

## Judiciary of Guam

## Administrative Office of the Courts

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CHIEF JUSTICE

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## U.S. Territories Unite to Celebrate Law Month 2025 GUAM, NMI REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO CONSTITUTION'S PROMISE

(Hagåtña, Guam) — In a demonstration of unity among the U.S. territories, the Judiciary of Guam joined leaders of the government of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands for a joint Law Month Resolution-Proclamation Ceremony on Thursday, April 3, 2025. The event, held at the Guam Judicial Center and streamed live to remote participants, marked a rare and significant Law Month collaboration across jurisdictions and branches of government.

In line with this year's theme, "The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One," leaders from the territories spoke about the importance of inclusion, fairness, and working together to strengthen democracy.

"Law Month is a time to reflect on the principles that hold us together as a nation—and on the work still ahead to make those principles real for all," said Chief Justice Torres of the Supreme Court of Guam. "Across the country, and particularly in the territories, inequalities persist—in access to federal resources, in political representation, and in the full application of constitutional protections."

"But while we may not be states," he added, "we are very much part of the American story."

The heads of all three branches of government from both Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands were among the dignitaries who delivered remarks. These included Guam Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio, Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. of the 38th Guam Legislature, and Chief Justice Robert J. Torres of the Supreme Court of Guam; NMI Governor Arnold I. Palacios, President Dennis C. Mendiola of the NMI Senate, Speaker of the NMI House of Representatives Edmund Villagomez, and Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro of the NMI Supreme Court.

"Our respective jurisdictions are separated by water and our colonial past, but we are united by our duties and responsibilities as members of the American political family—and our shared commitment to upholding the rule of law across our island nations," said Chief Justice Castro of the NMI Supreme Court. "We are here to reaffirm our collective commitment to democracy."

Students from Guam's Agueda Johnston Middle School read Proclamation No. 2025-29. Both jurisdictions then collectively signed their resolutions and proclamations.

Guam's Law Month will feature a variety of public events hosted by the Judiciary of Guam, the U.S. District Court of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association. These include fairy tale mock trial plays by Guam's elementary and middle schools, outreach oral arguments, essay and art contests, and other community activities designed to engage the public and promote civic education.

"These events reflect not only the power of participation, but also the belief that everyone, regardless of status or geography, has a stake in justice," concluded Chief Justice Torres.

For more information about Law Month events, visit the Judiciary of Guam at @guamcourts.