The minutes of the March 19, 2026 Judicial Council meeting were presented for approval. Chief Justice Maraman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Justice Torres moved to approve the March 19, 2026 minutes which was seconded by Justice Torres. Justice Torres moved to approve the March 19, 2026 minutes which was seconded by Judge Cenzon. With no objections, the minutes were approved subject to correction.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Judiciary FY 2026 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin reported to the Council on the FY2026 Allotment Report, stating that she has received approximately 54% of the total appropriated amount for general operations to date, totaling \$23,563,000. She noted that there had been a delay due to the typhoon with the second bi-weekly allotment for April but DOA was able to process the Judiciary's allotment as soon as government services were able to open back up. Ms. Gudmalin noted that, as a result, bi-weekly allotments are now current and up to date. She further stated that the most recent allotment was deposited on April 20, and she expects the next allotment to be received on April 28.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Resolution JC 26 -005 Relative to Declaration of Law Day and Law Month**

Justice Torres reported that all the Council members had already signed the resolution for the April 1 Proclamation with the Governor and Speaker, adding that the next resolution was for the purpose of ratifying.

B. **Resolution JC 26 - Relative to Ratifying JC Resolution 26-006 Relative to the Declaration of Law Day and Law Month**

Justice Torres moved to approve the resolution which was seconded by Judge Cenzone. With no objections, the resolution was approved subject to correction.

C. **Resolution, JC 26- Relative to Approving the Judiciary of Guam Budget for FY2027**

Administrator Rosete and CFO Diane presented the Judiciary of Guam Budget for FY2027. They answered several questions from Council member regarding the treatment courts and the judicial building fund. Justice Torres proposed to amend the budget to include an increase for power due to the island's increase by 20% due to the impact of the Iran War. Chief Justice Maramba called for a vote. **Justice Torres moved to approve the proposed amendment which was seconded by Judge Cenzone. With no objections, the resolution was approved subject to correction.**

After much discussion, Chief Justice Maramba asked if there was a motion to approve the proposed budget. **Justice Torres moved to approve the proposed amendment which was seconded by Judge Cenzone. With no objections, the resolution was approved subject to correction.**

D. **Resolution, JC 26- Relative to Jurisdictional Limits for Small Claims Court**

Administrator Rosete shared that this was the regular annual resolution to set the limits for small claims court. Chief Justice Maramba asked if there was a motion to approve the proposed budget. **Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to approve the proposed amendment which was seconded by Judge Cenzone. With no objections, the resolution was approved subject to correction.**

E. **Resolution, JC 26- Relative to Proclaiming the Month of May 2026 as Treatment Court Month**

Presiding Judge Lamorena presented this resolution, thanking all the treatment court staff for all they do, and congratulating all the hard work of the graduates in all the programs. He asked that May be also proclaimed as Treatment Court Month. Chief Justice Maramba asked if there was a motion to approve the proposed budget. **Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to approve the proposed amendment which was seconded by Judge Cenzone. With no objections, the resolution was approved subject to correction.**

F. Memo re Reporting of Departures from the Mandatory Minimum Sentences (Safety Valve Act)

Chief Justice presented the Memo she had sent out to all the Superior Court judges asking them to report the number of mandatory minimum sentences as set in the Safety Valve Act. She asked that they all submit the number of cases in which mandatory minimum sentences were departed during the period from April 30, 2025, through April 29, 2026. She noted they all send to Judicial Council Executive Secretary, Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, no later than May 4, 2026.

G. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, May 21, 2026)

Chief Justice Maraman announced the next meeting would be on the usual third Thursday of the month so May 21, 2026.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. State of the Judiciary Address (May 1, 2026)

Chief Justice Maraman invited the Judicial Officers and Judiciary's staff to attend her State of the Judiciary Address on May 01, 2026. Administrator Rosete shared how there will be vans providing transport to employees and the livestream on YouTube would be played in the courthouse.

B. Magistrate Judge Appointment

Chief Justice Maraman shared that Magistrate Quan's term was up and the Judiciary and Guam Bar Association had opened up the position for anyone to apply. She added that the due process had been done with the Guam Bar Association with applications and applicants screened. At the end of the process, Magistrate Jonathan R. Quan was deemed the most qualified and nominated to continue as Magistrate Judge.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ms. Janice Camacho-Perez reported to the Chief Justice and Councilmembers that the Guam Bar Annual Meeting which was scheduled for April 30 would need to be moved due to the effects of the typhoon. She added that a request to reschedule would be filed with the Supreme Court, and if approved, would probably be sometime in May.

B. Court Employees Association

IFIK President Jesse Franquez stated that IFIK will also need to reschedule the Annual Race Judicata while the island is recovering from the typhoon. He added that a date will be announced but bake sales will continue every pay day Friday. He concluded saying the IFIK holiday party is set for January 9 at the Dusit Thani Resort.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Staff Attorney Suzane Hinkle-Sanchez presented her request for Executive Session due to ongoing litigation. The Council took a recess at 1:14p.m. and then went into Executive Session at 1:15p.m.


Chief Justice Maraman, Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Justice Robert J. Torres, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, Judge Maria T. Cenzone, Administrator Danielle T. Rosete, Staff Attorney Suzane Santiago-Hinkle, and Court Reporter Shiela Sablan attended the Executive Session.

Council came back into regular session around 1:24p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn until Thursday, May 21, 2026, Judge Cenzone seconded and with no objections the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of May 2026.


SHELTERINA T. ALOKOA
Executive Secretary
Judicial Council of Guam

As set out above, the Minutes of the April 2026 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the April 22, 2026 Regular Meeting.


KATHERINE A. MARAMAN
Chair