

The Judiciary of Guam

Fiscal Year 2015
A Citizen - Centric Report
Website: www.guamcourts.org



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About Us

As the third branch of the government of Guam, the Judiciary of Guam is charged with interpreting the laws of the Territory of Guam and in this regard provides for the orderly settlement of disputes between parties, determines the guilt or innocence of those accused of crimes and other violations of the law and protects the rights of individuals.

The head of the Judiciary of Guam is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam, currently Robert J. Torres. Associate Justices F. Philip Carbulido and Katherine A. Maraman are the other two members of the Supreme Court. Seven judges and three judicial officers comprise the Superior Court of Guam, which is led by Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III.

Mission

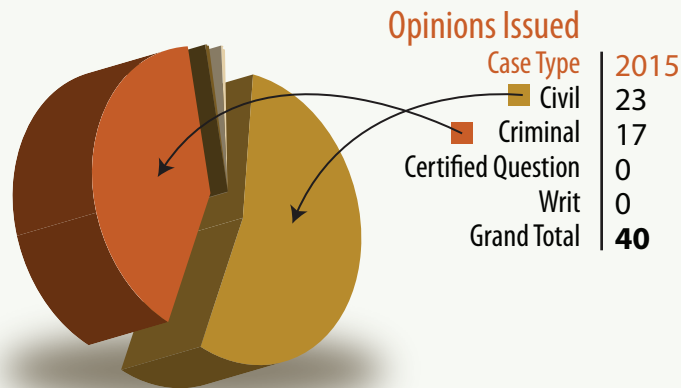
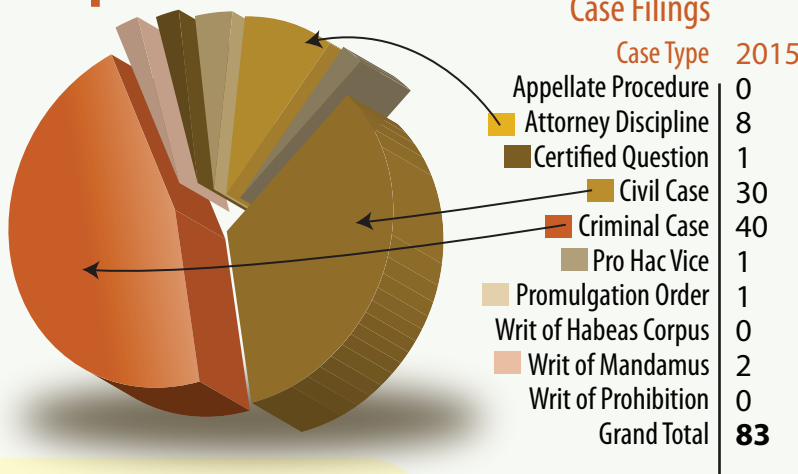
The Judiciary administers justice by interpreting and upholding the laws, resolving disputes in a timely manner, and providing accessible, efficient, and effective court services.

Vision

The Judiciary will provide the highest quality of justice services, thus enhancing public trust and confidence in Guam's independent and co-equal branch of government and becoming a model of judicial excellence.



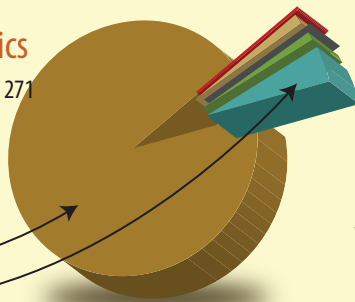
Supreme Court



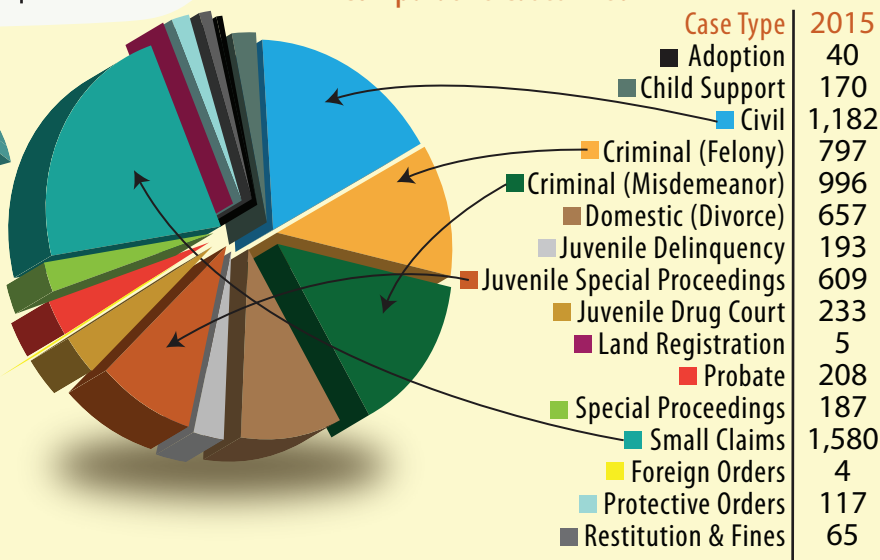
Superior Court

Jury Management Statistics

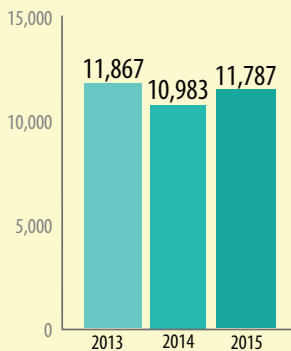
- Petit Jury Trial Case Appearance (Days) 271
- Petit Jury Orientations 26
- Grand Jury Selections 2
- Grand Jury Appearance (Days) 192
- Grand Jury Cases Heard 821
- Jurors Present 16,688



Comparative Cases Filed

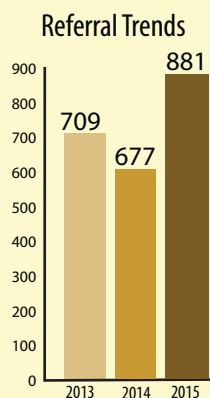


Traffic Citations Filed

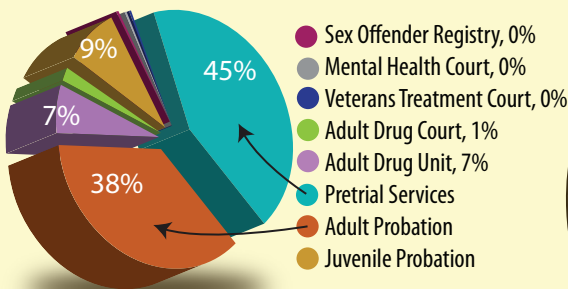


Traffic Citations Filed 2015:
Northern Court – 8,997
Hagåtña Court – 2,790

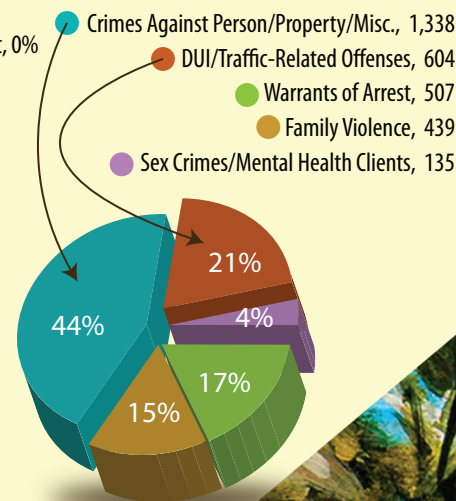
Client Services and Family Counseling



Probation Caseload Distribution

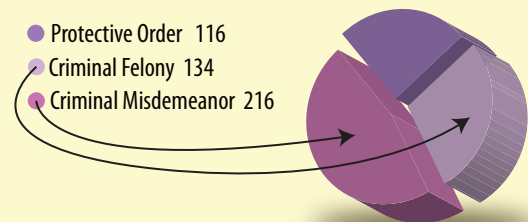


Pretrial Caseload Distribution

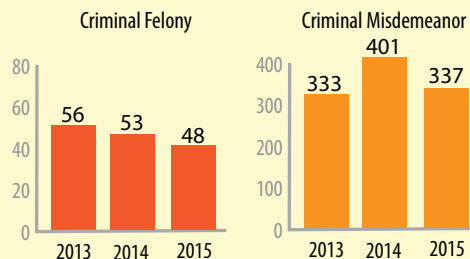


Family Violence Court Filings in 2015

- Protective Order 116
- Criminal Felony 134
- Criminal Misdemeanor 216



DWI Court Filings

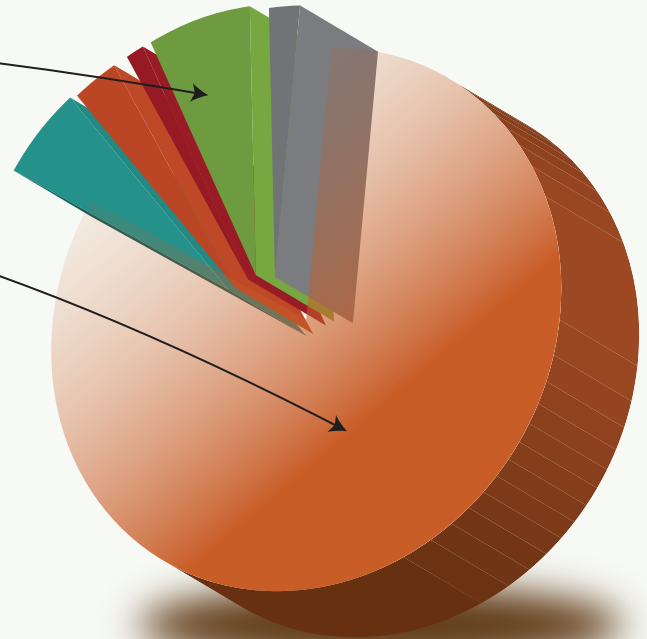


Our Finances

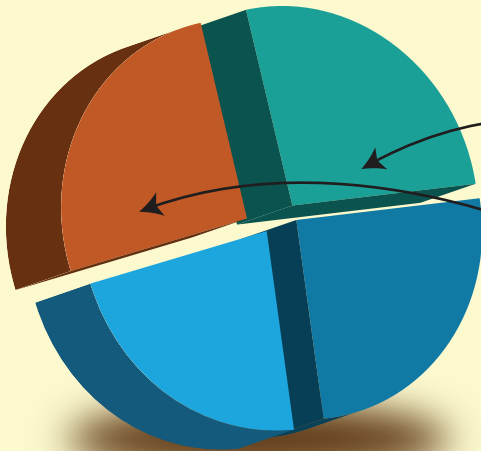
FUNDING SOURCES

FY 2015

Appropriations	33,454,762
Fed Grants	2,225,452
Traffic Fines	1,084,674
Fines	446,742
Fees	2,617,654
Miscellaneous	698,063
Total	40,527,347



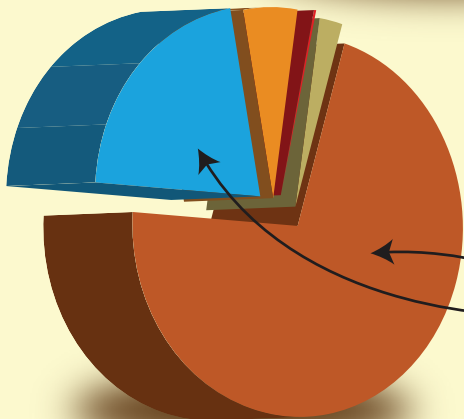
MANDATORY EXPENSES FY 2015



Court and Ministerial	5,715,021.18
Probation	5,437,988.87
Marshals	4,814,066.56
Other Personnel	5,580,186.39

JURY-RELATED EXPENSES

\$ 565,792.20



Overtime	606,119
Night Differential	8,745
Hazardous Pay	269,800
Employee Benefits	8,175,648
Indigent Client Services	
Professional / Consultant Service	368,015
Interpreters / Transcriber Fees	124,858
Alternate Public Defender	918,412
Private Attorney Panel	875,523
Other	129,125



Independent Audit

Independent Audit was performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP. The Government of Guam received an unqualified (clean) opinion. The Office of the Public Auditor released the Government of Guam wide financial audited report on June 30, 2016. For more information of the independent audit, you may visit this web site address <http://www.opaguam.org>

Our Outlook

In June 2016, the Judiciary of Guam started the application process to apply for a Community Facilities Direct Loan with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The main purpose of the loan is to renovate existing Judiciary

facilities to accommodate an additional Superior Court Judge and Magistrate Judge, in an effort to enhance its ability to serve the needs of Guam’s growing community. Since the construction of the Judicial Center 25 years ago, the population of Guam has increased from 130,482 in 1990 to approximately 172,630 in 2013 – an increase of over 32%. Per the Judiciary’s 2014 Annual Report, a total of 18,925 court clearances were issued between the Hagåtña and Dededo facilities; 278,918 people were screened at the Hagåtña courthouse; and 20,629 individuals were processed for jury service that year. During Fiscal Year 2016 budget discussions, the Guam Legislature recognized this fact and gave their approval for the Judicial Council to enter into a financing arrangement to address facility needs of the Judiciary and other purposes up to a maximum limit of \$15,000,000. This approval was subsequently included in Public Law 33-66, which authorized repayment utilizing funds from the Judicial Building Fund.

Through a grant from the State Justice Institute, a security assessment of the Judiciary’s facilities was conducted in June 2015 by the National Center for State Courts. The assessment included a review of procedures, equipment, and site visits to all facilities, and resulted in over 130 recommendations for improvement. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres chairs the Security and Emergency committee that is working to implement recommendations. Some recommendations require minimal effort and resources, such as making changes to policies and procedures, posting signs for security purposes, and ensuring maintenance of security equipment/infrastructure but others will require renovation of existing facilities.

The Security and Emergency committee and several Task Force sub-committees meet regularly to coordinate implementation of the NCSC recommendations. Significant progress was reported at the most recent meeting held on June 17, 2016.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you like this report? Is there any other information you would like to see included? Please let us know by contacting Dana Gutierrez, Director of Policy, Planning & Community Relations at Tel: 300-9282 or email: dgutierrez@guamcourts.org

