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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guam Delegation Honored with Prestigious Award at Mock Trial Championship

(Hagåtña, Guam) — Guam has once again made its mark on the national stage during the 2025 National High School Mock Trial Championship, held in Phoenix, Arizona. Guam's delegation was awarded the prestigious Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award.

The award was presented during the Gala Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Phoenix Ballroom. Selected by their peers among dozens of teams from across the United States and abroad, the Guam delegation was recognized for exemplifying the highest standards of integrity, respect, and professionalism in and out of the courtroom.

Representing Guam were the Okkodo High School Mock Trial Team, courtroom journalist Giada Meno from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, and courtroom artist Angel Samaniego from Simon Sanchez High School. The team was led by dedicated teacher-coaches and an attorney-coach, with oversight from Joleen Respicio, State Coordinator for the Judiciary of Guam.

This marks the third time Guam has received this national honor—first in 2017 by Notre Dame High School, again in 2018 by Mount Carmel School, which included students from Okkodo, and now in 2025. The Larry Bakko Professionalism and Civility Award is named after long-time educator and mock trial visionary Larry Bakko. It is regarded as one of the most meaningful recognitions at the national competition because it is voted on by fellow competitors.

The Judiciary of Guam congratulates all student participants, coaches, and supporters for continuing Guam's proud legacy of excellence in legal education and youth leadership on a national scale.

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