



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

October 8, 2019

Contact: Amy Weitz, (415) 355-8800

John T. Gorman Reappointed Federal Public Defender for District of Guam

SAN FRANCISCO — The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the reappointment of Federal Public Defender John T. Gorman of the District of Guam. Mr. Gorman will take the oath to assume his fifth term as FPD today, October 8, 2019, Pacific time.

First appointed to the office in 2003, Mr. Gorman is supported by two assistant federal public defenders and three office staff. His office in Mongmong has handled 142 new cases in fiscal year 2018, up nearly seven percent from the prior fiscal year ending September 30. Major drug trafficking cases, firearms, immigration, fraud and theft offenses and other federal crimes make up their caseload.

Originally from New York State, Mr. Gorman received his bachelor's degree from Drake University in Iowa in 1980. He served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines, where he supervised construction of a drinking water system for a tribal group in North Luzon's Cordillera Mountains. He then entered law school at Northeastern University in Boston and received his juris doctor in 1992. While in law school, Mr. Gorman clerked for Judge Wendie Gershengorn of the Massachusetts Superior Court. Following law school, he served as a trial attorney with the Defender Association in Philadelphia. In 1997, he relocated to Guam to work as a senior litigator in the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

"I am so proud that John has served us with such distinction for so many years," said Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw, who chairs the Ninth Circuit's Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders. "The fact that he has now been appointed to his fifth term as Federal Public Defender is a testament to his superb leadership, and to his commitment to provide a vigorous and able defense to those in need."

The U.S. Territory of Guam is located in the Northwestern Pacific in the Mariana archipelago and covers approximately 210 square miles of land. The Office of the Federal Public Defender in Guam is approximately 8,000 miles from its administrative headquarters in Washington, D.C., and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender was created by Congress to fulfill the constitutional requirement that financially eligible individuals charged with crimes in the federal justice

system be provided with professional legal representation at no cost. By statute, judges of the courts of appeals select and appoint the federal public defender for a renewable four-year term. In the Ninth Circuit, FPD applicants are evaluated by both a local screening committee and the court's Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders, applying Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines. Reappointment to additional terms is based upon demonstration of highly satisfactory performance as determined by a broad survey and performance evaluation.

#