



A Citizen - Centric Report 2014

The Judiciary of Guam

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Robert J. Torres
Chief Justice of Guam

“The role of the Judiciary has evolved substantially over the years – from simply deciding cases, to helping address the underlying problems and alleviate the impacts of those problems. We have embraced that broader role, and I believe that we are doing it well. . . . The people of Guam can truly be proud of the Judiciary’s ability to adapt and modernize. And this is just the beginning. The innovations and reforms we undertake – through individualized justice and risk assessments, therapeutic courts, juvenile justice reform, and heightened security practices – will shape the future of our island.” – *Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, State of the Judiciary Address, May 1, 2014*

MISSION

The Judiciary’s purpose is to administer justice by interpreting and upholding the laws, resolving disputes in a timely manner, and providing accessible, efficient, and effective court services.

VISION

The Judiciary will provide the highest quality of justice services, thus enhancing public trust and confidence in Guam’s independent and co-equal branch of government and becoming a model of judicial excellence.



*A*s the third branch of the government of Guam, the Judiciary of Guam is charged with interpreting the laws of the Territory of Guam and in this regard provides for the orderly settlement of disputes between parties, determines the guilt or innocence of those accused of crimes and other violations of the law and protects the rights of individuals.

The head of the Judiciary of Guam is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam, currently Robert J. Torres. Associate Justices F. Philip Carbullido and Katherine A. Maraman are the other two members of the Supreme Court. Seven judges and three judicial officers comprise the Superior Court of Guam, which is led by Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III.

Court Interpreter Registry Program

In an effort to promote the accuracy and integrity of all judicial proceedings and to preserve constitutional and fundamental principles of fairness and access to justice, the Judiciary of Guam is committed to ensuring maximum communication between the Judiciary and all members of our community with whom the Judiciary interacts by ensuring the highest quality of language assistance and services to persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) or who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH). The Court Interpreter Registry Program (CIRP) established by the Judicial Council in 2012, allows for the assignment and use of registered interpreters for indigent criminal defense work, courtroom proceedings, and juvenile proceedings when parental rights are implicated. Upon request, interpreters may also be called upon to service other types of court proceedings. The CIRP languages currently include:

- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Palauan
- Cantonese
- Pohnpeian
- Chamorro
- Russian
- Chuukese
- Satawalese
- Japanese
- Tagalog
- Korean
- Ulithian
- Kosraen
- Vietnamese
- Mandarin
- Woleian
- Yapese

These language and sign services are provided in courtroom proceedings, probation services, attorney appointments, and client counseling. They are provided for witnesses or victims if needed.

Superior Court

COMPARATIVE CASES FILED

Description	Year	2013
Adoption		45
Child Support		315
Civil		1,727
Criminal (Felony)		754
Criminal (Misdemeanor)		1,125
Domestic (Divorce)		742
Juvenile Delinquent		229
Juvenile Special Proceedings		707
Juvenile Drug Court		176
Land Registration		8
Probate		176
Special Proceedings		204
Small Claims		1,933
Foreign Orders		1
Protective Orders		167
Restitution and Fines		43
GRAND TOTALS:		8,352

Family Violence filings in 2013	
Criminal Felony	127
Criminal Misdemeanors	307
Total	434

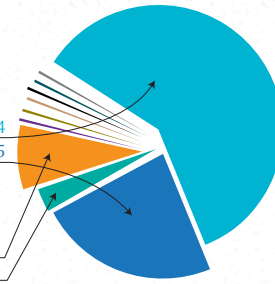
DWI Court filings in 2013	
Protective Orders	156
Criminal Felony	57
Criminal Misdemeanors	332
Total	389

* Source: Superior Court of Guam

Supreme Court

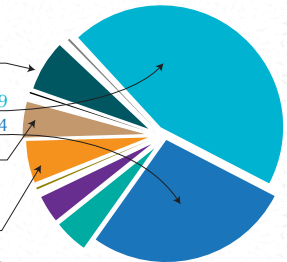
Actions Filed:

Appellate Procedure	0
Attorney Discipline	0
Certified Question	0
Civil Cases	64
Criminal Cases	25
Pro Hac Vice	0
Promulgation Orders	0
Writ of Habeas Corpus	0
Writs of Mandamus	9
Writs of Prohibition	2
GRAND TOTAL:	100



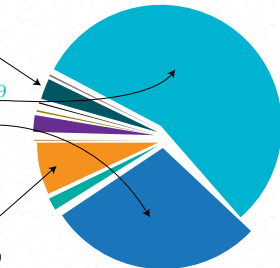
Number of Case Filings:

Appellate Procedure	0
Attorney Discipline	6
Certified Question	0
Civil Cases	39
Criminal Cases	24
Pro Hac Vice	4
Promulgation Orders	3
Writ of Habeas Corpus	0
Writs of Mandamus	5
Writs of Prohibition	4
GRAND TOTAL:	85

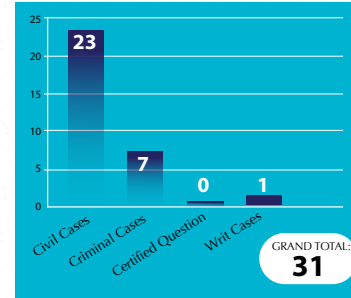


Orders Filed:

Appellate Procedure	0
Attorney Discipline	6
Certified Question	0
Civil Cases	119
Criminal Cases	61
Pro Hac Vice	0
Promulgation Orders	5
Writ of Habeas Corpus	0
Writs of Mandamus	15
Writs of Prohibition	3
GRAND TOTAL:	209

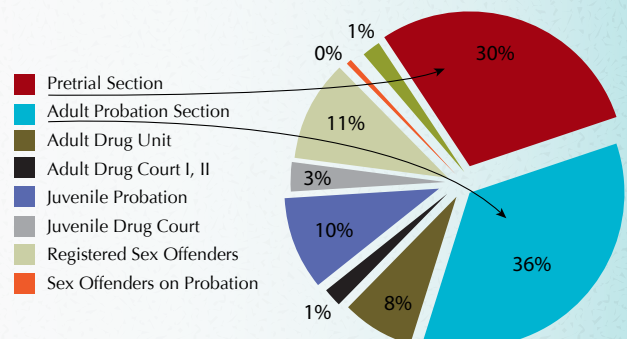


Opinions Issued in 2013:

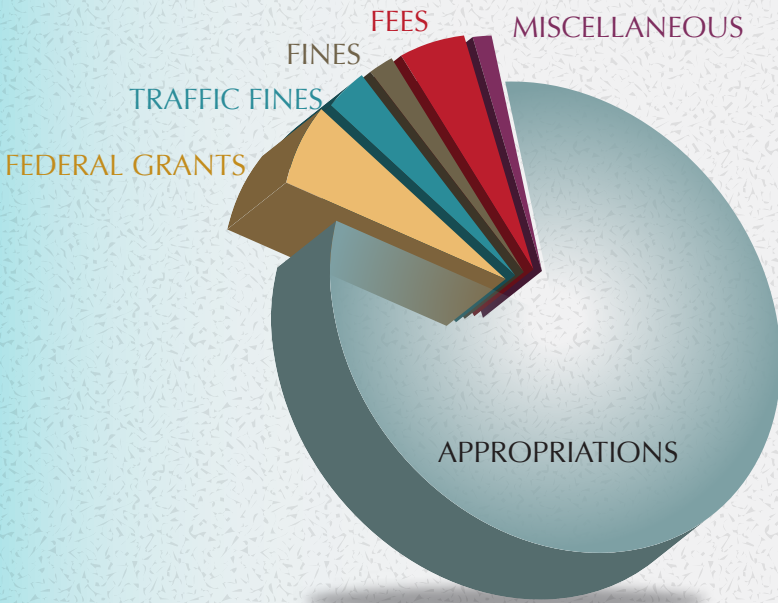


Probation Caseload Distribution

PSD Supervision Caseload = 7,143



FUNDING SOURCES

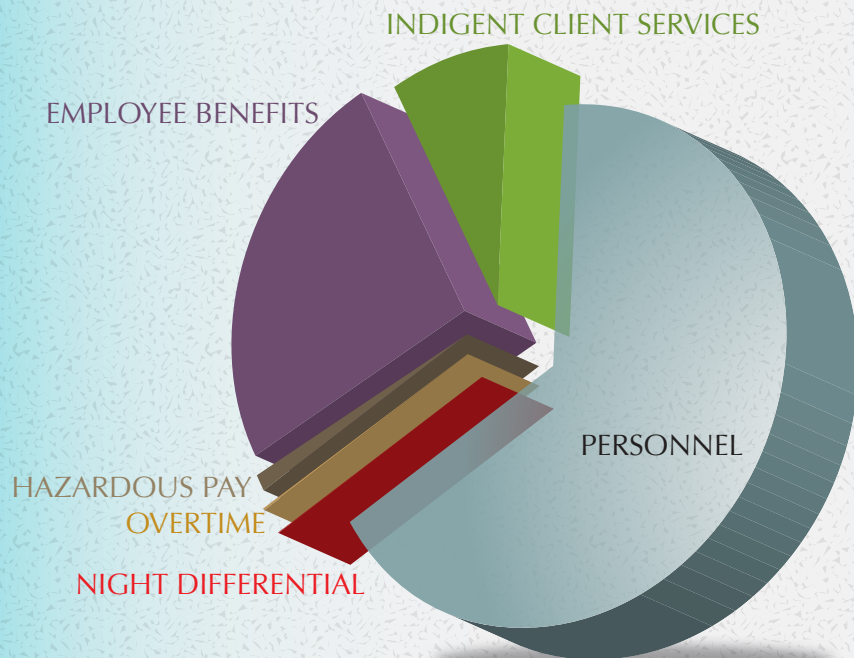


	2012	2013
APPROPRIATIONS	24,738,596	23,564,558
FEDERAL GRANTS	6,205,977	1,769,113
TRAFFIC FINES	812,065	917,875
FINES	1,192,969	528,233
FEES	1,668,953	1,446,359
MISCELLANEOUS	398,769	363,799
TOTAL	35,017,329	28,589,937

How the Judiciary's Budget compares to the Government of Guam in FY 2013

- Judicial Branch:	\$22,819,125 = 4.06%
- Alternate Public Defender:	\$745,433 = 0.13%
	\$23,564,558
- Other Government of Guam agencies:	\$538,421,167 = 95.81%

MANDATORY EXPENSES



	2013
PERSONNEL	17,494,285
OVERTIME	26,516
NIGHT DIFFERENTIAL	9,136
HAZARDOUS PAY	198,616
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	6,589,985
INDIGENT CLIENT SERVICES	
Court Interpreters	71,382
Alternate Public Defender	846,896
Court Appointed Attorneys	952,613
Other	258,105

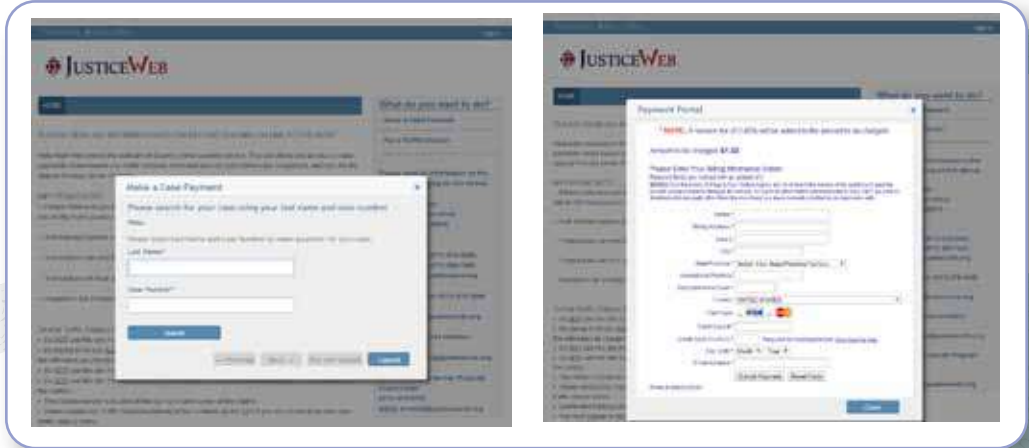
Independent Audit

Independent Audit was performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP. The Government of Guam received an unqualified (clean) opinion. The Office of the Public Auditor released the Government of Guam wide financial audited report on July 1, 2014. For more information of the independent audit, you may visit this web site address <http://www.guamopa.com>

EXPANDED ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICES

In FY 2014, the Judiciary of Guam began the following online payment services:

- **Traffic Citations**
- **Criminal Fines**
- **Court Costs**
- **Restitution**
- **Program Fees:**
 - Occupational Driving Privilege Fee
 - Alcohol Education Program Fee
 - Domestic Abuse Program Fee
 - Anger and Stress Management Program Fee
 - Individual Counseling Program Fee for Family Violence
 - Psychological Evaluation Program Fee for Family Violence
 - Theft and Burglary Prevention Program Fee



Future Online Payment services will include:

- Traffic Clearances
- Court Clearances
- Board of Law Examiner Dues
- Guam Bar Association Registration Dues

A convenience fee of 2.85% is added to the total amount due.



Talent Management Program

The Judiciary of Guam launched its Talent Management Program in 2013, a proactive and planned approach to developing and managing high achieving managers and employees, to ensure that future workforce and staffing needs are met.

This program, which is consistent with and complementary to the Government of Guam merit system, is a succession planning tool to create an “internal talent pool” for the Judiciary. The goal is to provide existing Judiciary employees with training and skills to fill critical positions as vacancies occur, and to provide opportunities for career enhancement and professional development.

After being accepted into the program, participants created their individual development plans and report on their progress to a team of senior managers. With forward thinking and preparation, the Judiciary can better anticipate its future staffing needs.

EVIDENCED BASED PRACTICES

The Probation Services Division is working to implement risk-based supervision of clients and align resources by client risk level (intense supervision for high risk, intermediate supervision for medium risk, and moderate supervision for low risk).

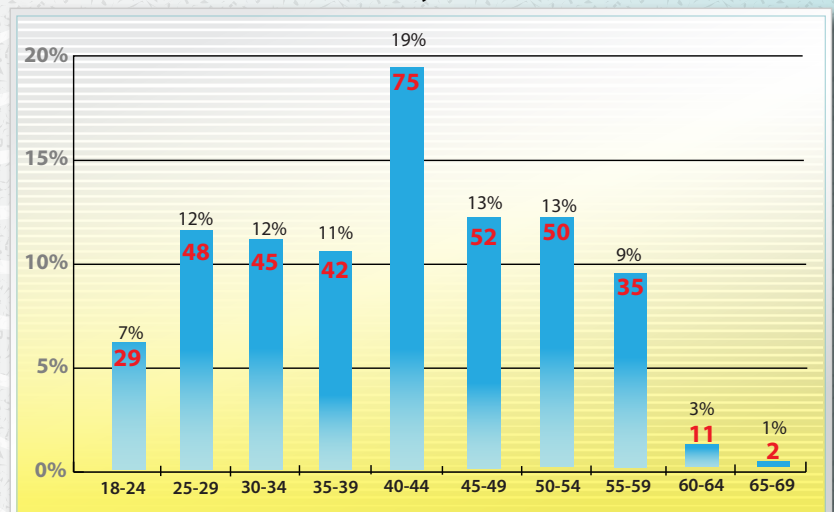
This method of supervision will address the following goals:

- **Acquire Risk & Needs Assessment Tools**
- **Recommend Smarter Sentencing to Reduce Recidivism**
- **Effectively Manage Sex Offenders to Protect the Community**
- **Develop and Implement Evidenced Based Practices**
- **Focus on Client Outcomes**

Decisions regarding sentencing, probation, and pretrial conditions should be made utilizing critical risk and needs assessment instruments, which are evidence-based practices.

COURT STAFF AGE DISTRIBUTION

As of May 27, 2014



Source: Human Resource Division, Judiciary of Guam