



BEFORE THE 2018 JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

RESOLUTION NO. JC18-002

RELATIVE TO AFFIRMING THE CONTINUING NEED TO APPOINT AN EIGHTH JUDGE FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM

- WHEREAS,** Title 7 GCA § 4101 provides that the Judicial Council may determine that an additional judge of the Superior Court of Guam is required for the proper dispatch of the business of the Superior Court of Guam, and if the Judicial Council so determines, that the Chief Justice, if she concurs, shall notify *I Maga'lahi* that an additional judge is necessary for the proper dispatch of business; and
- WHEREAS,** on January 27, 2016, after discussion by the Judicial Council whether the business of the Superior Court had evolved since 1993 (the last date that a new judgeship was created by law) such as to consider an eighth judge for the Superior Court of Guam, the Committee for Determination of an Additional Judge (the "Committee") was appointed by then-Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, composed largely of private practitioners, and including the Clerk of the Superior Court; and
- WHEREAS,** the Committee polled all sitting Judges of the Superior Court, as well as Magistrates and Hearing Officers, and finally, the Guam Bar Association, and the result of the poll was convincing that the bench and bar both vocalized a strong need for an eighth judge of the Superior Court; and
- WHEREAS,** representatives of the Committee were present at the Judicial Council's April 7, 2016 meeting and spoke on the record that the bench and bar supported the creation of an eighth judgeship in the Superior Court of Guam; and
- WHEREAS,** this Council, in its Resolution No. JC16-006 formally adopted the position that an eighth judgeship for the Superior Court of Guam is necessary to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of justice; and
- WHEREAS,** in support of this need, on May 3, 2016, the Judiciary informed *I Maga'lahi* of this need and forwarded the Committee's report for review and a copy was also sent to the 33rd Guam Legislature; and
- WHEREAS,** since May 3, 2016, the 34th Guam Legislature has taken office and the Superior Court has continued to demonstrate a need for an additional judgeship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Judicial Council affirm the continuing and immediate need for an eighth judge for the Superior Court of Guam to ensure that the Judiciary fulfills its mission of delivering effective and efficient justice to the people of Guam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judicial Council request that *I Maga'lahi* concur with this Council's determination that an additional judge is necessary and make an appointment to the position in accordance with 7 G.C.A. §§ 4101(b) and 3109(a).

DULY ADOPTED this 11th day of January, 2018 at a duly noticed meeting of the Judicial Council of Guam.


KATHERINE A. MARAMAN, Chairwoman

Dated: January 17, 2018

ATTEST:



JOANNA S. McDONALD, Secretary

Dated: January 18, 2018