## The Honorable Alexandro Cruz Castro, Chief Justice

The Honorable Alexandro C. Castro was nominated to serve as the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court by Governor Benigno R. Fitial on September 13, 2012. He appeared before the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations on October 10, 2012. Following the Committee's recommendation, the full Senate voted to confirm Justice Castro as the Commonwealth's fourth Chief Justice. He was duly commissioned that same day, October 11, 2012, when Governor Fitial administered the oath of office.

Chief Justice Castro was born April 23, 1952 on Tinian to a single mother, and he was raised on Rota by his grandmother. Because there was no high school on Rota at the time, the Chief Justice attended George Washington Senior High School on Guam. After graduation he returned to Rota in 1971. Back on his home island, he worked one year each as a high school teacher, police officer, assistant hotel manager and assistant clerk of court. In 1972, Chief Justice Castro served as a member of the Rota Municipal Council.

As a police officer and assistant clerk of court, Chief Justice Castro became interested in law. He moved to Saipan to join the Trust Territory Office of the Public Defender as a trial assistant helping indigent persons. As a result of the efforts of then Chief Public Defender Herbert D. Soll, Chief Justice Castro and other trial assistants from the Public Defender's Office throughout Micronesia attended the Faculty of Law at the University of Papua New Guinea ("UPNG"), a British oriented law school.

While in law school, the Chief Justice went to Washington, D.C. to represent UPNG in the renowned Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. On July 27, 1979, the Chief Justice graduated with a Bachelor of Laws Degree. Out of one hundred and eighty students who enrolled, he was one of only forty to successfully finish.

After his admittance to the CNMI Bar on September 26, 1979, Chief Justice Castro joined the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General as an assistant attorney general. Three years later, he became the Chief of the Criminal Division. On April 26, 1986, Chief Justice Castro was sworn in as the first indigenous Attorney General. He was instrumental in setting up the Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition – an annual speech contest where high school students from Rota, Tinian

and Saipan debate a current legal issue facing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In 1989, Chief Justice Castro ascended to the CNMI Superior Court as an Associate Judge. In 1993 he became the Presiding Judge. Five years later, Chief Justice Castro was nominated and confirmed to the CNMI Supreme Court as an Associate Justice. He also serves as a justice pro tempore for the Guam Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Castro is married to Carmen Moses Castro of Anguar, Palau, and they are blessed with six children: Patrick, Evonne, Eric, Junior, Rodney and Ariel.