



THE JUDICIARY
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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PRESS RELEASE

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CNMI Judiciary to Host Pacific Judicial Council Biennial Conference

The Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary will host the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC) Biennial Conference from September 26th to 29th, 2017. The PJC consists of the judiciaries from the Northern Marianas, Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap, and American Samoa. The Conference allows participating judges and justices to share and discuss ideas to improve court administration and delivery of justice, providing a collaborative forum for participants to brainstorm solutions to common challenges in the islands.

Approximately 35 judges and justices are anticipated to be in attendance, as well as members of the CNMI Bar Association. Among the conference invitees are justices and judges from the U.S. District Court for the NMI, U.S. District Court of Guam, High and District Courts of American Samoa, FSM Supreme Court, the Supreme and Superior Courts of Guam, Palau Supreme and Land Courts, Pohnpei State Supreme Court, Chuuk State Supreme Court, Kosrae State Court, and Yap State Court.

Presentations and discussions will cover contemporary topics such as immigration control and policies, judicial opinion writing, U.S. Supreme Court case review, judicial ethics and social media, attorney discipline, and evidence. Conference speakers will include Senior Judge John Coughenour of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington; Supreme Court of Guam Associate Justice Robert J. Torres; Professors Carlton F.W. Larson and Rose C. Villazor, both of the University of California at Davis School of Law; University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Law Adjunct Professor Joseph Regalia; and Bruce A. Bradley, Esq.

The member jurisdictions rotate hosting the biennial conference. The CNMI Judiciary hosted the Biennial Conference in 2009 where over 30 attorneys from the local Bar were in attendance. Some of the conference sessions and luncheon this year will be open to the local Bar. Information on the conference venue and registration will also be available at a later date. The conference is made possible by funding from the Department of the Interior with the assistance of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

For further information, please contact Jim W. Stowell at the CNMI Supreme Court at 236-9805.