



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, August 21, 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

★★★★

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 11:59 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL:

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

Present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

Magistrate Judge Sean E. Brown  
Attorney Jacqueline T. Terlaje, President, Guam Bar Association  
Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts  
Ms. Dianne Gudmalin, Finance Administrator  
Ms. Barbara Jean Perez, Human Resources Administrator  
Ms. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, Director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations  
Ms. Erica Eschbach, Staff Attorney  
Mr. Leo S. Diaz, Marshal of the Court  
Ms. Grace Lapid Rosadino, Court Programs Administrator  
Ms. Trish Suzuki, Deputy Chief Probation Officer  
Ms. Suzane Santiago-Hinkle, Staff Attorney  
Mr. Nathan Tennyson, Staff Attorney  
Ms. Geraldine Cepeda, Compiler of Laws  
Ms. Melissa Casil, Deputy CSFC Administrator  
Mr. Robert John Rabago, Management Information Systems Administrator  
Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President  
Mr. Carl V. Dominguez, Procurement & Facilities Maintenance Administrator  
Mr. Andrew Perez, Public Guardian  
Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff  
Mr. Andrew Jay Gimenez, Special Projects Coordinator  
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, Justice Katherine A. Maraman, and Judge Maria T. Cenzone. Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III notified the Council he would be arriving late. This meeting determined a quorum with four (4) of the five Judicial Council members present during roll call.**

## **IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: June 19, 2025 Executive Meeting minutes and July 17, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes.**

**Chief Justice Torres asked for a motion to approve the June 19, 2025 Executive Session minutes and the July 17, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Judge Cenzone made a motion 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 minutes, subject to correction.**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Judiciary FY25 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law**

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin, Finance Administrator, reported that the Judiciary continues to receive its biweekly allotment of \$1,652,000 for general operations under the FY2025 appropriation. According to Ms. Gudmalin, to date, approximately 92% of the total appropriated amount has been received with the most recent allotment deposited on August 18, and the remaining allotments scheduled for September.

### **B. eCourt and eSupervision Transition**

Administrator of the Courts, Danielle T. Rosete, reported that reported there are no significant updates on the eCourt/e-Supervision migration. According to Ms. Rosete, the Judiciary continues to work with Journal Technologies to finalize conversion mapping and address complex financial components before beginning data conversion testing. She further supplied that testing of the public portal search functions is ongoing and weekly meetings with the vendor and internal subject-matter experts continue. Ms. Rosete shared that the goal remains to have at least part of the system live before the end of the year and to meet with Journal Technologies' management at the upcoming Court Technology Conference.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Certificate of Condolences to the Family of the Late Hon. Arnold Palacios**

Chief Justice Torres reported that the Council's previously signed Certificate of Condolence had been presented to the family of the late Governor Arnold Palacios of the Northern Mariana Islands at his state funeral, together with a certificate from the Pacific Judicial Council.

**A motion to approve for the record was made by Justice Merriman, seconded by Justice Carbullido, and approved without objection.**

### **B. Resolution, JC25- Relative to Declaring Constitution Day and Constitution Week 2025**

Ms. Rosete presented the annual resolution on Constitution Day and Constitution Week. She explained that this initiative is part of the Judiciary's strategic plan pillar that focuses on education and outreach. According to Ms. Rosete, each year the Judiciary highlights the importance of the Constitution through activities such as scripted remarks at court hearings, social media posts, and school presentations. She added that law clerks, research attorneys, judicial officers, and Guam Bar Association attorneys will be invited to participate in these outreach efforts.

Ms. Rosete explained that this year marks the 238th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, with Constitution Day on September 17 and outreach events planned throughout Constitution Week.

**Judge Cenzone moved to approve the resolution as submitted, seconded by Justice Carbullido. The motion carried without objection.**

### **C. Resolution, JC25- Relative to Recognizing the Importance of Jury Service and Declaring Juror Appreciation Week**

Ms. Rosete presented a resolution recognizing the vital role jurors play in the jury system and declaring September 8–12, 2025 as Juror Appreciation Week. Ms. Rosete explained that as part of the outreach, jurors who appear at the courthouse will be acknowledged and thanked and efforts are underway through Pillar 1 to improve the juror experience, including providing daily fresh coffee, light refreshments, and snacks.

Ms. Rosete said the Judiciary will also conduct training with its jury vendor the following week to upgrade the jury system solution and implement new features such as electronic notifications for juror appearances. She further supplied that social media platforms will again be used to educate the community on the importance of jury service, civic duty, and how to respond to jury summons.

**Justice Maramba moved to approve and adopt the resolution. Judge Cenzone seconded. The motion passed without objection. Chief Justice Torres noted he will personally call in two jurors to thank them during the week.**

#### **D. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, September 18, 2025)**

Chief Justice Torres noted that the Council's next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

### **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Chief Justice Torres provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget:

- The Legislature concluded deliberations early this morning; final vote expected tomorrow at 10 a.m.
- Unified Judiciary appropriation approved at just over **\$45 million** (98% of the original request).
- Funding level sufficient to maintain core operations without personnel cuts.
- Full funding for the Guam Criminal Law and Procedure Review Commission, the Electronic Monitoring Program, the Adult Drug Court, and the Juvenile Drug Court.
- Transition of the Private Attorney Panel (PAP) to the Public Defender Service Corporation (PDSC) effective October 1, pursuant to Public Law 38-48, with a new independent board and general fund appropriations.
- Client Services Fund will no longer fund the PAP after 12/31/25; statutory authority secured to sunset its use and transfer funds as needed.
- Legislature recognized the importance of indigent defense and restored funding for the PAP after several years.
- Continuing appropriation authorization and other statutory authorities obtained.

The Chief Justice expressed appreciation to the Legislature and its leadership for their support and the Judiciary will monitor the bill as it proceeds to the Governor's desk

Justice Maraman added—with regard to the Criminal Justice Automation Commission:

- Legislature passed and Governor signed a bill creating the Commission.
- Judiciary will transition to the new commission in the coming weeks.

Chief Justice Torres noted that Justice Maraman played an integral role in advancing the measure with Senator Shawn Gumataotao.

### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Chief Justice Torres shared that Dean Manglonia (Advisory Member) emailed to advise he was delayed in a deposition and is excused from the meeting.

Guam Bar Association Board President Jacque Taitano Terlaje provided her report as follows:

#### **ABA Representation:**

- Attended the ABA annual meeting in Toronto as alternate delegate for the Northern Mariana Islands.

- Successfully obtained modification of ABA governing rules allowing U.S. territories representation on the governing board (first time in 40 years).
- Joint media statement forthcoming from NMI, Virgin Islands, and Guam Bars.

**Guam Bar Justice Foundation:**

- Launch anticipated September 17 (Constitution Day).
- Finalizing documentation and 501(c) application following membership approval at the last annual meeting.

**NAPABA Participation:**

- Encouraging Guam Bar members to join the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (free membership, conference fees separate).
- Guam Bar to co-host a CLE at NAPABA's November annual meeting in Denver.

**Upcoming Presentation:**

- Professor Villazor scheduled to present on the Filipino women's suffrage movement at the "Echoes of Law" program in the Philippines.

**B. Court Employees Association**

IFIK President Jesse Franquez provided the following report:

**5K Fundraiser:**

On August 13, the AOC, Chief Justice, EFIC Vice President, and the EFIC representative presented a \$2,000 check to the event's beneficiary, Togi. The recipient expressed deep gratitude, noting that donations are rare, and EFIC encouraged them to use the funds to support their programs such as the Ride Program or fuel assistance. The representative thanked the EFIC team and volunteers for making the 5K a success.

**Employee Onboarding:**

Also on August 13, the representative attended employee onboarding, as is done regularly, and spoke with new employees about EFIC. At least five new employees signed up, with others considering membership in the new year.

**Monthly Meeting:**

EFIC held its monthly meeting on August 14 at the JEC conference room. Future meetings will be held there as long as the space is available. The next meeting is scheduled for **September 9 at 3:00 p.m.** at the JEC.

**Holiday Party:**

Planning is underway for the annual holiday party. Volunteers are welcome to assist with the committee; interested individuals should email the EFIC representative. The party is scheduled for **January 10 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.**

**Fundraiser:**

As noted by the Chief Justice, a food plate fundraiser will take place on **August 29**. Council members and staff are encouraged to place orders to support EFIC and help ensure the holiday party's success.

**\*\*At 12:20 p.m. Chief Justice Torres called for a recess to begin Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation matters, as requested in an August 5, 2025, memo to the Judicial Council from Staff Attorney Nathan M. Tennyson.**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Justice Katherine A. Maraman, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena, III, Judge Maria T. Cenzone, AOC Danielle T. Rosete, Staff Attorneys Suzane Santiago-Hinkle and Nathan M. Tennyson, Court Transcriber Priscilla Cruz, Supreme Court Technical Bailiff Shelterihna Alokoa, and Council Executive Secretary Jessica Perez-Jackson were present during the Executive Session.**


**\*\*\*At 12:30 p.m., Chief Justice Torres entertained a motion to rise to Regular Session. Presiding Judge Lamorena made the motion; Justice Carbullido seconded. The public meeting of the Judicial Council resumed.**

**The Judicial Council reconvened in regular session after rising from executive session. Legal counsel provided an update on ongoing litigation. It was noted for the record that no formal action requiring a vote was taken during executive session; however, all Council members unanimously accepted legal counsel's recommendation on next steps in the litigation.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Justice Maraman moved to adjourn until Thursday, September 18, 2025; Justice Carbullido seconded the motion, and with no objections the meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.

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

**As set out above, the Minutes of the August 21, 2025 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting.**

  
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ROBERT J. TORRES  
Chair