



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

Suite 300 Guam Judicial Center
120 West O'Brien Drive
Hagåtña, Guam 96910-5174
Tel: (671) 475-3300 Fax: (671) 475-3140

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, January 14, 2026 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 12:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Present in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

Magistrate Judge Jonathan Quan
Ms. Danielle T. Rosete, Administrator of the Courts
Ms. Hannah Gutierrez Arroyo, Clerk of Court, Supreme Court
Ms. Janice Camacho-Perez, Clerk of Court, Superior Court
Ms. Sarah Elmore-Hernandez, Director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations
Ms. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance Administrator
Ms. Rhonda Calvo, Deputy Human Resources 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
Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President
Ms. Sonda L. Yatar, Deputy Marshal Supervisor
Mr. Kennedy G. Robinson, Deputy Marshal Supervisor
Mr. Gregory J. Cruz, Deputy Marshal III
Mr. Matthew A. Topasna, Deputy Marshal III
Mr. Dodd Siegfred Mortera, Deputy Marshal II

ROLL CALL: (cont.)

Ms. Christina M. Duenas, Management Officer
Ms. Gemma-Lisa Raigelig, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Curtis Aulerio, Deputy Clerk
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 Robert J. Torres began the roll call. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Justice Katherine A. Maraman, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and Judge Maria T. Cenzone identified themselves. A quorum was established, with all five (5) of the members present.

Chief Justice Torres announced that this would be his final meeting presiding as Chairman of the Judicial Council, as his term as Chief Justice concludes on Tuesday. He further announced that the Supreme Court unanimously elected Justice Katherine A. Merriman to serve as Chief Justice for the next three-year term.

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

The minutes of the December 18, 2025 Judicial Council meeting were presented for approval. Chief Justice Torres asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to approve the minutes which was seconded by Judge Cenzone. With no objections, the minutes were approved subject to correction.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Judiciary FY 2026 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law

Under the FY2026 budget update, Ms. Dianne Gudmalin reported that the Judiciary continues to receive its scheduled bi-weekly allotment of \$1,683,000 for general operations for the current fiscal year. According to Ms. Gudmalin, to date, approximately 27% of the total appropriated amount has been received, totaling about \$11,781,000, with the most recent allotment deposited on January 8, and the next allotment expected on January 20. No further questions were raised.

B. eCourt and eSupervision Transition

The Administrator of the Courts (AOC), Danielle Rosete, provided an update on the transition from JustWare to the new E-Series platform, which includes eCourt and e-Supervision. Ms. Rosete shared that all data has been successfully converted from JustWare to eCourt and data conversion testing for

the e-supervision platform is currently underway and will continue through next week. She further explained that the anticipated go-live date has been adjusted to March 2 due to conversion issues, primarily involving legacy financial data originating from the AS400 system and carried forward into JustWare and now into eCourt. According to Ms. Rosete, in addition to resolving data issues, the Judiciary is prioritizing comprehensive training for staff and judicial officers. She assured that managers have been notified, and the Deputy AOC is coordinating with managers, the judicial educator, project lead Lori Perez, and vendor Journal Technologies to develop role-specific training for end users. Ms. Rosete concluded with the news that the Judiciary aims to launch eCourt, e-supervision, and the public electronic filing portal concurrently on March 2. No further questions were raised.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Improvement Projects Update (For Informational Purposes only)

Under new business, the Administrator of the Courts provided an update on the generator replacement project:

- Based on the current project schedule with the vendor and architect, completion is anticipated between June and July of this year.
- The underground fuel tank has been removed, and work is underway to remove the existing generator, which is expected to be taken out later this month. Renovation work will begin thereafter.
- The new generator is scheduled to arrive on island in late May. And Ms. Rosete is coordinating closely with Procurement and the Facilities Administrator to ensure adequate notice of any potential operational disruptions affecting court proceedings.
- The project remains on schedule, with completion anticipated by July.

Ms. Rosete further reported that the skylight replacement project is on a similar completion timeline as the generator project:

- The contractor has received the permit and submitted materials for architectural review.
- Work will begin with Skylight No. 2 outside the Justice Monessa Lujan Appellate Courtroom and will occur after hours and on weekends.
- Temporary barricades will be installed, but courtroom access will be maintained.
- Scheduling will account for upcoming appellate sessions.
- Preliminary planning has also begun for the basement renovation and Marshals Division holding cells project.
- New lighting, consistent with existing fixtures, will be installed as part of the skylight replacement.

No further questions were raised.

B. Public Law 38-60, Chapter XII, Section 38 relative to Payment of Indigent Services (For Informational Purposes only)

Ms. Gudmalin provided an update regarding payments for indigent defense services pursuant to Public Law 38-60, which requires the Judiciary to fund Private Attorney Panel services and related expenses incurred before October 1, 2025, provided invoices were submitted by December 31, 2025.

According to Ms. Gudmalin, while initial projections estimated approximately \$500,000 to close out outstanding billings, a significant volume of invoices was submitted in late December, increasing the projected total to approximately \$750,000 to \$800,000. She shared that invoices from the CNMI Division are still under review to confirm eligibility and compliance with statutory deadlines.

Ms. Gudmalin explained that payments will be made from the Client Services Fund and will satisfy the Judiciary's remaining obligations for the prior fiscal year. She anticipates that reconciliation and payment processing will be completed by March, with a follow-up report to be provided at the March meeting.

Per Ms. Gudmalin, going forward, responsibility for indigent defense funding has been appropriated directly to the Public Defender Service Corporation, and these payments represent the Judiciary's final set of related obligations.

C. Certificate of Condolence for Palé Michael Crisostomo

Chief Justice Torres spoke on the certificate of condolence for the late Palé Michael Crisostomo. Chief Justice explained that although such certificates are not typically issued for individuals outside the Judiciary, Palé Mike was a valued partner and strong supporter of judicial initiatives. According to Chief Justice Torres:

- Palé Mike was instrumental in supporting Erica's House, the Judiciary's supervised visitation center established in memory of his sister, who was a victim of domestic violence.
- He also advanced suicide prevention efforts, assisted individuals experiencing homelessness, and supported individuals in crisis, while consistently partnering with the Judiciary on community programs.

Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to approve the certificate of condolence and its presentation to Palé Mike's family; the motion was seconded by Judge Cenzone. With no objections, the motion carried, and arrangements will be made to present the certificate to his family.

- D. Notice of the Next Meeting (Wednesday, January 14, 2026)** Chief Justice Torres announced that the next Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 19, subject to confirmation due to scheduling considerations, and that a revised notice would be issued.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Under communications, the Council was informed of an unforeseen medical emergency that occurred on December 29 in Magistrate Judge Jonathan Kwan's courtroom. Court staff and marshals responded immediately and administered life-saving measures. Although the individual could not be revived, their actions reflected preparedness and strong commitment to public service.

Certificates of commendation were presented to Magistrate Judge Jonathan Quan; Deputy Marshals Dodd Mortera, Jonathan Damian, and Greg Cruz; and Deputy Clerks Gemma-Lisa Raigelig and Curtis Aulerio for their bravery and decisive response. The Guam Fire Department commended the team's actions, noting that all appropriate measures were taken.

The family of the court patron was contacted, and the circumstances were explained. No Council action was required, as the commendations were issued by the Judiciary.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No report.

B. Court Employees Association

IFIK President, Jesse Franquez, provided two announcements:

- He thanked the Council and staff for their support throughout 2025, noting it was a banner year, and requested continued support for the newly formed 2026 board.
- IFIK will begin its 2026 activities with a bake sale this Friday in the second-floor Employees’ Lounge and encouraged staff participation.
- Planning is underway for the annual 5K event in May

In response to a question regarding a recent prize drawing, Mr. Franquez stated that he would confirm the details but indicated that a marshal, believed to be Christian, won the \$500 grand prize at the IFIK holiday party.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to adjourn until Thursday, February 19, 2026. Judge Cenzone seconded and with no objections the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of February 2026.


SHELTERIHNA T. ALOKOA
Executive Secretary
Judicial Council of Guam

As set out above, the Minutes of the January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting were approved by the Judicial Council at the February 19, 2026 Regular Meeting.


KATHERINE A. MARAMAN
Chair