



PACIFIC JUDICIAL COUNCIL

email: pjc@guamcourts.gov

Tel: (671) 475 3300

Fax: (671) 475 3164

Guam Judicial Center
Suite 300, 3rd Floor
120 West O'Brien Drive
Hagåtña, Guam 96910-5174

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2026

Palau Hosts Pacific Judges for Three Days of Training

(Koror, Palau) — Judges and court leaders from across the Pacific gathered in Palau from Sept. 14-16 for the Pacific Judicial Council's 2026 Biennial Conference, a three-day program on procedural fairness, judicial writing, public trust in the courts, and courthouse security.

Speakers included Kevin S. Burke, retired Minnesota district court judge; Michael A. Blasie, professor at Seattle University School of Law; and M. Margaret McKeown, senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Marshals from the U.S. Marshals Service, the Judiciary of Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary led the security sessions, which included scenario-based exercises.

At its business meeting, the Council re-elected officers for another two-year term:

- President: **Justice Robert J. Torres, Supreme Court of Guam**
- Vice President: **Justice John A. Manglona, Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands**
- Secretary: **Chief Justice Cyprian J. Manmaw, Yap State Court**
- Treasurer: **Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, Superior Court of Guam**

“Judicial education is essential to strong, fair, and trusted courts. By learning together, judges across the Pacific are better equipped to serve their communities and meet the evolving needs of justice,” said Justice Torres, PJC president. *“Further, the re-election of officers reflects members’ trust and confidence in our leadership and direction.”*

The conference was organized under the leadership of Education Committee Chair Judge Maria T. Cenzon, Superior Court of Guam, with Presiding Justice Kathleen M. Salii, Palau Supreme Court, and Judge Dana A. Gutierrez, Superior Court of Guam, serving as conference co-chairs.

“This conference reflects the commitment to judicial excellence and collaboration our founding members declared 35 years ago,” said Judge Cenzon. *“By gathering court leaders across Micronesia and American Samoa, we foster a culture of continuous professional development and mutual support for present and future generations.”*

The PJC extends a warm “mesulang” to Chief Justice Oldiais Ngiraikelau, Presiding Justice Salii, and the Palau Supreme Court staff for their support during the conference.

The Pacific Judicial Council brings courts across the Pacific together for dialogue on shared issues, including continuing education, preservation of custom and tradition, and judicial administration. Members come from American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau.

For more information, please visit pacificjudicialcouncil.org or contact Andrew Jay M. Gimenez agimenez@guamcourts.gov

Hon. Robert J. Torres
GUAM
President

Hon. John A. Manglona
NMI
Vice-President

Hon. Cyprian J. Manmaw
YAP
Secretary

Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena III
GUAM
Treasurer

Hon. F. Michael Kruse
AMERICAN SAMOA
Member

Hon. Jayson Robert
CHUUK
Member

Hon. Bealeen Carl-Worswick
FSM
Member

Hon. Katherine A. Maraman
GUAM
Member

Hon. Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
GUAM
Member

Hon. Edmond Salik
KOSRAE
Member

Hon. Alexandro C. Castro
NMI
Member

Hon. Ramona V. Manglona
NMI
Member

Hon. Joseph N. Camacho
NMI
Member

Hon. Oldiais Ngiraikelau
PALAU
Member

Hon. Kathleen M. Salii
PALAU
Member

Hon. Nelson A. Joseph
POHNPEI
Member

Hon. Maria T. Cenzon
Chair, PJC Education Committee

Ms. Jessica J. Perez-Jackson &
Chamber Administrator for the
Hon. Robert J. Torres

Ms. Brianne G. Balbas
Judicial Assistant for the
Hon. Maria T. Cenzon

Mr. Andrew Jay M. Gimenez
PJC Treasurer’s Assistant

Mr. Russ Mathieson
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Education Specialist