



F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO
Chief Justice

JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Administrative Office of the Courts
120 West O'Brien Drive • Hagåtña, Guam 96910-5174
Telephone: (671)475-3544 • Facsimile: (671)477-3184

PERRY C. TAITANO
Administrator of the Courts



MARIA T. CENZON
Policy Planning & Community Relations

PRESS RELEASE

JUDICIAL COUNCIL PROPOSES FEE INCREASE TO FUND INDIGENT CLIENT DEFENSE

The Judicial Council is considering a proposal to increase all fees and non-statutory fines in order to provide revenue to fund indigent defense. The Superior Court fees have not been adjusted since 2003 and the Traffic Violation Bureau fines have not been raised since 1995, ignoring any adjustment for inflation. Perhaps more importantly, the Legislature has expressed a desire, as set forth in 7 GCA § 9601.1, that services to indigent defendants be paid out of all increases in fines, fees or any revenue collected by the Courts of Guam.

The current proposal is to increase fines and fees by 50% in the first year, commencing on April 1, 2011. Subsequent increases are contemplated for later years. All sums collected from the proposed increases will be deposited in the Judicial Client Services Trust Fund to pay indigent counsel costs. This measure is interim in nature because the Judicial Council has tasked the Clerk of Court to present data illustrating a comparison of the proposed increases to those of similarly situated jurisdictions. The Council also asked that the Clerk of Court support the increases according to the cost of service rendered. The Interim Increase of Fines and Fees will expire on September 30, 2011, if the Judicial Council does not act to make the Increases permanent.

The interim fines and fees schedules can be found at the Judiciary's website at the following links: <http://www.guamcourts.org/Information/images/TRF.Fine.Proposal.PDF> (for fines) and <http://www.guamcourts.org/Information/images/Amended.Civil.Fee.Schedule.PDF> (for fees).

The Judicial Council will accept written comment on the proposed Rule until Thursday, March 30, 2011, to hgutierrezarroyo@guamsupremecourt.com or by delivery to the following address: Supreme Court of Guam, Suite 300 Guam Judicial Center, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña, Guam 96910. All comments received by the deadline will be considered at a duly noticed meeting of the Judicial Council to be held on **March 31, 2011**, at noon in the Justice Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom, Guam Judicial Center.

For more information regarding this release, contact Maria T. Cenzon, Director of Policy Planning and Community Relations at mcenzon@mail.justice.gov.gu or at 475-3278.
