



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary

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PRESS RELEASE

CNMI Family Law Digest Now Freely Available Online

The Family Court Division of the Superior Court is pleased to announce the release of a Family Law Digest containing all Commonwealth Supreme Court, Superior Court, Commonwealth Trial Court, and Trust Territory High Court case law. A "digest" is a legal reference book that organizes court cases by subject matter. The Family Law Digest takes all Commonwealth cases that discuss family law and organizes them by specific family law subjects. For example, subjects include adoption, alimony, and custody to name a few.

Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who leads the Family Court Division, praised the author of the Digest, his former law clerk, James M. Zarones, for compiling the Digest -- mostly on his own free time. Judge Govendo expressed the hope and expectation that the Digest "will help local attorneys, the courts, the legislature, and the people of the Commonwealth understand and improve upon the family law of the Northern Mariana Islands." Mr. Zarones also included explanatory commentary to points of law where appropriate.

Mr. Zarones created the Digest to "trim attorney fees and court costs by reducing the amount of research time required for any given case." In addition, Mr. Zarones hopes "that the Legislature will use the Digest when amending the Commonwealth's family laws to make improvements."

The Digest, created and made available as a public service to the Commonwealth, is distributed by the Law Revision Commission for free on its website.

To view the Family Law Digest please visit www.cnmilaw.org and navigate to the Judiciary link. If you have any questions please contact the Law Revision Commission at 236-9820 or at cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp.

Pictured above: Family Court Judge Kenneth L. Govendo (center) with Michael Stanker, Executive Director of the Law Revision Commission (left), and *Family Law Digest* author James Zarones (right).

For further information, contact me at 236-9805. *JWS*