



Summer Pre-law Program 2014 Graduation and Sponsors' Recognition

The Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program concluded on Friday, July 11, 2014, with a graduation ceremony for the participants and recognition of sponsors. Over the last three weeks, the fourteen participants undertook an intense, three-week study of law under the tutelage of Professor Emeritus Robert J. Desiderio of the University Of New Mexico School Of Law and Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor of the University of California at Davis School of Law.



Pictured are Justices and Judges of the CNMI Judiciary, Chief Judge for the US District Court for the NMI, participants in the Summer Pre-law Program, Professors Rose Cuison-Villazor and Robert J. Desiderio, along with sponsors' representatives of the Summer Pre-Law Program and the Law in the Community Lecture Series.

This is the eighth time the Judiciary has hosted the program since it began in 1991. The program simulated the demands experienced by first-year law students, allowing participants to engage in two introductory law courses: Contracts and Property. Legal writing and advocacy components were included when participants wrote an appellate brief and argued a mock appeal before a panel of justices, judges, and attorneys. The curriculum also consisted of workshops intended to highlight the law school application process and the Law School Admission Test.

The Summer Pre-law Program graduates include: Anthony H. Aguon, Carmen V. Borja, Tina R. Cruz, Sahjahan T. Hossain, Savana V. Manglona, Janina Maratita, Jaclyn T. Mendiola, Maisie Lynn SN. Mesngon, Zalbert C. Palma, Susan S. Pascual, Gretchen A. Smith, Christopher A. Tenorio, Angelina T. Tretnoff, and Dan Ryan B. Tumaquip. During and after the graduation ceremony, many participants expressed their serious interest in pursuing law school. Since the Judiciary's program started, twenty-eight alumni have obtained a J.D., and two are current law students.



Christopher Tenorio shakes hands with Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro.



Zalbert Palma shakes hands with Associate Justice Perry B. Inos.



Tina Cruz is Congratulated by Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.



Savana Manglona is congratulated by her father, Associate Justice John A. Manglona.



Pictured above is Jaelyn Mendiola

At the ceremony's conclusion the program participants were asked to summarize their three weeks' Summer Pre-Law Program experience and speak about their future ambitions.



Gretchen Smith



Sahjahan Hossain

Carmen Borja



Sponsors of the program and the associated Law in the Community Lecture Series were acknowledged and presented with plaques of appreciation for their support. These community outreach activities were made possible by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a nonprofit corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities; Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society; Bridge Capital, LLC; CNMI Bar Association; Delta Air Lines; The Garment Residual Charitable Fund; Hertz Rent A Car; JET Realty and Development; Saipan Shipping Company; Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.; and Triple J Star Wholesale Foods.



Chris Concepcion, with Professor Cuison-Villazor to his right and Professor Desiderio on the left.



Alex Camacho of Hertz Rent A Car, after receiving a plaque of appreciation for his company's support of the Pre-Law Program and Lecture Series



Maya Kara, CNMI Bar Association President, receives a sponsor's plaque.



Summer Pre-Law Program Coordinator and Law Clerk to Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Nicole Torres is flanked to her left by Professor Robert Desiderio, and to her right by Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor and Associate Justice John A. Manglona
