



Judiciary of Guam

Administrative Office of the Courts
Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Dr • Hagåtña, Gu. 96910
Tel: (671) 475-3544 • Fax: (671) 475-3184



HON. ROBERT J. TORRES
CHIEF JUSTICE

HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA, III
PRESIDING JUDGE

DANIELLE T. ROSETE, ESQ.
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2025

Justice for All: Chief Justice Torres Urges Smarter Safety, Stronger Solutions in State of the Judiciary

Hagåtña, Guam — Justice happens when we do the hard, unglamorous work of looking deeper—when we remember that protecting a community isn't just about who we take off the streets, but what we're building in their place. That was the message delivered by Chief Justice Robert J. Torres Jr. in the 2025 State of the Judiciary Address, held Thursday morning, May 1, in recognition of Law Day.

In his address before the 38th Guam Legislature, the Chief Justice highlighted key reforms, data-driven safety initiatives, and the Judiciary's continued investment in recovery and rehabilitation. Torres detailed improvements in access to justice, including the upcoming launch of Mobile Protective Orders—an online platform that allows survivors to safely request protective orders from home—as well as plans to expand services at the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, bringing justice closer to where people live and work.

Public safety was a central theme, anchored by the Chief Justice's call for a smarter, more collaborative approach. ***"If we want real safety, we can't rely on risk scores alone. And we can't build policy on what makes the best headline,"*** said Torres. ***"We need a full approach—one that's data-driven, collaborative, and comprehensive."*** Torres pointed to performance data from Guam's expanded Electronic Monitoring (EM) program, which has helped reduce recidivism and save over \$3 million each year in incarceration costs. Since its launch, only 3% of EM participants have been arrested and charged with a new offense.

The Judiciary also hosted national experts to train local probation staff in smarter supervision practices and continued to strengthen treatment court programs that give individuals a path to recovery. One of those individuals, Valerie Perez, a graduate of the Guam Family Recovery Program, shared her journey during the address. ***"Recovery gave me a future. Treatment gave me the chance to fight for it. And today, I'm proud of who I am,"*** Perez said. ***"I'm no longer defined by what nearly broke me—but by the strength that brought me back."***

The Judiciary also honored retired Judge Anita A. Sukola as the 2025 Hostisia Award recipient for her decades of service and belief in justice that heals. ***"Jails are not the answer,"*** Judge Sukola said upon her retirement from the bench. ***"Treatment is the answer... We are all God's children, and we need to help each other—to get healthier... to get better... so we can keep the family together."***

Chief Justice Torres closed with a call to action for legislators and stakeholders. ***"In times like these, it's easy to listen to the loudest voices...the ones that call for more punishment, more fear...But that's not what our people are asking for,"*** concluded Torres. ***"They're asking for answers that work. A system that doesn't measure strength by how many it locks away—but by how many it lifts up. That is the work we've done. And that is the work still ahead."***

[View the State of the Judiciary Address](#)

###

For more information, please contact:

SARAH G. ELMORE-HERNANDEZ

Director of Policy, Planning, and Community Relations

sehernandez@guamcourts.gov

The Judiciary of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.