

DISTRICT OF GUAM





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2018 Report of the Ninth Circuit LRCC Representative Cynthia V. Ecube, Esq.

For the Bench and Bar

Upgrade of Courtroom Technology

In September 2017, the court initiated a contract with a stateside engineering company to overhaul the audio and video systems in its fourth floor courtroom. This work will commence on October 1, 2018 and will greatly enhance the ability of the bar to present digital evidence in that courtroom.

Bankruptcy Seminar

On September 11, 2017, the court hosted a three-hour bankruptcy seminar for members of the Guam Bar Association with Region 15 Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis B. Ching and Chapter 13 Case Trustee Howard Hu. Topics included “*What Can Chapter 13 Do for (or to) You?*,” and “*The New Chapter 13 Plan - How it Works and What to Watch For.*” Members of the bar earned up to three hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for participating in the event.

Updated Local Rules of Practice

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071, and after appropriate public notice and an opportunity for comment, the court adopted updated General and Bankruptcy Local Rules of Practice, effective December 1, 2017.

General Rule GNLR 1.1 has been updated to include the Guam Daily Post as a newspaper of record for the court. GNLR 17.1 now explicitly includes the Federal Public Defender and his/her assistants as Attorneys for the United States for purposes of admission to the bar of the court.

The Bankruptcy Rules have been updated to conform to changes in the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and to accommodate a new standard Chapter 13 Plan form with attachments. A new standard Objection to Claim form has also been adopted by the court. Another notable change is that in Chapter 13 cases, an order dismissing the case for failure to file a plan shall include an 180-day bar to refile a subsequent petition.

2018 District Conference

The 2018 District Conference held on February 8, 2018, and we were particularly excited to welcome Mr. David S. Addington, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Legal Counsel for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and the Honorable M. Margaret McKeown, a Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. Addington spoke about issues related to taxes, insurance, and federal regulations. He also shared his experiences in the White House and his work as an attorney with a variety of national issues such as taxes, insurance, healthcare, and federal regulations.

In the morning, Judge McKeown gave us a report on the Ninth Circuit, and later in the day, provided two presentations on ethics. The first, a panel discussion, was “*Ethics and the Organization*”, and the second was “*The Changing Ethical Landscape of Litigation.*”

The Guam Bar Association, under the leadership of its new President, Jacqueline Terlaje and Board

of Governors, held its 2018 Membership Meeting during lunch at the District Conference.

Late in the afternoon, attorneys Ladd Baumann and Nelson Xu gave us an update on Business Immigration Law in the afternoon.

Cristobal C. Dueñas Excellence Award

Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood and U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr. presented the court’s Cristobal C. Dueñas Excellence Award to attorney Rodney J. Jacob at the Annual District Conference.

Mr. Rodney J. Jacob was appointed in 2010 by Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood as the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative for the District of Guam and served in that position until this year.

Mr. Jacob was instrumental in bringing many notable people to speak at the Annual District Conferences, including Justice Sonia Sotomayor of the Supreme Court of the United States; various judges from the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Law Professors Kathleen M. Sullivan, Jonathan Turley, and Erwin Chemerinsky; and he also played a key role in bringing a panel from the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to sit in Guam in 2014.

Prior to his appointment as the District of Guam’s Lawyer Representative, Mr. Jacob served a two-year term as President of the Guam Bar Association commencing in 2005. He



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has worked tirelessly to help plan and execute annual Law Week events as Co-Chair of the Law Week Committee from 2007 to present.

Civics and Community Outreach

2018 Law Week

The District Court of Guam once again sponsored the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest. The prompt for 2018 was *"What does equal protection mean to students?"* Students considered how the Equal Protection Clause applies in high schools, colleges and graduate schools, whether in admissions, classrooms or on athletic fields. Individual students expressed their thoughts and ideas in an essay of between 500 and 1,000 words. The court received 134 entries.

On Thursday, April 26, 2018, the court celebrated a special Law Week naturalization ceremony, with Chief Justice Katherine A. Maraman as the keynote speaker. U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr. presided. 47 new citizens were naturalized.

The court also inaugurated a new Law Week event this year, an innovative Court Sketch Artist Contest. High school students and adult members of the public registered for the contest online at the District Court of Guam's website and sketched an aspect of a public court proceeding at the District Court of Guam between April 1, 2018, through April 27, 2018.

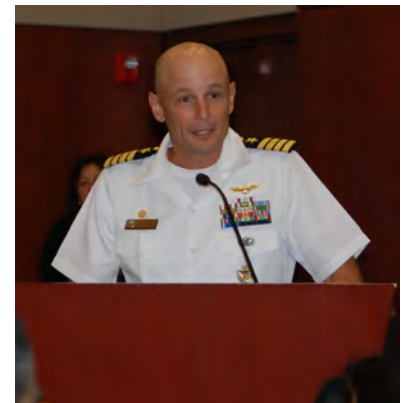
The court, with the Guam Bar Association, sponsored free law clinics at several island Senior Citizen Centers.

The court, the Guam Law Week planning committee and the Guam Girl Scouts are currently designing a "Guam Justice" patch and associated educational program for Girl Scouts on Guam. A roundtable discussion about the patch project occurred on May 18, 2018.

The court, along with Guam Martial Arts Movement and Custom Fitness Gym, sponsored the "Jump for Justice" Jump Rope Competition, an individual jump rope competition for elementary, middle, and high school students. Jump roping targets many of the developmental skills that children need to be successful in school and in a healthy, active life, bilateral coordination, motor planning, eye-hand coordination, strength, and endurance.

Lastly, the court co-sponsored the 3rd Annual Haggan Games, an annual Law Week fitness challenge. The event is designed to engage our island's courts, bar association, local and federal

law enforcement agencies, in promoting personal awareness about physical fitness, and encourage healthy behaviors.



Captain Hans E. Sholley, Commanding Officer of Naval Base Guam, was the keynote speaker at the Independence Day Naturalization, Ceremony on July 3, 2017.



Students from the Academy of Lady of Guam participated in the Constitution and Citizenship Day event at the Guam Museum on September 17, 2017.



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Civics and Community Outreach

The Philippine Judges Association
Visits the District Court,
October 2, 2017



Federal Judges Break Ground for a New
Courthouse for the District of the Northern
Mariana Islands,
December 7, 2017



L to R: U.S. Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy,
Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, and Chief
Judge Ramona V. Mangloña

Federal and Military Bar Admissions



Edwin Torres,
December 11, 2017



**Special Assistant United States
Attorney,
Philip A. Kesaris,**
June 13, 2017



Sean Brown,
November 2, 2017