



The Judiciary of Guam

Fiscal Year 2021
A Citizen - Centric Report
Website: www.guamcourts.org



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Website: www.guamcourts.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Us	1
Our Performance	2
Our Finances	3
Our Outlook	4

Mission

The Judiciary of Guam administers justice by interpreting and upholding the laws, resolving disputes in a timely manner, and providing accessible, efficient, and effective judicial services.



The Supreme Court of Guam (L-R): Justice Robert J. Torres, Chief Justice F. Phillip Carbullido, and Justice Katherine A. Maraman.

Operational Structure

The Judiciary is comprised of the Supreme Court of Guam and the Superior Court of Guam. The Supreme Court is Guam's highest court and is composed of the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. The Supreme Court hears appeals from the Superior Court, as well as cases involving attorney discipline and invoking the Court's original jurisdiction. The Chief Justice holds supervisory authority of the judicial branch, and with the advice of the Judicial Council of Guam, administers the divisions and offices of the Judiciary, which include Court Administrative Services, Courts and Ministerial, Probation, Marshals, and Client Services and Family Counseling. Supreme Court of Guam Justices include:

- Chief Justice F. Phillip Carbullido
- Associate Justice Robert J. Torres Jr.
- Associate Justice Katherine A. Maraman

The Superior Court is Guam's trial court, where the vast majority of cases begin in the court system. The Judicial Officers under this court hear a wide range of cases, from criminal prosecutions to cases arising from civil disputes, juvenile delinquency and neglect, traffic, family, probate, and small claims, as well as specialty treatment courts. Superior Court of Guam Judicial Officers include:

- Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III
- Judge Arthur R. Barcinas
- Judge Vernon P. Perez
- Judge Maria T. Cenzon
- Judge Elyze M. Iriarte
- Judge Dana A. Gutierrez
- Magistrate Judge Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.
- Magistrate Judge Jonathan R. Quan
- Family Court Referee Linda L. Ingles
- Administrative Hearings Officer B. Ann Keith

The administration of Judiciary operations, facilities and staff is run by the Administrative Office of the Courts under:

- Kristina L. Baird, Administrator of the Courts
- Andrew S. Quenga, Deputy Administrator of the Courts

About Us

The Judiciary is the third branch of the Government of Guam and is comprised of the Superior Court of Guam and the Supreme Court of Guam. As an equal and independent branch of government, the Judiciary checks and balances the powers of the legislative and executive branches by interpreting the laws of Guam and administers justice by resolving disputes brought before the courts.

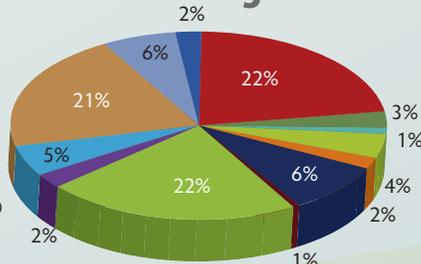
Vision

The Judiciary will provide the highest quality of judicial services to enhance public trust and confidence in Guam's independent and co-equal branch of government and become a model of judicial excellence. The Judiciary will:

1. Resolve matters and provide court services in a timely and efficient manner;
2. Be user friendly, understandable, accessible, and affordable to court users through the use of innovative resources and practices;
3. Have sufficient resources to support operations, programs, and services in normal and emergency situations;
4. Develop highly skilled and satisfied judicial officers and personnel; and
5. Be cost effective, accountable, transparent, and fiscally responsible.

Administrator of the Courts	(10)
Courts & Ministerial	(90)
Client Services and Family Counseling	(12)
Court Programs	(5)
Financial Management	(16)
Human Resources	(9)
Judges Chambers	(35)
Judicial Hearings	(2)
Marshals	(90)
Management Information Systems	(10)
Procurement & Facilities Management	(21)
Probation Services	(84)
Supreme Court	(25)

2021 Staffing Levels





JUDICIARY OF GUAM NOTABLE PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Supreme Court

Appellate Cases Filed in the Supreme Court of Guam
32

29
Supreme Court Opinions Issued

92
Office of Public Guardian Wards

Superior Court

929 Civil Cases Filed
719 Top Cause of Action in Civil Cases
Seller Plaintiff (Debt Collection)

48 Jury Trials

759 Grand Jury Cases Heard

534 Domestic Cases Filed
327 Top Cause of Action in Domestic Cases
Uncontested Divorce

Total Cases Filed in the Superior Court of Guam
8,763

Traffic Citations Filed
4,008

30 Adoption Cases Filed

511 Criminal Misdemeanors Filed
422 Top Misdemeanors Charged
Family Violence
35% Increase from 2020

Marshal Division

Court Patrons screened at the Guam Judicial Center
52,932

Court Patrons screened at the Northern Court Satellite
20,221

Court Patrons screened at the Historic Courthouse
13,184

Court Patrons screened at the San Ramon Building
2,898

Court Patrons screened at the Route 4 Building
1,950

TOTAL OF 91,185

Administrative Unit (Documents Received and Tasked for Marshal Services)



Other Statistics

Language Interpreters
56 Active Registered Interpreters
18 Languages
3 Registered American Sign Language

25 Supervisors/Leads Completed the Leadership Development Academy

9 ABA Law Day Awards Won

23,000 Court Hearings Held

3,575 Client Services Counseling Sessions
855 Case Referrals

674 Criminal Felonies Filed

Electronic Monitoring Unit 2021 Statistics

- 38** Removed from EM Supervision
- 36** Successfully Completed Program or Were Removed from EM Supervision after Entering Guilty Plea
- 44** Participants on Active EM Supervision as of 12-31-21
- 117** Defendants Released to EM Supervision
- 140+** Referrals Received for EM Supervision

Probation Division

PRETRIAL SERVICES
33,957 Client Check-Ins (in-person, email, phone)
2,352 Defendants Under Supervision

ADULT PROBATION
2,030 Active Cases Under Supervision

ADULT DRUG UNIT
357 Clients Under Supervision

16 Adult Drug Court Graduates

104 Children in the Guam Family Recovery Program

FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT
188 Criminal Felony Cases Filed
209 Criminal Misdemeanor Cases Filed



Source of Funds – General Operations Fiscal Year 2021

The Judiciary's general fund appropriation for operations in FY2021 decreased by approximately 4.06% or \$1.2M from FY2020.

Federal grants appropriations received in FY 2021 are funds mainly for specialty courts and other programs funded by the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, Equitable Sharing Programs, Child Support Hearing Services, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and funds directed to COVID-19 Economic Relief and Economic Security.

Other revenues were collected from fees for services involving the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) program, Drug Enforcement Treatment Program, Department of Youth Affairs therapeutic services program, and other Judiciary programs.

REVENUE	FY 2021	
General Fund Appropriation	\$ 29,444,760	86%
Federal Grants	\$ 3,997,692	12%
Other Collections	\$ 605,024	2%

Use of Funds – General Operations by Expenditure Type

EXPENDITURE TYPE	FY 2021
Personnel Services	\$ 20,767,540
Benefits	\$ 8,177,327
Contractual Services	\$ 2,414,987
Utilities & Communication	\$ 809,372
Capital Outlay	\$ 731,321
Travel/Personnel Training	\$ 83,460
Supplies and Materials	\$ 268,769
Equipment – Non-Capital Items	\$ 558,040
Miscellaneous	\$ 396,070
Total	\$ 34,206,886

General Operations

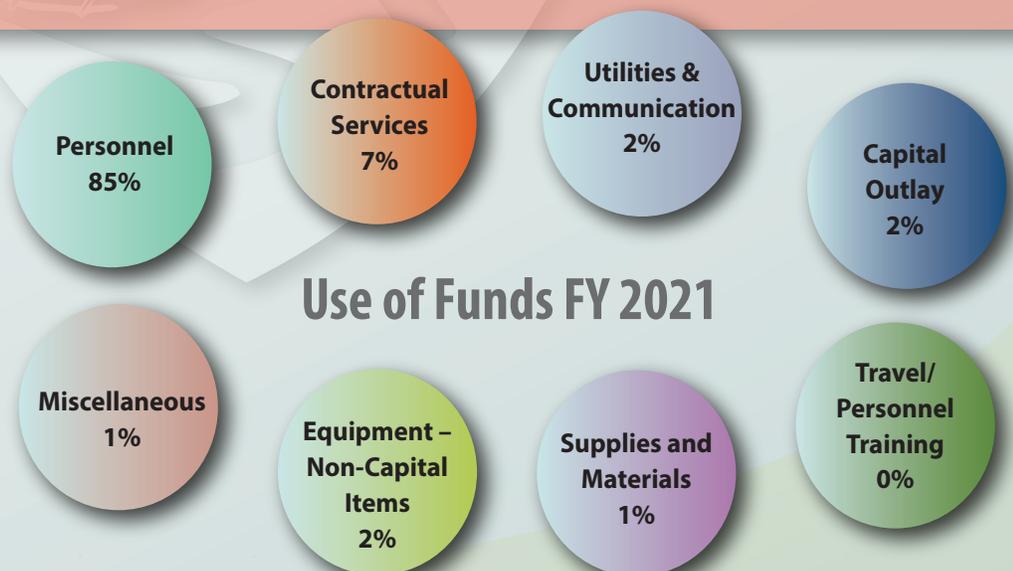
A significant portion of the Judiciary's general operational expenses in FY2021 is comprised of personnel and benefits costs of \$28.9M. Judiciary operations are primarily personnel-driven. The second largest portion of Judiciary general expenses pertain to contractual services, amounting to \$2.4M. Contractual services include, but are not limited to, license and maintenance of the Judiciary's case management system, accounting system, jury system, and other software systems, equipment maintenance, copier lease, lease of Northern Court Satellite location and storage facility, counseling services and other professional services.

Federal Grants and Collections

Federal grants appropriations received in FY 2021 are funds directed towards specialty courts, treatment courts and other federal programs. The majority of the funding is provided by the Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, Equitable Sharing Programs, Child Support Hearing Services, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and the COVID-19 Economic Relief and Economic Security. These funds are restricted for use only to the specific federal program. Smaller revenue amounts are collected from fees for services involving the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) program, Drug Enforcement Treatment Program and other smaller specific Judiciary programs. These collected funds are also restricted to each respective program.

Audit

An independent audit was performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP. The Government of Guam received an unmodified opinion. The Office of the Public Auditor released the Government of Guam wide financial audited report on July 19, 2022. For more information on this independent audit, click <http://www.opaguam.org>.





Our Outlook

In his 2022 State of the Judiciary Address, Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido reported that the state of the Judiciary is responsive to the ever-changing demands of providing quality justice services even under pandemic conditions and rooted in the solid infrastructure that makes operations possible. The Judiciary views future challenges as opportunities to improve the Judiciary's infrastructure, operations and the administration of justice.

Effective Court Operations

Virtual court proceedings have become the norm except for certain court proceedings that must be in-person to meet due process requirements. The Judiciary is studying whether to permanize virtual hearings for certain court proceedings and will consider feedback from all court stakeholders. The Judiciary continues to improve all levels of our physical plant and technology infrastructure. The Judiciary invests its public dollars in training its Judicial Officers and staff to maintain a high level of service to court patrons.



Judiciary employees hold up signs of encouragement during an Adult Drug Court graduation ceremony held on Nov. 19, 2021.



2021 State of the Judiciary Address

Strategic Plan

Over the years, the Judiciary has used its strategic plans to bring direction to its priorities and initiatives. For Strategic Plan 2020-2023, the five strategic focus areas are:

- Mental Health, Substance Abuse Disorders, and Treatment Courts
- Technology
- Effective Case Management and Timely Resolution
- Employee Excellence and Satisfaction
- Community Relations/Stakeholders

Each committee, chaired by a Judicial Officer and comprised of court managers, employees, and stakeholders, has identified goals and objectives and developed projects aligned to each strategic focus area.

Budgeting Challenges

The Judiciary's Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation request was designed to reasonably satisfy our financial needs in providing a sufficient workforce to support our operations and services, including electronic monitoring for appropriate defendants. The budget request will provide funding necessary to address proposed increases to workforce compensation. These increases are required to ensure that the Judiciary meets its statutory mandate to provide a compensation package that provides for internal equity and external competitiveness. On a daily basis, the Judiciary delivers efficient and effective services while also being a good steward of the public dollars given to it and modeling fiscal responsibility.



(Left) Supreme Court Virtual Hearing; (Right) The new multi-purpose courtroom.

Capital Improvement Projects

Major projects that were undertaken since the administration of Chief Justice Carbullido's term in January of 2020:

- Update and improve the Judiciary's antiquated information systems cabling to allow for greater broadband and high-speed connectivity
- Construction of a new high-tech, multi-purpose courtroom is nearing completion
- Conversion of the San Ramon Building's temporary pandemic, high-capacity courtroom to administrative offices has begun
- The complete renovation of the Guam Historic Courthouse has begun
- Renovation of Judicial Officer chambers has begun
- Renovation of trial courtrooms will soon begin