



JUDICIARY OF GUAM

FISCAL YEAR 2024 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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ABOUT US

The Judiciary of Guam (the "Judiciary") is the third branch of the Government of Guam. As an equal and independent branch, it provides checks and balances on the legislative and executive branches by interpreting Guam's laws and resolving disputes brought before the courts. A unified branch, the Judiciary is composed of the Supreme Court of Guam and the Superior Court of Guam, and is governed by the Judicial Council of Guam.

Supreme Court of Guam

The Supreme Court is Guam's highest court and is made up of the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. It hears appeals from the Superior Court and other courts created by Guam law, exercises supervisory authority over the Superior Court, and may invoke its original jurisdiction when needed, such as to determine certified questions. The Supreme Court also oversees attorney and judicial discipline, including bar admissions and professional conduct. Through the Board of Law Examiners, the Court administers the Guam bar exam and reviews the character and fitness of applicants.



Superior Court of Guam

The Superior Court is Guam's trial court, where most cases begin. Its judicial officers handle a wide range of matters, including criminal, civil, family, juvenile, probate, traffic, small claims, and treatment court cases. The Courts and Ministerial Division supports these operations by providing operation and administrative assistance to Superior Court judicial officers, processing case filings and traffic citations, maintaining court records, coordinating jury services, and providing interpreter, transcription, and clearance services. The Division serves the public and legal community from two locations: the Judicial Center in Hagåtña and the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo.

Judicial Council of Guam

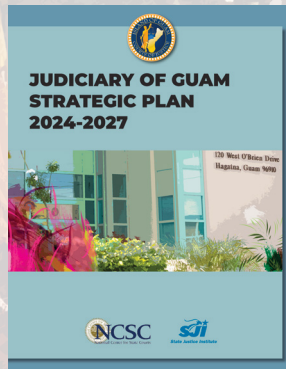
The Judicial Council is the governing body of the Judiciary. By law, it includes all full-time justices of the Supreme Court, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, and a designated Superior Court Judge. The Council recommends policies for the administration of the judicial branch and oversees the Judiciary's merit system, including hearing all classified employee appeals. With the advice of the Judicial Council, the Chief Justice governs the divisions and offices of the Judiciary.



Annual Reports

To explore the full scope of the Judiciary's work, including accomplishments, caseload trends, and financial information, visit the Annual Reports page:

<https://guamcourts.gov/judiciary-information/reports/annual-reports>



Strategic Goals

In 2024, the Judiciary launched its updated Strategic Plan to guide priorities, improve services, and strengthen operations. You can read the full plan here:

https://guamcourts.gov/sites/default/files/2024_27StrategicPlan.pdf

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MISSION

Delivering justice fairly and efficiently through transparent, inclusive, and accessible court services

VISION

A model of judicial excellence – trusted, innovative, and independent

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS & MANAGEMENT

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman
Chief Justice/Chair

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido
Associate Justice/Member

Hon. Robert J. Torres
Associate Justice/Member

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III
Presiding Judge/Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzone
Judge/Member

ADMINISTRATION

Danielle T. Rosete
Administrator of the Courts

Sophia Santos Diaz
Deputy Administrator of the Courts

OUR WORKFORCE

83 MARSHALS	12 CLIENT SERVICES AND FAMILY COUNSELING
87 PROBATION	11 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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39 JUDGES' CHAMBERS	11 HUMAN RESOURCES
29 SUPREME COURT	6 COURT PROGRAMS
25 PROCUREMENT & FACILITIES	5 JUDICIAL HEARINGS
18 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	18 VOLUNTEER DEPUTY MARSHAL RESERVE

441

TOTAL EMPLOYEES

OUR PERFORMANCE

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court experienced a significant increase in case filings in 2024, with approximately 32% more cases filed than in 2023. While civil appeals decreased slightly, criminal appeals nearly doubled compared to each of the previous five years. The court also received an unusually high number of writ petitions in 2024—almost as many as the total number filed during the four-year period from 2020 through 2023 combined.

Five-Year Comparative Cases Filed

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 Case	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
TOTAL	44	33	40	41	54

Orders Issued

CASE TYPE	2024
Administrative Order	10
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
Special Proceedings	2
Writ of Certiorari	0
Writ of Habeas Corpus	5
Writ of Mandamus	3
Writ of Prohibition	3
GRAND TOTAL	172

SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court continued to handle a substantial caseload in 2024, with increased activity in several key areas. Jury activity rose compared to prior years, and filings in Criminal Felony, Special Proceedings, Collections, and Small Claims matters all increased. While Civil, Criminal Misdemeanor, and Juvenile Delinquency cases saw slight decreases, the court remained actively engaged in serving the community and administering justice across a wide range of case types.

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
TOTAL	7,814	8,763	8,606	8,534	7,767

Jury Activity

	2022	2023	2024
Petit Jury Selections	38	47	63
Petit Jury Trial Cases	41	39	53
Petit Jury Trial Case Appearance (Days)	152	129	158
Grand Jury Appearance (Days)	168	168	185
Grand Jury Cases Heard	746	863	903
Jurors Present	11,803	13,020	15,163

Criminal Jury Trials Number of Trials 2024

Aggravated Arson	1
Armed Carjacking	1
Aggravated Assault	3
Assault	4
Burglary	1
Criminal Mischief	4
Criminal Sexual Conduct	14
Murder	1
Possession of a Firearm w/out Firearms ID	1
Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance	2
Possession of Schedule II w/ Intent to Deliver	8
Resisting Arrest	1
Retail Theft	1
Robbery	2
Terrorizing	2
Theft	7
TOTAL	53

OUR FINANCES

REVENUES

The Judiciary experienced a 7% increase in total revenues in FY 2024, rising by \$3.03 million compared to FY 2023. This growth was largely driven by a \$3.72 million, or 9.86%, increase in General Fund appropriations. This continued growth reflects the Legislature's support for Judiciary operations and the funding needed for compensation adjustments across multiple pay plans. Federal grant revenue declined by \$776 thousand, a 17% reduction, as several American Rescue Plan (ARP)-funded initiatives came to an end. Meanwhile, Other Collections increased by \$88 thousand, maintaining a steady share of the overall revenue source and providing supplemental support for specific program needs.

REVENUE	FY 2024
General Fund (Local Appropriation)	\$41,461,574
Federal Grants	\$3,774,704
Other Collections	\$625,508
Total	\$45,861,786

EXPENDITURES

In FY 2024, the Judiciary's expenditures across all funding sources continued to be driven primarily by personnel related costs. Within the General Fund, 87% of all expenditures were directed to Personnel Services and Fringe Benefits—an increase from 85% in FY 2023—reflecting the impact of pay plan adjustments and benefit obligations. The remaining General Fund resources were used for essential operational needs, including 4% for Contractual Services, 3% for Capital Outlay, and less than 6% for all other operating expenses such as utilities, equipment, and supplies. This spending pattern highlights the Judiciary's ongoing commitment to supporting its workforce and maintaining core court functions.

Federal grant spending showed a similar shift toward personnel, with Personnel Services increasing to 55% of federal expenditures compared to 43% in FY 2023. ARP funded contractual and technology projects wound down. Consequently, the share of federal funds applied to contractual services, capital outlay, and equipment declined from 44% in FY 2023 to 32% in FY 2024.

Expenditures from Other Collections remained consistent with prior years. More than 90% of these funds were used for contractual services and miscellaneous program specific operational needs, supporting targeted initiatives and services funded through these revenue sources.

EXPENDITURES	FY 2024	PERCENTAGE
Personnel Services	\$27,050,368	83%
Fringe Benefits	\$10,786,740	
Contractual Services	\$2,832,774	6%
Capital Outlay	\$1,768,951	4%
Utilities & Communications	\$1,233,834	3%
Equipment - Non Capital Items	\$689,121	1%
Jury Stipend and Other Related Costs*	\$496,552	1%
<small>*Reported under Jury Trust Fund</small>		
Supplies and Materials	\$340,961	1%
Miscellaneous	\$614,660	1%
TOTAL	\$45,813,961	100%



83%
PERSONNEL SERVICES



6%
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES



4%
CAPITAL OUTLAY



3%
UTILITIES & COMMUNICATION



1%
EQUIPMENT - NON-CAPITAL ITEMS



1%
JURY STIPEND & OTHER COSTS*

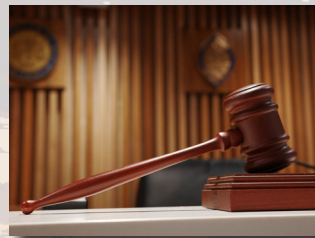
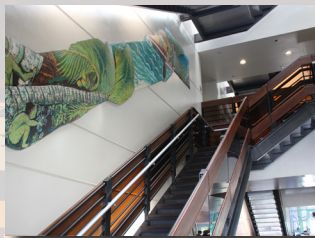
*Reported under Jury Trust Fund



1%
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS



1%
MISC.

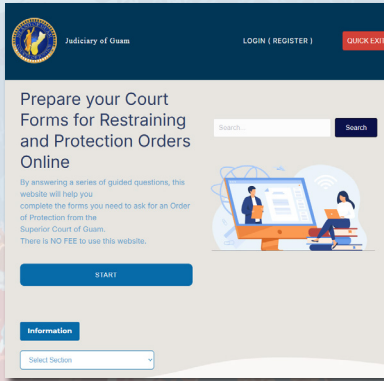


INDEPENDENT AUDIT

Independent Audit was performed by Ernst & Young. The Government of Guam received an unmodified (clean) opinion. The Office of the Public Auditor released the Government of Guam wide financial audited report on April 26, 2026. For more information on the independent audit, you may visit this web site address <http://www.guamopa.com>

OUR OUTLOOK

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY



The Judiciary continues to modernize its services to make the courts more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the community.

Today, many services, such as traffic citations, court clearances, fines, and fees can be processed online. All Supreme Court hearings are livestreamed to ensure transparency and public access. The Judiciary also made major strides in upgrading its technology. Staff worked diligently on the launch of a new Case Management System called eCourt and eSupervision, improving how cases and supervision activities are managed digitally. Guam residents can now apply for civil protection orders through a free online tool on the Judiciary's website allowing individuals seeking protection from abuse to begin the process without having to visit the courthouse.

This work is ongoing. The Judiciary is exploring additional ways to provide faster, more reliable, and more user-friendly court services. Current projects include improving the court's website, a new web-based Jury System to improve juror communication and scheduling and a case management system for the Office of the Public Guardian.

INVESTING IN TREATMENT

Treatment courts are a vital part of the Judiciary's work and remain one of the most effective justice interventions for individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. Instead of continuing the cycle of addiction and crime, these courts hold participants accountable while connecting them with the treatment and support needed to rebuild their lives. On average, treatment courts save taxpayers about \$6,000 for every person they serve.



In 2024, the Judiciary supported 392 individuals across its treatment courts—an 8% increase from the previous year. The Guam Family Recovery Program also served 115 children, working to safely reunify families whenever possible. These outcomes show the powerful impact treatment courts have on individuals, families, and the broader community.

The Judiciary is committed to expanding these life-changing programs. With continued support, the courts aim to reach more people, strengthen recovery pathways, and build a healthier, safer future for Guam.



BRINGING CIVIC EDUCATION TO SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY

The Judiciary remains deeply committed to engaging with the community and inspiring the next generation. Nearly every week, Judiciary employees participate in career days, lead school tours, or host aspiring attorneys.

These efforts help young people better understand the justice system and their role in our democracy. The Judiciary also regularly coordinates tours for schools and visiting groups, giving the community a firsthand look at how the judicial process works. By opening our doors and providing direct access to the courtroom, we ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn about and participate in the justice system.

The Judiciary will continue expanding these outreach efforts to strengthen public understanding, foster civic engagement, and build a more informed and connected community.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you like this report? Is there any other information you would like to see included? Please let us know by contacting Jannette Samson at comms@guamcourts.gov. To see previous Citizen Centric Reports, visit <https://guamcourts.gov/judiciary-information/reports/citizen-centric-reports>



PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY—PHYSICALLY AND DIGITALLY

The Judiciary remains committed to protecting the safety of all who work in and interact with our courts. As threats evolve—both physical and digital—the Judiciary continues to strengthen its security posture through modern technology and enhanced training.

To safeguard our facilities and personnel, the Judiciary continues to find ways to enhance judicial security. Recognizing that cyber threats pose significant risks to court operations, the Judiciary is prioritizing cybersecurity at every level. Ongoing work includes adopting national best practices and strengthening network defenses.

Public safety is further supported through the Judiciary's use of electronic monitoring technologies, which provide modern, effective supervision tools. The Electronic Monitoring Program remains an essential public safety resource, saving the Department of Corrections an average of 3 million dollars per year.

Through these ongoing initiatives—physical security enhancements, robust cybersecurity measures, strategic use of technology, and continuous training—the Judiciary is building a safer, more secure environment for the public, court users, and employees alike.

