



The Judiciary of Guam

Fiscal Year 2018

A Citizen - Centric Report

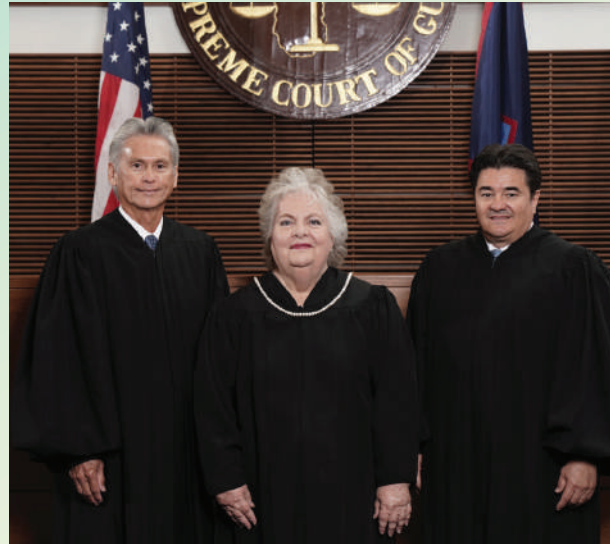
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120 West O'Brien Drive Hagatna, Guam 96910

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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



Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman, Justice Robert J. Torres, Jr

Mission

The Judiciary administers 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 judicial services, thus enhancing public trust and confidence in Guam's independent and co-equal branch of government and becoming the model of governmental excellence.

About Us

The Judiciary of Guam is the third branch of the Government of Guam that is charged with interpreting the laws of the U.S. Territory of Guam.

The Judiciary is comprised of the Superior Court of Guam and the Supreme Court of Guam of which both the trial and appellate courts provide for the settlement of disputes between parties and protects the rights of individuals as mandated in the Organic Act of Guam and the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Judicial Council of Guam is the governing body of the Judiciary of Guam- Pursuant to law, it is composed of all full-time Justices of the Supreme Court, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, and an appointed Superior Court Judge. The current composition of the Judicial Council was created in 2003, and in 2004, after an amendment to the Organic Act of Guam effectuated by the United States Congress in Public Law 108-378, the judicial branch was declared a separate and co-equal branch of the Government of Guam. Under 48 U.S.C. § 1421-1(b), the Chief Justice of Guam retains all supervisory authority of the judicial branch. With the advice of the Judicial Council, the Chief Justice governs the divisions and offices within the Judiciary of Guam.



Superior Court of Guam (L-R) Family Court Referee Linda L. Ingles, Magistrate Judge Jonathan R. Quan, Judge Maria T. Cenzone, Judge Arthur R. Barcinas, Judge Michael J. Bordallo, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, Judge Anita A. Sukola, Judge Vernon P. Perez, Judge Elyze M. Iriarte, Magistrate Judge Benjamin C. Sison, Jr., Referee Maria G. Fitzpatrick, Administrative Hearings Officer B. Ann Keith.

Demographics

(Population-167, 286 [2019 CIA World Factbook])
As of September 30, 2018, the Superior Court of Guam received 11, 021 filings and the Supreme Court of Guam recorded 65 total case filings. In 2018, the top offenses charged in the Superior Court of Guam were Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance, Family Violence, Driving While Impaired, Assault-Recklessly Case/Attempt to Cause Bodily Injury and Special Allegation-Commission of a Felony While on Felony Release. The Supreme Court of Guam issued opinions in 14 civil cases, 13 criminal cases, one certified question and one writ in 2018.

OUR PERFORMANCE

SUPREME COURT CASE FILINGS - FIVE YEAR TREND

CASE TYPE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Appellate Procedure	0	0	0	0	0
Attorney Discipline	6	8	9	16	3
Certified Question	2	1	0	1	1
Civil Case	37	30	23	30	35
Criminal Case	27	40	15	19	15
Pro Hac Vice	2	1	0	0	0
Promulgation Order	2	1	1	1	3
Writ of Habeas Corpus	0	0	0	1	0
Writ of Mandamus	2	2	2	2	7
Writ of Prohibition	0	0	1	2	1
GRAND TOTAL	78	83	51	72	65

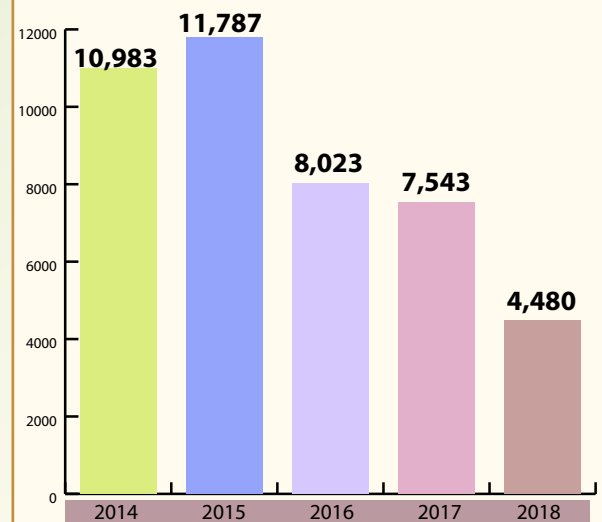
SUPREME COURT TOTAL OPINIONS ISSUED - FIVE YEAR TREND

CASE TYPE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Civil	23	23	14	13	14
Criminal	11	17	26	14	13
Certified Question	2	0	1	1	1
Writ	0	0	0	0	1
GRAND TOTAL	36	40	41	28	29

SUPERIOR COURT TOTAL CASE FILINGS - FIVE YEAR TREND

Cases Filed	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Adoption	52	40	39	42	36
Child Support	287	170	356	321	274
Civil	1,181	1,182	1,155	1,340	1,226
Criminal Felony	696	797	768	745	772
Criminal Misdemeanor	1,156	996	918	752	643
Domestic	739	657	647	683	691
Foreign Order	1	4	5	1	0
Juvenile Delinquency	217	193	208	286	196
Juvenile Drug Court	146	233	200	0*	0*
Juvenile Proceedings	705	609	504	395	436
Land Registration	5	5	3	4	6
Probate	169	208	168	204	223
Special Proceedings	185	187	220	203	218
Protective Orders	131	117	122	135	124
Restitution (Collection)	67	64	59	51	88
Small Claims	2,014	1,580	1,662	1,707	1,608
Traffic	10,983	11,787	8,023	7,543	4,480
Total	18,734	18,829	15,057	14,412	11,021

Traffic Citations Filed - Five Year Trend



Traffic Citations Filed in 2018:
Northern Court Satellite – **3,520**
Hagåtña Courthouse – **960**

TOP FELONY OFFENSES CHARGED

2018	# offenses
Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance	302
Special Allegation – Commission of a Felony While on Felony Release	158
Possession and Use of a Deadly Weapon in the Commission of a Felony	149
Burglary (As a 2nd Degree Felony)	123
Second Degree CSC – contact & V is less than 14	108
2017	# offenses
Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance	217
Terrorizing	105
Special Allegation- Commission of a Felony While on Felony Release	92
Special Allegation - Deadly Weapon Use in Felony	88
Possession and Use of a Deadly Weapon in the Commission of a Felony	80
2016	# offenses
Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance	253
Criminal Mischief	114
Terrorizing	98
Special Allegation - Deadly Weapon Use in Felony	86
Aggravated Assault - Serious Bodily Injury to another	82

TOP OFFENSES CHARGED OVERALL

2018	# offenses
Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance	302
Family Violence	287
Driving While Impaired	198
Assault - Recklessly Cause / Attempt to Cause Bodily Injury	168
Special Allegation – Commission of a Felony While on Felony Release	158
2017	# offenses
Family Violence	372
Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol	292
Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance	217
Assault - Recklessly Cause / Attempt to Cause Bodily Injury	182
Harassment	140
2016	# offenses
Family Violence	457
Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol	341
Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance	253
Assault - Recklessly Cause / Attempt to Cause Bodily Injury	181
Public Drunkenness	149

TOP MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES CHARGED

2018	# offenses
Family Violence	280
Driving While Impaired	195
Assault - Recklessly Cause / Attempt to Cause Bodily Injury	168
Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol	115
Harassment	115
2017	# offenses
Family Violence	366
Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol	285
Assault - Recklessly Cause / Attempt to Cause Bodily Injury	182
Harassment	140
Reckless Driving - Without Injuries	110
2016	# offenses
Family Violence	446
Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol	331
Assault - Recklessly Cause / Attempt to Cause Bodily Injury	181
Public Drunkenness	149
Harassment	143

OUR FINANCES

FY 2017 TO FY 2018

Comparison of General Fund Appropriation Collections	FY2017	FY2018
Base Operations	31,375,634	27,513,696
Court Appointed Attorneys	1,239,791	928,652
Therapeutic Courts	1,383,439	1,436,532
Safe Streets Fund	145,613	162,875
	34,144,477	30,041,755
General Fund Revenue Available for Appropriation	681,271,974	688,559,103
Judiciary Appropriation as a % of GF Revenue Available to Appropriate	5.01%	4.36%

Judiciary of Guam General Fund - Operations Operations Expenditures by Classification (Audited)

Operations Breakdown	FY2017	FY2018	CHANGE IN \$	CHANGE IN %
Personnel Services	21,612,865	21,201,075	(411,790)	-2%
Benefits	7,671,840	7,744,106	72,266	1%
Contractual Services	1,936,782	1,803,496	(133,286)	-7%
Capital Outlay	847,057	1,424,266	577,209	68%
Utilities	973,249	1,081,167	107,918	11%
Travel	449,521	243,552	(205,969)	-46%
Supplies and Materials	265,908	131,024	(134,884)	-51%
Equipment - Non Capital Items	276,052	42,158	(233,894)	-85%
Miscellaneous	28,644	125,443	96,799	338%
Total	34,061,918	33,796,286	(265,632)	

Judiciary of Guam General Fund and Non Governmental Funds - Capital Projects Funds Combining Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance (Deficit) Accounts For the Year Ended September 30, 2018 (Audited)

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Combined Total
	Operations	Judicial Building Fund	
Revenues			
Licenses, fees and permits	-	857,931	857,931
Intergovernmental	1,967,249	-	1,967,249
Fines and forfeits	889,391	603,383	1,492,774
Others	-	-	-
Total revenues	2,856,640	1,461,314	4,317,954
Expenditures by Function:			
Current:			
Individual and collectible rights	33,796,286	734,732	34,540,018
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	-	680,901	680,901
Interest and fiscal charges	-	312,104	312,104
Total expenditures	33,796,286	1,736,737	35,533,023
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(30,939,646)	(275,423)	(31,215,069)
Other financing sources (uses):			
Transfers in from other funds	30,041,755	-	30,041,755
Transfers out to other funds	(219,000)	-	(219,000)
Total other financing sources (uses), net	29,822,755	(275,423)	29,822,755
Net change in fund balance (deficit)	(1,116,891)		(1,392,314)
Fund balance at beginning of year	7,016,134	475,969	7,492,103
Fund balance as of September 30, 2018	5,899,243	200,546	6,099,789

Judiciary of Guam Fiduciary Funds - Private Purpose Trusts Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position For the Year Ended September 30, 2018 (Audited)

	Jury Trust	Judicial Client Service Trust	Safe Streets Trust	Combined Total
Additions:				
Use of Money and Property	335	1,872,315	198,252	2,070,902
Transfers in from other funds	442,465	-	162,875	605,340
Total additions	442,800	1,872,315	361,127	2,676,242
Deductions:				
Individual and collectible rights	442,465	1,338,881	314,577	2,095,923
Transfers out to other funds	-	1,314,992	-	1,314,992
Total deductions:	442,465	2,653,873	314,577	3,410,915
Change in net position held in trust for individuals, organizations, and other governments	335	(781,558)	46,550	(734,673)
Net position at beginning of year	14,053	2,948,801	-	2,962,854
Net position at end of year	14,388	2,167,243	46,550	2,228,181

What's next in 2019

Adoption of Criminal Justice Automation Commission

Since 1993, the Criminal Justice Automation Commission has guided improvements to the court's case management system, the criminal justice information system, island-wide fingerprinting system, the technologies in Guam patrol cars that link these systems, and a host of other improvements to support the law enforcement needs of our public safety agencies. The ad-hoc commission has continued to operate as the governing body focused on building and strengthening Guam's criminal history records infrastructure. Technology has enlarged the scope of the judiciary's responsibility to preserve the American tradition of open courts. We must have the opportunity to enhance the public's ability to observe and participate in the judicial process through technologies-this policy framework does much to establish electronic access policies and will identify fundamental steps in the development of our respective and integrated action plans.

Appointment of Eighth Superior Court of Guam Judge

For three years, the Judiciary has sought legislative support to authorize and fund the appointment of an Eighth Judge to the Superior Court of Guam. An additional judge will tackle the Branch's complex caseload and help eliminate backlogs. Having this additional judicial officer will complement and enhance the fulfillment of our core mission – to provide optimal service at the Guam Judicial Center and the Northern Court Satellite – service that is expeditious, effective, and efficient.

Judiciary of Guam Historic Courthouse Project:

The Judiciary of Guam is seeking out funding to start the process to modernize the Historic Courthouse Building. In 2018, the Old Court Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. As efforts are underway to renovate the Route 4 Building to relocate the Probation Services Division, the Guam Historic Preservation Trust has committed to work with the Judiciary on the modernization project that would convert the Old Court House into a new Supreme Court of Guam. The project will preserve the historic nature of this building including the unique architectural, mural and stone features of the interior.

See previous Citizen Centric Reports of the Judiciary of Guam at www.guamcourts.org



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 Shawn Gumataotao, Director of Policy, Planning & Community Relations at Tel: 300-9282 or email: sgumataotao@guamcourts.org