



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

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**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom
Guam Judicial Center**

★★★★

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman
Chair

Hon. F. Philip Carbullido
Member

Hon. Robert J. Torres
Member

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III.
Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzon
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:
Shelterihna Alokoa

Judicial Council Asst. Secretary:
Jessica J. Perez-Jackson

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Judicial Council was called to order by the Chair, Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman, at the hour of 12:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman
Justice F. Philip Carbullido (excused due to off-island travel)
Justice Robert J. Torres (appeared via Zoom)
Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III
Judge Maria T. Cenzon

Present in the Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom:

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. Dianne O. Gudmalin, Finance 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
Ms. Joleen F. Respicio, MIS Program Coordinator IV
Mr. Jesse Franquez, IFIK President
Ms. Shelterihna Alokoa, Judicial Assistant & Supreme Court Technical Bailiff
Ms. Jessica Perez-Jackson, Judicial Council Executive Secretary

Present via Zoom:

Mardave Toledo
Dean Manglona
Judge Elyze M. Iriarte

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 Katherine A. Maraman began the roll call. Justice Robert J. Torres, Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, and Judge Maria T. Cenzone identified themselves. Justice F. Philip Carbullido was excused due to off-island travel. A quorum was established, with four (4) of the members present.

IV. READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES: January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes.

The minutes of the January 14, 2026 Judicial Council meeting were presented for approval. Chief Justice Maraman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Justice Torres moved to approve the January 14, 2026 minutes which was seconded by Presiding Judge Lamorena. With no objections, the minutes were approved subject to correction.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Judiciary FY 2026 Remittances Pursuant to Applicable Law

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin reported that approximately 35% of the FY2026 appropriated budget for general operations, totaling about \$15,147,000, has been received to date. She noted that there has been a delay in the February allotments from the Department of Administration (DOA), likely due to recent personnel changes, namely the departure of the DOA Controller and Assistant Controller. She stated that the February 17 allotment remains pending and that the next deposit is expected on March 3. She added that coordination with the Department is ongoing to ensure timely receipt of funds.

Ms. Gudmalin also reported on the JVF fund and said that effective January 16, 2026, the JVF loan interest rate increased from 3.60% to 5.33%. She explained that this resulted in a higher quarterly payment of \$197,026, representing an increase of approximately \$32,000 per quarter or \$128,000 annually. She stated that the total annual debt obligation is now \$788,104, with the first payment due on March 01, 2026. Ms. Gudmalin noted that the next interest rate adjustment is scheduled for January 16, 2031. She emphasized that this increase was anticipated and incorporated into the FY2026 budget, and she indicated that current projections show sufficient resources to meet obligations. She added that staff will continue to monitor budgets, debt service schedules, and market conditions, and she shared that the loan is scheduled to be fully paid off in 2052.

B. eCourt and eSupervision Transition

The Administrator of the Courts (AOC), Danielle Rosete, reported that the Judiciary is moving forward with the migration to eCourt and e-supervision in partnership with Journal Technologies, with a targeted go-live date of March 2, and she noted that the vendor, Journal Technologies, will be on site before and after implementation to support the transition. She stated that initial services will

include online payments for traffic citations, court clearances, probation fines, special process server fees, and certificates of good standing. Administrator Rosete explained that while a public portal is being developed, the e-filing component will not be available at go-live and will instead be completed within an estimated 30 to 60 days, during which time the existing Justice WebPortal will remain in use. She noted that the public portal will allow users to search hearing calendars within a 10-day window and conduct case lookups for publicly available cases, while access to documents will still require requests through the Clerk's Office.

AOC Rosete reported that staff across divisions have completed training and will receive additional training as needed. She emphasized that the JustWare system will no longer be accessible once eCourt goes live on March 3. Ms. Rosete recognized key personnel including Lori Perez, Val Tenorio, Rachel Orsini, Perry Guerrero, and Marissa Santos who assisted with eCourts development. She added that eSupervision development was greatly helped by Tricia Suzuki, Nick Kalani, Christine Untalan, Yvette T. Blas Ananach, and Hill C. Leon Guerrero. She also thanked the MIS Division for their work over the past three years in developing the system. She stated that future improvements will continue to enhance technology and public access to justice. Administrator Rosete explained that integration with justice partners such as the Attorney General's Office and Department of Corrections will not be available at go-live but may be developed through portal access with defined permissions.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Resolution JC 26 - Relative to Commending Justice Robert J. Torres for His Service to the Judiciary of Guam**

Chief Justice Maraman presented the Judicial Council resolution commending Justice Robert J. Torres for his years of service as the Chief Justice from 2023 to 2025. **Chief Justice Maraman asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Justice Torres recused himself from the vote. Judge Cenzon moved to approve the resolution which was seconded by Presiding Judge Lamorena. With no objections, the resolution was approved subject to correction.**

B. **Resolution JC 26 - Relative to Appointing an Executive and Assistant Secretary to the Judicial Council**

Chief Justice Maraman reported on housekeeping matters related to appointing a new Executive Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Judicial Council. She proposed Shelterihna T. Alokoa as Executive Secretary and Jessica Perez-Jackson as Assistant Secretary. **Chief Justice Maraman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Presiding Judge Lamorena moved to approve the resolution which was seconded by Justice Torres. With no objections, the resolution was approved subject to correction.**

C. **Resolution JC 26 - Relative to Updating Signature Cards for Judiciary Accounts**

Ms. Dianne Gudmalin shared a resolution to update the signature cards for the Judiciary's accounts. She explained that the updates reflect her current position title as Chief Financial Officer, as well as the recent resignation of DPPCR Sarah Elmore Hernandez in January. Ms. Gudmalin identified the individuals included on the updated signature cards: Danielle Rosete, Administrator of the Courts; Sofia Santos Diaz, Deputy Administrator of the Courts; M. Dianne Gudmalin, Chief Financial Officer;

Mardave J. Toledo, Deputy Administrator of Financial Management; and Andrew Perez, Public Guardian. **The motion to approve the resolution was made by Honorable Robert J. Torres and seconded by Presiding Judge Lamorena. The Council approved the resolution unanimously, with all 4 present voting in favor and one member absent.**

D. Relative to Merchant Fees for Online Transactions (Informational Purposes Only)

Administrator Danielle Rosete reported on the new e-payment solution provided by Journal Technologies for online credit and debit card transactions. She explained that the Judicial Council previously authorized the Administrator of the Courts, in a 2015 resolution, to approve merchant service fee adjustments for credit and debit card use.

Administrator Rosete stated that under the new online payment system, the credit card transaction fee will be 2.75% plus a \$5.95 convenience fee, compared to the current merchant fee of 3.10% with the existing vendor and bank. She noted that these fees will apply only to patrons using the online service, while patrons paying in person at the courthouse will continue to pay the previously approved 3.10% fee. She concluded that this report was provided for informational purposes, and staff will continue to monitor the system's use. Justice Torres noted that this solution is used at the Norther Marianas Court and they have no reported issues.

E. Notice of the Next Meeting (Thursday, March 19, 2026)

Chief Justice Maraman announced that the next Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Update MIS Division Title to IT

Administrator Danielle Rosete presented a Memo to the Judicial Council regarding a follow-up discussion on improving the efficiencies of the Judiciary's technology division. She explained her intent to rename the **Management Information Systems (MIS) Division** to the **Information Technology (IT) Division**, along with updating position titles to reflect the new division name. Administrator Rosete noted that under Section 2.00 of the Judiciary's Personnel Rules and Regulations, she has the authority to make structural and administrative changes to division titles, while pay adjustments remain under the Council's statutory authority. She clarified that no changes to pay plans or schedules are being made.

Administrator Rosete referenced a previous study, the SNAP report, which recommended a division name change. She explained that after reviewing other courts and government agencies, the term "Information Technology" (IT) was determined to be more consistent and widely recognized in the Government of Guam agencies than "Information and Communications Technology" or "Management Information Systems." She communicated that the new division name will take effect immediately once the Memo has been concurred by Chief Justice Maraman. Honorable Robert J. Torres expressed support for the decision, stating that "IT" more clearly captures the scope of responsibilities and is a more appropriate and modern designation.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ms. Janice Camacho-Perez, GBA Secretary, reported that the CLE certification period closed on January 31st and that an audit is currently underway to identify delinquent attorneys and determine any fees owed. She noted that the Justice Foundation held a successful event in January, collecting approximately \$10,000 in attorney pledges, and that additional events are planned throughout the year. She reported that, in February, the American Bar Association supported a resolution urging federal authorities to place a moratorium on commercial deep-sea mining leases in the Pacific.

Ms. Camacho-Perez noted preparations for the annual meeting will coincide with Law Month, and GBA anticipates offering one or more CLE topics in coordination with the Judiciary and other partners. She mentioned receiving a communication from the Guam Bar President regarding a potential amendment to the professional rules of conduct for attorneys, specifically Rule 1.14, concerning the representation of persons with limited capacity, particularly indigent clients, with further information forthcoming.

B. Court Employees Association

There was no report. Judicial Council members noted that a \$7 breakfast fundraiser was set for the next day with soup and sandwiches.

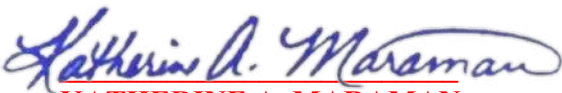
X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Justice Torres moved to adjourn until Thursday, March 19, 2026, Judge Cenzone seconded and with no objections the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of March 2026.


SHELTERIHNA T. ALOKOA
Executive Secretary
Judicial Council of Guam

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


KATHERINE A. MARAMAN
Chair