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# DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Photo Credited by: Vincent Vega



## FOREWORD



**RAMONA V. MANGLONA**

CHIEF JUDGE

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands is to serve the community by ensuring equal access to justice for all by providing an impartial forum to resolve disputes in a fair, effective, and timely manner pursuant to the rule of law.*

The year 2018 was marked with major challenges as well as successes. It started in March with the implementation of the District Court's COOP Agreement with the CNMI Judiciary due to the displacement of the Superior and Supreme Court from the Guma Hustisia caused by mold infestation.

In October, for the second time in three years, our District sustained and survived a direct hit from a devastating storm. Supertyphoon Yutu slammed into Tinian and Saipan with winds approaching 200 miles per hour. Thousands, including some court staff, suffered extensive damage to their homes or even lost them altogether.

Partly because of lessons learned in Supertyphoon Soudelor in 2015, the Court was able to resume operation less than a week after Yutu struck, with employees working staggered shifts to allow them time to attend to their families and start to rebuild their lives.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who provided us with support in the aftermath of Yutu, including technical assistance, supplies, donations, and well-wishes. I am also proud of our dedicated staff who worked hard to make sure that the Court was open and ready to serve our community.

Despite the typhoon, work on the new federal courthouse building in Gualo Rai has made steady progress. The walls are going up, as can be seen from Middle Road and Beach Road, and the floor of the courtroom has been poured. Construction is on schedule to be completed by

the end of this year, and I look forward to greeting you at the official opening of the new courthouse in early 2020.

I am delighted to report that our Drug Offender Re-Entry program has continued its record of success. This past year, two more participants worked hard, stayed clean and graduated from the program.

In memory of Randy Schmidt, former Chief Judge Alex Munson's career law clerk, who passed away in June 2017, the Court created a service award for staff who have shown extraordinary dedication not only to their own work but especially to assisting their co-workers. This first year, the award was shared by Bill Bezzant and Amanda Hayes. The annual Randy Schmidt Employee Recognition Award could not be off to a better start.

The Court is proud of the nearly two hundred persons it had the honor to welcome into the American family in naturalization ceremonies in 2018. The Court is also gratified by the high levels of participation by CNMI students in mock trial competition, which was held in our courtroom, and the Circuit's annual civics contest. The year ended with the longest partial government shutdown that started in December due to the lack of an approved budget. Fortunately, the judiciary managed to avoid any court closures during this period.

It is an honor to serve as Chief Judge for this District. I am grateful to the members of our court family, who have once again proven their ability to rise above adversity.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands was established by an act of Congress in 1977 and became operational in January 1978. It sits on the island of Saipan, in the CNMI, but may also sit at other places within the Commonwealth. The District Court has the same jurisdiction to hear federal cases as the United States District Courts, including bankruptcy cases. Appeals are taken directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

As the smallest and youngest district among the 94 district courts, the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands employs three

chambers staff and 13 clerk's office staff. These hard-working employees serve chambers and the community by assisting Chief Judge Manglona with court operations.

The Office of Pretrial and Probation Services for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands has three employees stationed on Saipan.

Petit (trial) and grand jurors are selected in accordance with the Jury Plan. Citizens from the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota provide an invaluable service to the court and the community each year by serving as jurors during civil and criminal trials and grand jury proceedings.

## JUDGES



On January 26, 2011, President Barack Obama nominated the Honorable Ramona Villagomez Manglona to serve as District Court Judge. Judge Manglona's nomination was confirmed by the Senate on July 27, 2011. On July 29, 2011, President Obama signed the commission, which was the official act of appointment of Judge Manglona to the District Court. Judge Manglona assumed office as Chief

Judge on July 30, 2011. Chief Judge Manglona is the first person of Northern Mariana Islands descent to serve as a federal judge.

The Honorable Alex R. Munson served as the Chief Judge of the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands from 1988 to 2010, when he then took senior status. Judge Munson continues to serve the court and the community by presiding over settlement conferences and other court matters a few times a year.

In 2013, Chief Judge Manglona appointed the Honorable Heather L. Kennedy to serve as the first Magistrate Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. Judge Kennedy became Clerk of Court on April 15, 2013, and assumed magistrate judge duties on June 11, 2013. On February 6, 2017, she was reappointed for a second four-year term after undergoing a review by a Merit Selection Panel and public comment period.



**HEATHER L. KENNEDY**

Clerk of Court/ Magistrate Judge

On occasion, federal judges from districts throughout the Ninth Circuit preside over certain matters in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. The Court is grateful to Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood (District of Guam), Senior Judge John C. Coughenour (Western District of Washington), Judge David O. Carter (Central District of

California), Magistrate Judge Joaquin V. Manibusan, Jr. (District of Guam) and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris (District of Hawaii) for their assistance.

Pursuant to 48 USC § 1821, judges of courts of record of the Northern Mariana Islands may be assigned temporarily to serve as a

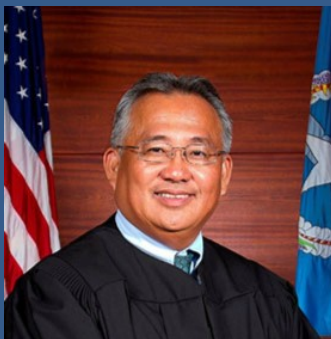
judge in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. The District Court thanks Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja and Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, of the Commonwealth Superior Court, who serve this Court as designated judges.

## DESIGNATED JUDGES



**FRANCES M. TYDINGCO-GATEWOOD**

Chief Judge (Guam)



**ROBERTO C. NARAJA**

Designated Judge



**TERESA KIM-TENORIO**

Designated Judge





## 2018 ANNUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

### *Doing Business in Today's CNMI*



On March 10, 2018, the District Court held its Annual District Conference at Kanoa Resort, Saipan. The conference theme was “Doing Business in Today’s CNMI.”

The conference greatly benefited from the insights of special guests: Judge M. Margaret McKeown, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; David Addington, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer of the National Federation of Independent Business; and Nelson Xu, partner at Baumann, Kondas, & Xu. Their participation was made possible due to the dedicated efforts of Vincent J. Seman, Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative; and Bruce L. Berline, CJA Panel Representative and Resource Counsel, who helped organized the conference.

The morning sessions began with presentations about the achievements of and the challenges facing our legal community. Attendees heard remarks from Circuit Judge McKeown; Chief

Judge Ramona V. Manglona; Charles E. Brasington, President of CNMI Bar Association; and Bruce Berline. Judge McKeown headlined the remaining morning sessions on legal ethics with fellow panelists Steven P. Pixley and Catherine J. Cachero. Judge McKeown spoke about challenges in representing organizations, including identifying the client and possible conflicts. The panel was moderated by Nicole M. Torres-Ripple. Following the panel discussion, Judge McKeown presented on civility in the legal profession, particularly in to discovery disputes.

The afternoon sessions focused on three substantive legal issues that CNMI businesses and lawyers face: business formation, taxation, and immigration. Janet H. King and Matthew T. Gregory introduced David Addington, who discuss how to advise clients creating small businesses and, with panelist Dave Burger, CPA, Burger Comer Magliari LLC, spoke about recent federal tax reforms. The panel was moderated by Dean Manglona.



2018 District Conference Group Photo

Photo Credit: Bill Bezzant





Afternoon Session (Left to Right): Matthew T. Gregory, David Addington, and Janet H. King



Morning Session (Left to Right): Steven P. Pixley, Judge M. Margaret McKeown, Catherine Cachero, and Nicole M. Torres-Ripple



Opening Remarks by Chief Judge Manglona

Photo Credit: Bill Bezzant





# ATTORNEY REPRESENTATIVES

## NINTH CIRCUIT LAWYER REPRESENTATIVE



Vincent J. Seman

The District's Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative is Vincent J. Seman. The Lawyer Representative plays an important role in the administration of justice in the circuit's 15 districts, including the planning and execution of the annual Circuit Conference. The 2019 Ninth Circuit Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington in July.

Vincent J. Seman, Esq., has served as general counsel for Century Insurance since 2011. Vince is licensed to practice law in the CNMI, Guam and Hawaii.

Prior to joining Century Insurance, he was an attorney with Carlsmith Ball, LLP.

Vince has served on numerous governmental, professional, and civic organizations, including the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the CNMI Bar Association Board of Directors.

He is also a Pacific Century Fellow. Vince received his J.D. degree from Whittier Law School and his B.S. degree in management from Bentley College.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT REPRESENTATIVE AND RESOURCE COUNSEL



Bruce Berline

Bruce L. Berline, Esq., is the District Court's Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Representative and Resource Counsel. In districts, such as the Northern Mariana Islands, that do not have a federal public defender, the District Court appoints a Resource Counsel to provide support and guidance to the CJA panel members and to liaise with the Defender Services Office in Washington D.C. and other CJA panel representatives throughout the nation.

Bruce is also the chairperson of the CJA Standing Committee and, along with two other members on the committee, assists the District Court in ensuring the CJA panel consists of knowledgeable, well-trained

attorneys capable of upholding the guarantee of the Sixth Amendment of providing competent assistance of counsel to individuals charged with crimes.

He has been a member of the CJA panel since 1999 and has been in practice in the CNMI for over 23 years, with a focus on criminal defense, admiralty, and personal injury litigation.

## CJA RECOGNITION AWARD TIMOTHY H. BELLAS



Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy presenting CJA Recognition Award to Timothy H. Bellas



## ATTORNEY ADMISSIONS

In 2018, six attorneys were admitted to practice in the District Court:

- Matthew J. Holley
- Kastle A. Lund-Turner
- Jose Mafnas
- Jacqueline A. Nicolas
- Kathleen R. Busenkell
- Robert J. Pickett



On April 30, 2018, Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy swore in Robert J. Pickett.

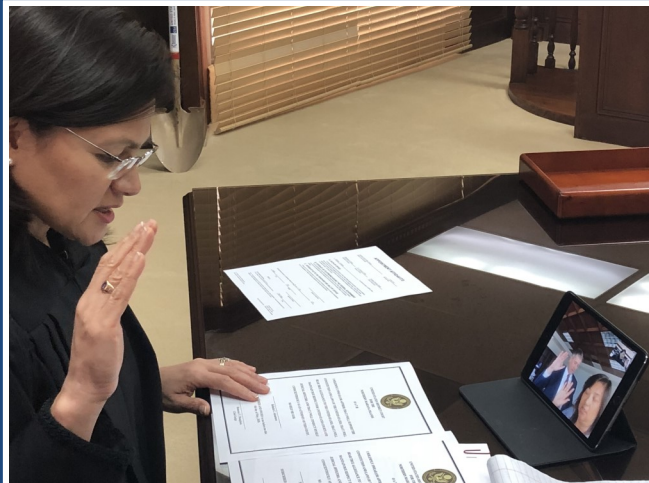


On February 14, 2018, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona swore in three attorneys.

From left to right: Chief Judge Manglona, Matthew J. Holley, Kastle A. Lund-Turner, and Jacqueline A. Nicolas.



On January 4, 2018, Chief Judge Manglona swore in Shawn Anderson, U.S. Attorney.



Chief Judge Manglona swore in Belinda Alcantara and Shawn Anderson via video teleconference.

## ATTORNEY ADMISSION FUND



The Attorney Admission Fund for this District Court is primarily used to support educational programs and events for members of the District Court bar, including the annual district conference and other continuing legal education programs through the year. Other expenditures include support for

the civics programs for students, the reimbursement of attorney costs associated with attorney disciplinary matters, and the Pacific Judicial Council.

In 2018, the District Court first implemented LR 83.5, which established the Attorney Admission Biennial Renewal fee of \$30.00 as a requirement for all attorneys admitted to the District Court.

The renewal fee ensures that the District Court has an accurate listing of its current bar members and that all contact information is up-to-date, as well as funding educational programs.


Over 140 attorneys renewed their admission to the court in 2018 resulting in the collection of an estimate \$ 5,085.00 (*including late fees of \$ 15.00*).





# HIGHLIGHTS of 2018

## DO.R.E. PROGRAM



The first NMI District Court Drug Offender Re-Entry (DORE) program, popularly known as “drug court,” was established on January 26, 2016. With the cooperation of the CJA Panel, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the U.S. Probation Office, the Court entered into an agreement to create the DORE team and program.

In 2018, the District Court congratulated two participants

who graduated from the program. The graduates were **Norman Kapileo** and **Daniel Quitugua**. Both thanked their families and the D.O.R.E team during the ceremonies with each earning one year off of their terms of supervised release.

During the intensive program, participants are offered a creative blend of treatment and sanction alternatives to

effectively address offender behavior, rehabilitation and the safety of our community.



**DRUG COURTS WORK!**



### 2ND DORE GRADUATE

Norman Kapileo, in green robe, poses in a group shot with DORE team and fellow participants.



### 3RD DORE GRADUATE

Daniel Quitugua, in green robe, poses in a group shot with DORE team, fellow participants, and family members.



## SUPER TYPHOON YUTU

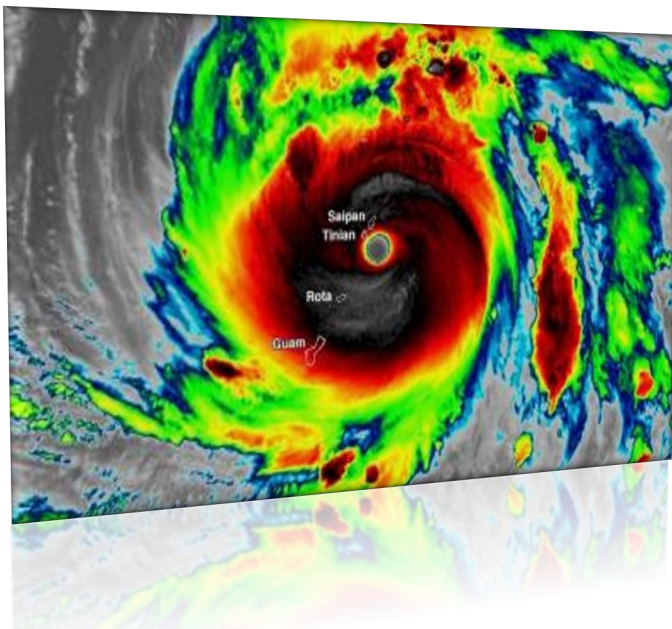
On October 24-25, 2018, Saipan and Tinian were devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu. With sustained winds at of 180 mph, it was the second-strongest tropical cyclone to hit the United States including the U.S. territories in history. The eye of the typhoon directly hit the island of Tinian. However, Saipan suffered significant damage, with 190 mph wind gusts. Immediately after the typhoon, Governor Ralph Torres requested a disaster declaration, which was approved on October 26, 2018 by President Donald Trump.

Almost all emergency shelters on Saipan and all on Tinian were at full capacity. Many tourists were stranded on Saipan due to damage at the airport. In response, South Korean military aircraft airlifted about 1,000 tourists out of Saipan. Most relief efforts started soon after the Coast Guard reopened the port of Saipan on October 27.

Like many of the District Court staff, the people of Saipan and Tinian suffered major damage to their houses or lost their homes entirely.

The Administrative Office of the Courts quickly responded to provide support to the court and its employees.

The District Court of Guam kindly lent a hand by coordinating with other agencies like the Guam



Bar Association and the U.S. Probation Office to organize and donate relief supplies for the court staff and the community.

The District Court of Puerto Rico also generously donated supplies. The Federal Court Clerks Association (FCCA) solicited donations from courts across the country to assist NMI court employees with their recovery efforts. The New Orleans chapter of the Federal Bar Association resolved to support the court and the community with donations to the FCCA, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army as well as providing Home Depot gift cards for court staff to use when rebuilding their homes.

The court staff are thankful to be members of the Federal Judiciary community and are eternally grateful for all the prayers, support and well wishes received from across the country.

The staff wishes they could personally thank each of the hundreds of persons who have offered assistance for all their efforts in sending supplies and well-wishes.



QC Code for the Super Typhoon Yutu Disaster Video by Timothy V. Wesley, Jury Administrator/ Systems Specialist





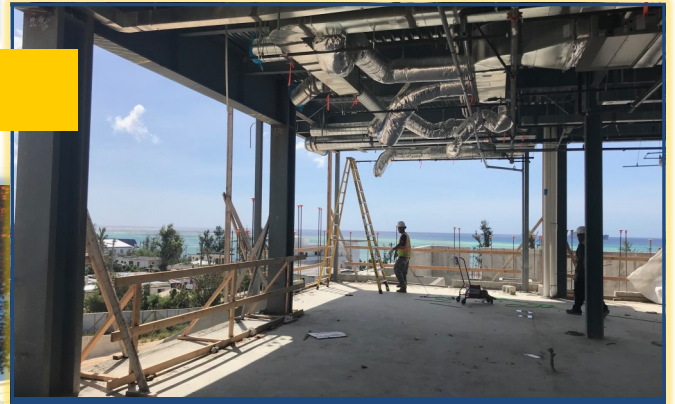
## THE NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE PROGRESS



March 2019 Courthouse Progress



View from the Second Floor



Finished Rendering of Courthouse



## CNMI Judiciary Continuity of Operations Planning Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. District Court for the NMI



In March of 2018, the Guma Hustisia, which houses the Superior and Supreme Courts of the Commonwealth, became unusable due to central air-conditioning problems and mold infestation. On March 21, 2018, the NMI Judiciary requested to activate the Continuity of Operations Planning Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the District Court. The MOA provides the framework for cooperation between the two parties in the event of an emergency or unforeseen event which results in access or suitability problems in the NMI Judiciary's Guma Hustisia or the District Court's courthouse. In the MOA, each court commits to assisting the other with space, telecommunications, information management, and other administrative support. Unfortunately, the Guma Hustisia's mold remediation and air-conditioning repair were delayed due to procurement issues and then further complicated by the extensive damage to the Guma Hustisia's roof caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. From March 22, 2018 through the publication of this annual report, the District Court has provided courtroom and conference room space for numerous Superior Court proceedings, including settlement conferences, juvenile and drug court proceedings, bench trials and jury trials, as well as Supreme Court oral arguments.



## RANDY SCHMIDT MEMORIAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

In August 2018, William “Bill” Bezzant, Chief Deputy Clerk, and Amanda Hayes, Judicial Assistant to Chief Judge Manglona, were the first recipients of the Randy Schmidt Memorial Employee Recognition Award. This award commemorates Randy Schmidt’s significant contributions to the District Court and his embodiment of a team player. Randy worked for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Island for more than 20 years as the career law clerk to Chief Judge Alex R. Munson. Randy was a thoughtful lawyer and a great researcher and writer. Judge Munson recalls, “Randy was a perfect gentleman in the classical sense of the word. He had a great sense of humor and almost daily cracked me up with his lightning “fast repartee, one” liners and puns.” Randy’s quick wit entertained the entire staff of the Court. Most of all, Randy is remembered as an extremely generous man who helped his co-workers both at home and at work.

Employees demonstrating Randy’s attributes are considered for this award. Criteria for the award includes:

- (1) A disposition and commitment to work harmoniously with fellow employees and the public to achieve a desired goal without regard to individual needs; and/or
- (2) A significant sacrifice of one’s own interest and welfare for the benefit of co-workers, the Court or the Court community.

Chief Judge Manglona selected Bill and Amanda after reviewing nominations submitted by their co-workers. Nominations for Bill included: “Bill is a true example of the definition of a team player. He goes above and beyond for the court and staff.” “With over 20 years now, most of us know without a doubt that Bill is the “go to” guy for answers relating to the operations of the Clerk’s Office. If he does not have the answer, he will find it. He is one humble and outstanding individual as well as a great leader. He makes sure things run smoothly in the office. He will come in early or leave late if he has to, just to ensure things get done and that it meets all set deadlines. I think Bill deserves the memorial award.” Nominations for Amanda included: “Amanda most reflects the traits described for Randy Schmidt, serving as a peacebuilder, buoying spirit in the office, and always help wherever help is needed.” “Amanda always has a very positive attitude about her work and a sense of humor that she readily shares with her coworkers to brighten spirits. She is also more than willing to help by answering questions from Chambers and the Clerk's Office and is available after hours for docketing, emailing, or assisting in other ways. Not only does Amanda offer support to her colleagues for professional issues, but she is a source of support when they face personal challenges. She is always willing to listen and offer encouragement, and even to take time to assist in any way she can.”



Congratulations again to Bill and Amanda, who received their awards during an employee recognition dinner and ceremony held at the Pacific Islands Club last August.

Left to Right: Amanda Hayes, Judicial Assistant to the Chief Judge, Heather L. Kennedy, Clerk of Court/Magistrate Judge, Bill Bezzant, Chief Deputy Clerk, and Hon. Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge



In 2018, the District Court held 11 naturalization ceremonies. Over one hundred and ninety-five individuals were naturalized from countries including Palau, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, the Federated States of Micronesia, Romania, Cuba, and Russia.

Keynote speakers included Governor Ralph DLG Torres; John M. Haroldson, Benton County District Attorney; Charles "Ned" Brasington, President of CNMI Bar

Association; Yogesh Singh, Manager of Hawaii Engineering Services Micronesia; Attorney Janet H. King; Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan; James Benedetto, U.S. Assistant Attorney General; Maxine Laszlo, Executive Director of CARE; Brad Ruzsala, VFW Post Commander and Public Affairs Specialist for Joint Region Marianas; and Teresa Vega-Murieta, U.S. Immigration Services officer.

With the help of USCIS officers, the district court has been conducting ceremonies every month over the past year.



**Martin Luther King Jr. Day Ceremony**  
**Guest Speaker: Governor Ralph DLG. Torres**





Covenant Day Ceremony  
Guest Speaker: John Haroldson  
Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy



Guest Speaker: Janet H. King  
Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and  
USCIS Officer Sheila Kelty



Constitution & Citizenship  
Day Ceremony  
Guest Speaker: James  
Benedetto, AUSA  
American Memorial Park  
Visitor's Center Theater



Guest Speaker: Teresa  
Vega-Murietta, USCIS



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## JUDGE DAVID O. CARTER VISITS CNMI SCHOOLS

On February 8, 2018, **Judge David O. Carter** visited several schools including Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School, Saipan Community School, and Rota Middle School.



Judge Carter poses with students from Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School, Saipan.



Judge Carter poses with students from Rota Middle School.

## YOUTH TAKEOVER DAY with JOHN OH



John with Chief Judge Manglona and Daria Campion, Law Clerk. (Chambers)



John trying on gear from U.S. Probation Office



John wearing combat gear from U.S. Marshals

On September 27, 2018, **John Oh**, a junior at Marianas High School, participated in Youth Takeover Day and chose the District Court. John was introduced to various jobs in the federal judicial branch. He visited the chambers of Chief Judge Manglona; the Clerk's Office, the U.S. Marshal Services with Supervisory Deputy Don Hall and Deputy John Vega; and the U.S. Probation Office.



## PACIFIC CENTURY FELLOWS

For the fourth consecutive year, the District Court welcomed students of the 2018 Pacific Century Fellows cohort. The fellowship is to train individuals from all walks of life, fields, and professions to become leaders. The students toured the District Court facility and engaged in a question-and-answer session with Chief Judge Manglona and Magistrate Judge Kennedy.



Q & A Session with Chief Judge Manglona and Magistrate Judge Kennedy with the fellowship students.

## LEGAL RESOURCES TRAINING



Shannon Lashbrook, Ninth Circuit Librarian, U.S. Courts Library, Honolulu, with attorneys attending the event at the District Court.

On September 24, 2018, [Shannon Lashbrook](#), JD MLIS, Ninth Circuit Librarian, U.S. Courts Library, Honolulu, conducted a Legal Resources Training in the District Court for the NMI.

More than a dozen attorneys attended and all were introduced to Westlaw updates, Westlaw Drafting Assistant, free legal resources, Westlaw for Smartphone and iPad, and Lexis and Bloomberg updates.





# RED RIBBON CAMPAIGN

**“LIFE IS YOUR  
JOURNEY, TRAVEL  
DRUG FREE”**

For the fourth year in a row, the District Court participate in the Department of Justice’s Red Ribbon Campaign alongside several other stakeholders in the CNMI.

The Red Ribbon Campaign started after drug traffickers in Mexico City murdered DEA Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena in 1985. Friends and neighbors wore red badges in his honor and to show that they will continue to fight against illegal drugs.

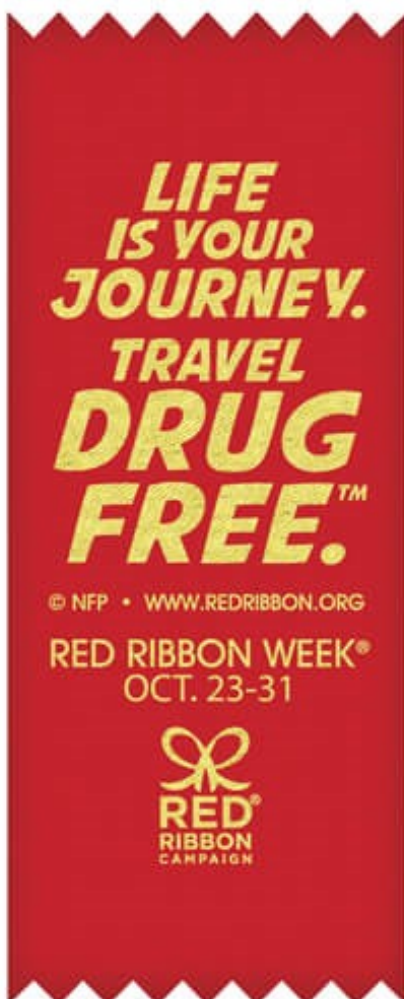
Since then, there has been a continuing tradition of wearing and displaying red

ribbons as a symbol of intolerance towards the use of illegal drugs. The main purpose of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment toward the creation of a Drug-Free America. The campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of young people.



The event kicked off with a proclamation signing declaring October 23 to 31, 2018 as National Red Ribbon week at Saipan Southern High School Library (Saipan, CNMI).

The District Court teamed up with U.S. Probation Office, U.S. Attorney’s Office, and Drug Enforcement Agency to visit Tanapag Middle School, Dan Dan Middle School, Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School, and Hopwood Jr. High School.







Tanapag Middle School Presentation with Guest Speaker Perry Iguel



DanDan Middle School with Guest Speaker Vanessa Kosack

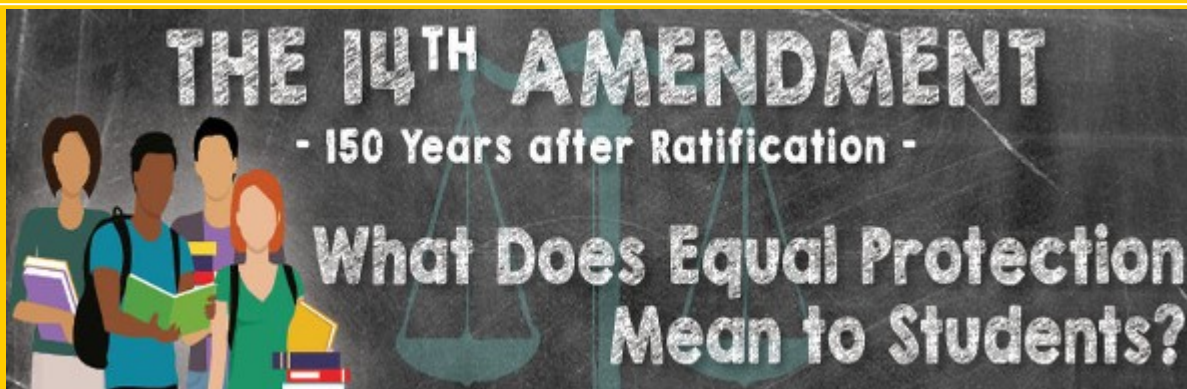


Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School with Guest Speaker Bob Yamagishi



Hopwood Jr. High School with Guest Speaker Areel Basto

## CIVICS CONTEST

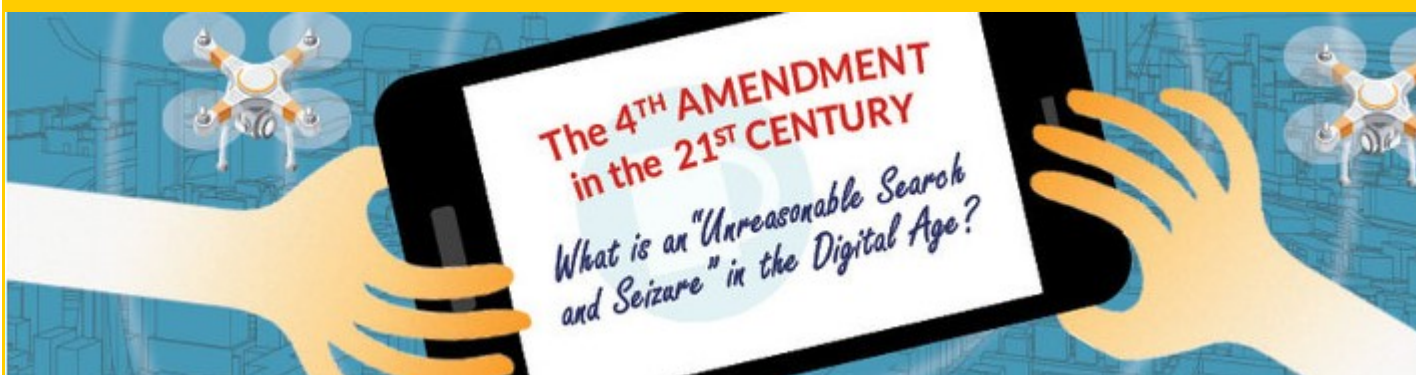


On May 15, 2018, Chief Judge Manglona and Magistrate Judge Kennedy held an award ceremony to present certificates to the student participants of the 2018 Civics Contest. Winners of the 2018 Civics Contest were:

(Essay)	1st Place	Joshua Alfred (Freshman, Marianas Baptist Academy)
	2nd Place	Eric Kiser (Junior, Mount Carmel School)
	3rd Place	Maria Gregoire (Freshman, Saipan International School)
	Honorable Mention	Theresa Zheng
	Honorable Mention	Monica Aira Usi
(Video)	1st Place	Jeff Melchor, Angelo Manese, and Justin Ocampo, Mount Carmel School

2018 Winners

## 2019 CIVICS CONTEST



More Information on the contest is available at:

<http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov/newsDetail.php?2019-Civics-Contest-112>

<https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/>



## CNMI HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

On February 15-16, 2018, the NMI Judiciary conducted the 20th Annual High School Mock Trial competition at the Guma' Hustisia, Saipan. The 2018 CNMI High School Mock Trial Program was sponsored by the NMI Judiciary, the CNMI Bar Association, and the CNMI Public School System. Public schools and private schools from across the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, participated in the competition.



Mount Carmel School defended their title and won the competition for the third straight year. They represented the CNMI at the national championship in Reno, Nevada, where they competed with over 40 teams from across the country in May 2018 and received the Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award.

At the local competition, Tinian High School placed second and Marianas High School placed third. Career Law Clerk Richard Miller and Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy presided over preliminary rounds of the competition. Chief Judge Manglona presided over the championship round held in the NMI Judiciary's Supreme Court courtroom. As long-time supporters of the CNMI High School Mock Trial Program, Judges Manglona and Kennedy often provide instruction to students at the Mock Trial Academy and look forward to presiding during each competition.



### 2018 MOCK TRIAL WINNERS

The team from Mount Carmel High School won the 2018 CNMI Mock Trial Competition and represented the CNMI in the High School Mock Trial National Championship in Reno, Nevada.

(Photo Credit: Saipan Tribune—Bea Cabrera)

# U.S. PROBATION & PRE-TRIAL SERVICES OFFICE

## STAFFING

After 20 years of service, Specialist U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer Margarita (“Maggie”) Wonenberg retired on August 17, 2018. When Maggie began her career, she was the only federal probation officer serving the CNMI.

She was solely responsible for all the duties and responsibilities of running the office. Eventually support staff and another officer were hired who worked with Maggie. Maggie was a positive addition to the office. She was dependable, committed and of high character. Although Maggie is missed, we understand she has moved to the state of Idaho to be with her children.

In February 2018, Officer Gregory Arriola successfully completed the Firearms Instructor Recertification training program at the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Academy in Charlestown, South Carolina.

In late March 2018 Officer Janet Yamashita traveled to the Academy and



Maggie's Retirement Luncheon



Officer Gregory Arriola

successfully completed a two-week course certifying her as a Firearms Instructor. We are proud to announce that she is now a certified Firearms Instructor for the Districts. She joins Lead Firearms Instructor Ricardo Leon Guerrero and Firearms Instructor Gregory Arriola.



Officer Ricardo Leon Guerrero

In June 2018, Ricardo Leon Guerrero successfully completed the Glock Armorer's Course allowing him to perform annual inspections and maintenance of the firearms as well as make repairs. Officer Leon Guerrero also attended the Glock Instructors Workshop, a two-and-a-half-day tactical firearms training.

## TRAINING

After years of training and preparation to become armed, officers began carrying firearms in early 2018. All armed federal probation officer have qualified with the Glock Model 17 and 19, 9mm Firearms. Officers who choose to carry are required to attend ongoing training and qualify annually.

The Districts of Guam and the NMI applied and were accepted to participate in the Federal Judicial Center's

“Science Informed Decision Making” workshop held at Harvard Law School. The workshop focused on the risks and needs of “justice involved” individuals with mental and substance use disorders who move through the federal criminal justice system. Participants worked through real case studies with assigned expert clinical consultants, who helped to identify issues and possible interventions. As a result of the workshop, probation officers have incorporated the use of a questionnaire that asks for information regarding adverse childhood experiences. Officers include this





information in the presentence reports, and can use it to support a downward departure or variance in their sentencing recommendations.

In March 2018, Officer Melinda Brunson-Santos attended the Second Chance Act conference, where the Probation and Pretrial Services Office (PPSO) provided technical assistance to help pretrial and probation offices understand the new expended authority and how to best understand and implement services through the Risk, Need, Responsivity (RNR) model.

In August, six officers attended the first PPSO conference on Evidence Based Practices in Pretrial Services. The conference featured pretrial practitioners and presenters who provided information and research regarding the fundamentals of evidence based pretrial release and detention. Districts were encouraged to increase release rates with the understanding of the value

of assessing pretrial risk factors.

In September 2018, PPSO coordinated its first WebEx training for the Districts on the Principles of Effective Supervision based upon the RNR model. The RNR supervision model looks at identifying the risks and needs of a person under supervision and matching the individual to services and interventions to increase the chance that the individual will succeed and have positive outcomes on supervision.

From December 10, 2018 through December 13, 2018, U.S. Probation Officers attended the GRACIE Survival Tactics (GST) Level I course hosted by the U.S. Marshals Service. Superior Court of Guam Probation Officers and Marshals were also in attendance. GST is a defensive tactics program based on Brazilian jiu jitsu customized for law enforcement officers. It has been taught to agencies at the local, state and federal level. The program has undergone medical and legal review and has been found to be effective in the use of leverage to defend against individuals who may be larger and stronger.

## EVENTS/ OUTREACH



Red Ribbon Week | Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School (Saipan) | Chief Judge Manglona, USPO Arriola, and District Court Staff

The District of Guam Probation Office participated as trainers in the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC) 2018 Court Security Training, from November 5-8, 2018. Court, Probation and Marshal staff from the neighboring island nations that represent the PJC were in attendance.

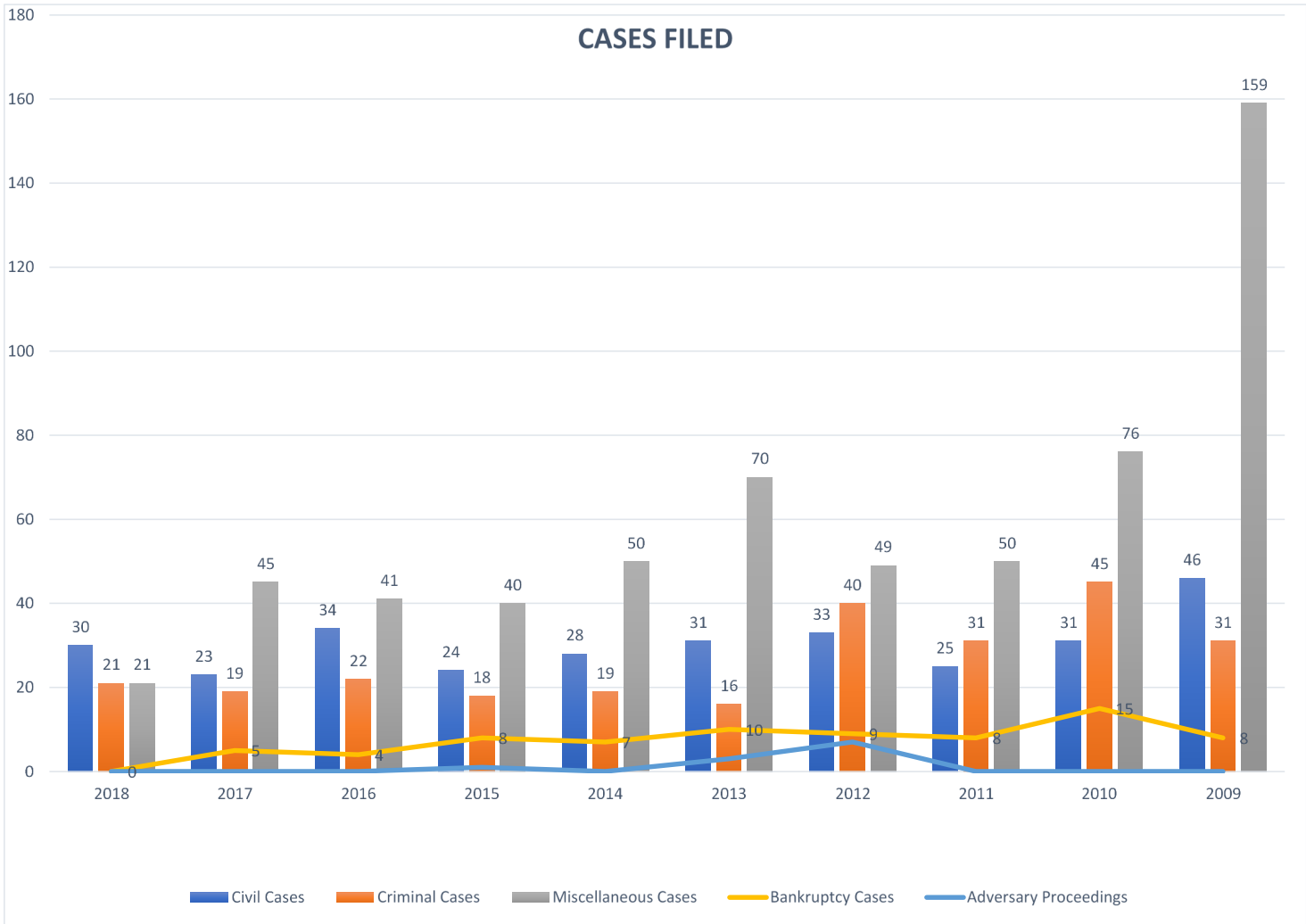
Trained U.S. Probation Officers set up and operated the state-of-the-art MILO Use of Force Training Simulator, which allowed participants to work through realistic use of force scenarios interactively. The MILO system was well received, with most participants having a go at it.

On March 2, 2018, USPO Jeffrey Ventura and IT Systems Administrator Barbara Hattori were invited to

Agana Heights Elementary School to discuss online safety and introduce the students to computer programming/ coding. Jeffrey and Barbara taught three 45 minute sessions to approximately 70 Fourth Grade students. The students were engaged in the important topic of online safety, asking many relevant questions.

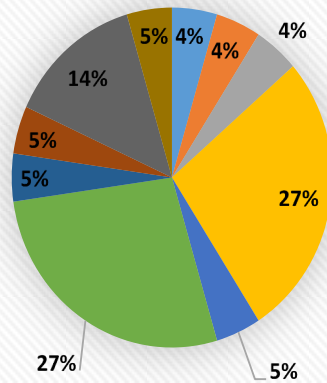
In October 2018, USPO Gregory Arriola along with Chief Judge Manglona visited middle schools throughout Saipan to support Red Ribbon Week. USPO Arriola invited several former supervised defendants to share their stories to the students about their addiction to drugs and the consequences that came with it.

# STATISTICS



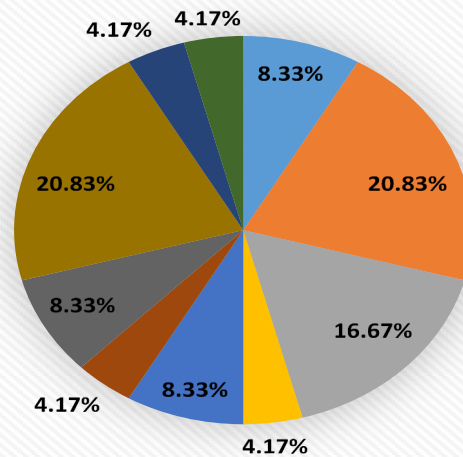


## 2018 Criminal Cases - Nature of Suit



- Mail Fraud
- Conspiracy to Export Defense Articles without a License
- Money Laundering
- Methamphetamine
- Unlawful Employment of Aliens
- Improper Entry by Alien
- Illegal Entry - Concealment of Facts
- Wire Fraud
- False Statements to a Government Agency
- Aiding and Abetting Fraud in Connection with Identification Documents

## 2018 Civil Cases - Nature of Suit



- Contract: Other
- Labor: Fair Standards
- Racketeer/ Corrupt Organization
- Assault Libel & Slander
- Mandamus & Other
- Prisoner: Civil Rights
- Other Immigration Actions
- P.I.: Other
- Other Statutory Actions
- Marine
- Habeas Corpus
- Federal Employer's Liability
- Civil Rights Acts



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