



BEFORE THE 2025 JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GUAM

RESOLUTION NO. JC25-017

RELATIVE TO COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM AND RECOGNIZING ITS FOUNDATIONAL ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
GUAM'S JUSTICE SYSTEM

**WHEREAS,** on July 1, 1950, President Harry S. Truman signed the Organic Act of Guam into law, establishing Guam's civil government and granting U.S. citizenship to the people of Guam; and

**WHEREAS,** the passage of the Organic Act was a defining moment in the island's pursuit of self-governance, ending decades of U.S. naval administration and laying the groundwork for a civilian government composed of a legislative branch, an executive branch, and the framework for a judiciary; and

**WHEREAS,** at the time of its passage, the Organic Act vested judicial authority in the federal District Court of Guam, granting it the jurisdiction of other U.S. district courts along with such appellate jurisdiction as the Guam Legislature might determine; and

**WHEREAS,** it was not until the Court Reorganization Act of 1974 that the Superior Court of Guam was established as the island's trial court, and the 2004 amendments to the Organic Act confirmed the Supreme Court of Guam as the highest court in the territory—free from federal oversight and equal in authority to its state counterparts; and

**WHEREAS,** these advances would not have been possible without the foundation laid by the Organic Act; and

**WHEREAS,** although the people of Guam have twice undertaken efforts to draft and ratify a local constitution, these efforts were ultimately unsuccessful and the Organic Act continues to serve as the island's foundational legal framework; and

**WHEREAS,** the Judiciary of Guam interprets the Bill of Rights contained in the Organic Act independently, in ways that reflect Guam's unique history, culture, and values; and

**WHEREAS,** in *People v. Adriatico* (2024), the Supreme Court of Guam reaffirmed its authority to give fuller effect to the protections enshrined in the Organic Act, reflecting the island's distinctive identity and aspirations for justice; and

**WHEREAS,** the Judiciary of Guam remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguard the Organic Act's promises and expand its meaning in service to the people of Guam;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Judicial Council of Guam hereby commemorates the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Organic Act of Guam and recognizes the foundational role it has played in the establishment and development of Guam's justice system; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Judicial Council extends its appreciation to all who have contributed to the advancement of justice under the Organic Act and reaffirms the Judiciary's commitment to upholding its principles and expanding its meaning for generations to come.

**DULY ADOPTED** this 17th day of July 2025 at a duly noticed meeting.

**ROBERT J. TORRES**  
Chairman  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

  
**F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO**  
Member  
Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

  
**KATHERINE A. MARAMAN**  
Member  
Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

  
**ALBERTO C. LAMORENA III**  
Member  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Guam

  
**MARIA T. CENZON**  
Member  
Judge, Superior Court of Guam