

A Citizen - Centric Report

THE JUDICIARY OF GUAM



Vision Statement

The Judiciary of Guam aspires to preserve and uphold the ideals and principles of law, fairness and justice for all, and pledges to:

Improve court operations and access to the judicial system with the highest level of service for all;
Recognize that the Judiciary shall continue to be accountable for effective and efficient management and administration of court operations;

Promote positive relationships with other branches of government and all justice system constituencies;

Remain impartial, progressive and committed to good governance; and to

Develop and empower employees to be innovative and responsive to the diverse needs of our island community and promote trust and teamwork.

Who Are We?

In Guam, as in the United States federal and state governments, the power to govern is divided among three equal branches: the executive, the legislative and the judicial. The Judiciary of Guam is charged with interpreting the laws of the Territory of Guam and in this regard provides for the orderly settlement of disputes between parties, determines the guilt or innocence of those accused of violations of the law and protects the rights of individuals. The head of the Judiciary of Guam is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam, currently Robert J. Torres. There are two associate justices of the Supreme Court and seven judges and two judicial officers comprise the Superior Court of Guam.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	1
Performance	2
Financial Status	3
Future Outlook	4



Robert J. Torres Jr.
Chief Justice Supreme Court of Guam

Forensic Science Laboratory

In February 2009, the Judiciary and the Guam Police Department celebrated the opening of the Guam Police Department Crime Lab on the campus of the Guam Community College. The result of a successful partnership between the Judiciary and GPD, the 14,753 sq.ft. state of the art facility will enable GPD to examine firearms, drugs and fingerprints.

Northern Court Satellite (NCS)

On August 31, 2009, the Judiciary christened its first ever satellite courtroom at the Dededo Mall commercial facility to help alleviate the demand for services provided at the Hagåtña Judicial Center. The Northern Court Satellite provides a broad complement of court functions including traffic court, small claims, juvenile matters, initial criminal appearances and payment of court fees and fines.



JUDICIARY OF GUAM, CENTRAL



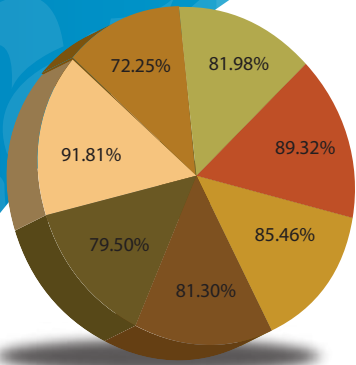
NORTHERN COURT SATELLITE



FORENSIC LAB



SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM
JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY DATA



JUDGES	Total # of Cases	Closed Cases	Percentage (%)
Judge 1	910	746	81.98
Judge 2	1,227	1,096	89.32
Judge 3	1,479	1,264	85.46
Judge 4	1,198	974	81.30
Judge 5	1,483	1,179	79.50
Judge 6	1,580	1,382	91.81
Judge 7	1,009	729	72.25

THREE YEAR COMPARATIVE CASES FILED	2007	2008	2009
Adoption	59	67	57
Child Support	607	476	438
Civil	1,569	1,553	1,897
Criminal Felony	618	618	671
Criminal Misdemeanor	1,084	1,194	1,346
Domestic	881	868	868
Juvenile Division (JD)	362	405	276
Juvenile Special Proceedings (JP)	983	944	828
Juvenile Drug Court (JC)	169	151	141
Land Registration	1	3	5
Probate	172	215	182
Special Proceedings	228	247	264
Small Claims	2,443	2,214	2,154
Foreign Orders	2	0	1
Protective Orders	83	81	93
GRAND TOTALS:	9,261	9,036	9,221

Judicial Efficiency Data:

- Seven Judges preside over a wide range of cases to include specialty courts: Family Court I (Juvenile cases, Mental Health Court & Adult Guardian Court, Family Court II (Juvenile cases & Juvenile Drug Court), Adult Drug Court & Family Violence Court.

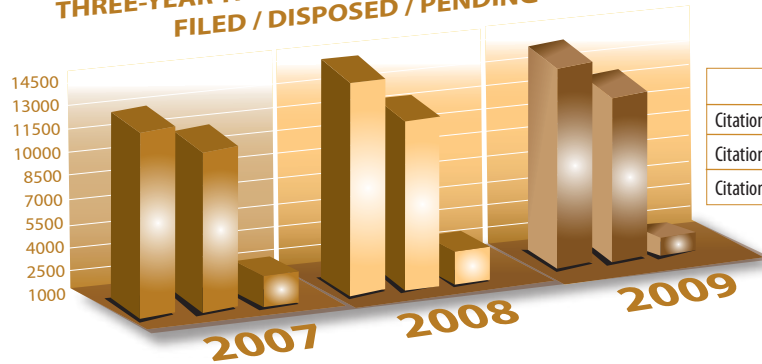
Traffic Citations:

-Traffic Court is located at the Northern Court Satellite (NCS). Traffic Citations may be paid either at NCS or the Judiciary building in Hagatna.

Cases Filed:

- Civil case filings rose 22% from 2008, however Small Claims filing decreased by 3% in that same period.
- Cases filed in total increased by 20% from the 2008 level.
- Small Claims cases remain the highest number of cases filed in the three year comparative.
- Criminal case represent 22% of total cases.

THREE-YEAR TRAFFIC CITATIONS COMPARATIVE FILED / DISPOSED / PENDING



	2007	2008	2009
Citations Filed	11,473	14,191	13,601
Citations Disposed	9,165	11,921	12,109
Citations Pending	2,308	2,270	1,492

Community Outreach and Education Programs

The Judiciary is committed to expanding access to justice to all island residents and to educating the community about the services which are available through the Judiciary of Guam. Community programs such as the Law Week celebrations which include an all day fair at the Micronesia Mall where the public can obtain the information about court-related services, the Guam Juvenile Justice Conference, the Relay for Life, Islandwide High School Mock Trial Competition and Play By the Rules programs both engage and educate the community about the role of the judicial branch of government.

Self-Represented Litigants

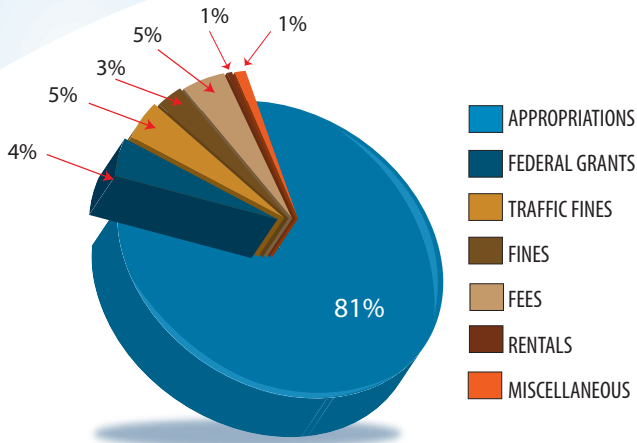
On April 27, 2010, the Self-Represented Litigants Subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Guam, together with the Guam Legal Services Corporation, launched the Self-Help Computer Kiosks and Access to Justice interactive software system. The kiosks are located at the Hagatna Judicial Center Building across from the Clerk's intake counter.

Case Management System Replacement Project

\$2.1million of ARRA funding has been earmarked for the Judiciary to commence a complete overhaul of its computerized Case Management System (CMS). The new CMS will provide for a virtual courthouse accessible via the internet, provide access to public case information on-line, enable e-filing, track revenue collection and distribution and improve the jury management system.



REVENUE



	2007	2008	2009
APPROPRIATIONS	21,176,739	21,752,270	22,257,084
FEDERAL GRANTS	795,001	1,098,743	1,192,122
TRAFFIC FINES	735,266	1,342,139	1,337,809
FINES	738,340	784,885	794,149
FEES	1,065,312	1,154,680	1,289,327
RENTALS	166,968	158,466	162,342
MISCELLANEOUS	238,015	249,541	273,695
TOTAL	24,915,641	26,540,724	27,306,528

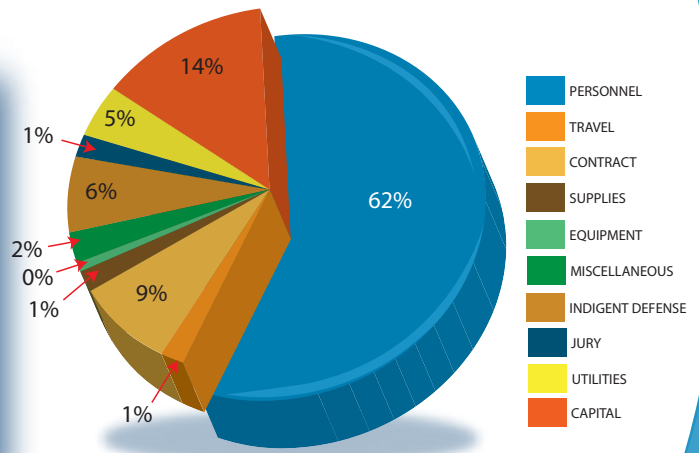
Note: Loan Proceeds Not Included

FY2009

- The Judiciary relies heavily on the General Fund for its operation. About 81% of the funding for the court comes from local appropriations.
- Federal grant have steadily increased to 8% from the FY08 levels. Federal funding will top \$7 million in FY2011 due mostly to ARRA funding.
- The Judiciary increased its revenue base by renting out its facilities to the Public Defender Corporation and Guam Bar Association.
- 4% of the Government of Guam revenue was appropriated to the Judiciary by the Guam Legislature.

EXPENSES

	2007	2008	2009
PERSONNEL SERVICES	18,238,556	18,049,114	19,122,246
TRAVEL	203,227	284,199	209,821
CONTRACTUAL	2,058,122	1,793,150	2,742,930
SUPPLIES	355,487	446,692	287,644
EQUIPMENT	400,779	168,842	130,134
MISCELLANEOUS	1,854,586	1,858,017	2,598,796
UTILITIES	839,597	1,152,866	1,194,121
CAPITAL OUTLAY	869,115	3,352,987	4,300,604
TOTAL	24,819,471	27,105,870	30,586,300



- The increase in capital cost is due to the Forensic Lab construction and the renovation of NCS.
- The Judiciary completed the construction of the Forensic Lab for a total cost of \$6,789,230
- Overall, the Judiciary's net assets increased \$156,000 in FY09.
- The increase of employees from 339 to 343 was due to the opening of the NCS.

Did you know...?

Increases in fines and fees go to funding indigent defense, i.e., those who cannot afford to retain an attorney. Fines imposed in cases involving DUI (Driving Under the Influence) help provide funding to the Department of Corrections and Erica's House of Hope

Independent Audit

Independent Audit was performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP. The Government of Guam received an unqualified (clean) opinion. The Office of the Public Auditor released the Government of Guam wide financial audited report on June 30, 2010. For more information of the independent audit, you may visit this web site address http://www.guamopa.com/docs/GovGuam_fs09pdf

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL FUNDS-UNIFIED JUDICIARY

FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
JABG: JUVENILE DRUG COURT	25,700
MENTAL HEALTH COURT	250,000
EDWARD BYRNE	454,999
STOP VAW	26,836
CHILD SUPPORT	250,264
EDUCATION SUBGRANTS	52,000
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT	100,000
PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS	47,527
SEX OFFENDER MGT PLANNING	50,000
ARRA	6,697,932
GRAND TOTAL	7,955,258



Facilities Master Plan

The Judiciary has completed its comprehensive Facilities Master Plan which undertakes to consider options for expanding its capacity to provide adjudicative and other related services to the people of Guam, including the military population which will be exploding in the next few years. The alternatives being considered include the expansion of the Hagåtña Judicial Center Building as well as the construction of a new facility in northern Guam.



Impending Military Relocation

The Judiciary is already experiencing a growth in the number of cases coming through its doors due to pre-buildup activities and expects the demand to increase exponentially over the next few years due to the military relocation. The Judiciary is challenged to find sources of funding to meet the current and future demands upon it while providing the same level of quality services to the public.



Financial Challenges

The Judiciary faces many financial challenges with the passage of the appropriations law for fiscal year 2011. The Judiciary's budget request of \$28,619,974, determined to be what is necessary to provide an acceptable minimum level of services, was denied and the Legislature allocated \$24,765,331 to the third branch of government, a difference of \$3.85 million. We will continue to implement cost-cutting measures and evaluate and consider additional methods to reduce the costs of operations.



We want to hear from you.

Do you like this report? Do you believe it should include any other information? Please let us know by contacting Maria T. Cenzone at 475-3278 or e-mail mccenzone@mail.justice.gov.gu. Complete information can be found in our website at www.justice.gov.gu