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FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

October 30, 2020

Re: GBA Evaluation of Justice and Judges on 2020 General Election Ballot

Håfa Adai,

This year, Guam voters will decide whether or not to retain in office three (3) Superior Court Judges and one (1) Supreme Court Justice. Guam Judges and Justices are appointed for life, but are subject to “retention elections” every 8 years.

The Guam Bar Association conducted a judicial retention survey of its active lawyer members, reviewing the performance of Judges and Justice who are up for retention: Supreme Court Chief Justice F. Phillip Carbullido, Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena, III, Superior Court Judge Arthur R. Barcinas, and Superior Court Judge Maria T. Cenzone.

The survey was sent out to only active bar members and the responses were anonymously received between October 15th thru 22nd. The American Bar Association Standards for Judicial Evaluation were used as the resource for the retention surveys.

The following scale was used to rate the performance of judicial officers:

- 5 = Excellent
- 4 = Very Good
- 3 = Acceptable
- 2 = Poor
- 1 = Unacceptable
- 0 = Don't Know

The judicial officers were rated on Legal Ability, Integrity and Impartiality, Professionalism and Temperament, and Administrative Capacity.

The survey results are provided to the general public in the interests of improving the administration of justice. Please feel free to contact me or Jay Arriola, Member-at-Large, if you have any questions.

Senseramente,

JACQUELINE TAITANO TERLAJE
President



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FINAL RESULTS FOR EVALUATION FOR CHIEF JUSTICE F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO¹:

Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido	0	1	2	3	4	5
Legal Ability - Knowledge of the Law	2%	2%	3%	12%	17%	64%
Legal Ability - Aware of recent case law regarding the issue(s) on appeal.	7%	2%	3%	12%	20%	56%
Integrity & Impartiality - Avoids impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.	0%	7%	5%	7%	19%	62%
Integrity & Impartiality - Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions.	0%	7%	9%	10%	15%	59%
Communication - Uses clear and logical oral communication while in court.	0%	3%	7%	10%	15%	64%
Communication - Prepares clear and logical written opinions and orders.	2%	3%	9%	7%	21%	59%
Professionalism and Temperament - Acts in a dignified manner.	0%	2%	5%	12%	10%	71%
Professionalism and Temperament - Promotes public understanding of and confidence in the courts.	0%	5%	9%	7%	10%	69%
Administrative Capacity - Issues opinions in a prompt, timely manner.	5%	10%	12%	16%	19%	38%
Administrative Capacity - Begins court arguments on time.	10%	3%	5%	7%	17%	58%
Administrative Capacity - Acts to ensure that disabilities and linguistic and cultural differences do not limit access to the justice system.	19%	5%	5%	7%	15%	49%
Administrative Capacity - Demonstrates appropriate innovation in the use of technology to improve the administration of justice.	12%	9%	7%	10%	16%	47%
	Never	Once	2-3x	4-10x	>10	
How many times have you appeared before Chief Justice Carbullido over the past 3 years?	28%	21%	30%	16%	5%	
	Yes	No				
Shall Chief Justice Carbullido of the Supreme Court of Guam be retained in office?	89%	11%				

5 = Excellent
 4 = Very Good
 3 = Acceptable
 2 = Poor
 1 = Unacceptable
 0 = Don't Know

¹ A total of 59 responses was received.



FINAL RESULTS FOR EVALUATION FOR PRESIDING JUDGE ALBERTO C. LAMORENA

III²:

Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III	0	1	2	3	4	5
Legal Ability - Knowledge of Substantive Law	2%	16%	13%	16%	20%	34%
Integrity & Impartiality - Avoids impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.	2%	18%	7%	11%	24%	38%
Integrity & Impartiality - Presents a neutral presence on the bench.	2%	18%	11%	11%	16%	43%
Communication - Uses clear and logical oral communication while in court.	2%	18%	11%	15%	20%	35%
Communication - Prepares clear and logical written decisions and orders	7%	24%	7%	13%	15%	35%
Professionalism and Temperament - Acts in a dignified manner.	2%	21%	2%	18%	16%	41%
Professionalism and Temperament - Promotes public understanding of and confidence in the courts.	4%	25%	5%	9%	20%	38%
Administrative Capacity - Is punctual for court.	4%	24%	9%	13%	24%	26%
Administrative Capacity - Maintains control over the courtroom.	2%	15%	4%	16%	15%	49%
Administrative Capacity - Makes decisions and rulings in a prompt, timely manner.	7%	24%	11%	13%	17%	28%
Administrative Capacity - Demonstrates appropriate innovation in the use of technology to improve the administration of justice.	18%	16%	11%	9%	20%	26%
Administrative Capacity - Acts to ensure that disabilities and linguistic and cultural differences do not limit access to the justice system.	20%	15%	4%	13%	18%	31%
	Never	Once	2-3x	4-10x	>10	
How many times have you appeared in Judge Lamorena III's court over the past 3 years?	9%	9%	21%	17%	43%	
	Yes	No				
Shall Judge Lamorena III of the Superior Court of Guam be retained in office?	65%	35%				

5 = Excellent
 4 = Very Good
 3 = Acceptable
 2 = Poor
 1 = Unacceptable
 0 = Don't Know

² A total of 56 Responses was received.



FINAL RESULTS FOR EVALUATION FOR JUDGE ARTHUR R. BARCINAS³:

Judge Arthur R. Barcinas	0	1	2	3	4	5
Legal Ability - Knowledge of Substantive Law	2%	7%	9%	27%	24%	31%
Integrity & Impartiality - Avoids impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.	2%	11%	13%	27%	6%	42%
Integrity & Impartiality - Presents a neutral presence on the bench.	2%	15%	15%	22%	7%	40%
Communication - Uses clear and logical oral communication while in court.	4%	9%	11%	22%	26%	29%
Communication - Prepares clear and logical written decisions and orders	6%	17%	7%	22%	17%	32%
Professionalism and Temperament - Acts in a dignified manner.	4%	11%	13%	26%	18%	29%
Professionalism and Temperament - Promotes public understanding of and confidence in the courts.	4%	22%	4%	16%	26%	29%
Administrative Capacity - Is punctual for court.	6%	15%	11%	13%	32%	24%
Administrative Capacity - Maintains control over the courtroom.	4%	6%	13%	15%	26%	38%
Administrative Capacity - Makes decisions and rulings in a prompt, timely manner.	7%	18%	9%	22%	16%	27%
Administrative Capacity - Demonstrates appropriate innovation in the use of technology to improve the administration of justice.	15%	7%	7%	15%	18%	38%
Administrative Capacity - Acts to ensure that disabilities and linguistic and cultural differences do not limit access to the justice system.	16%	9%	9%	15%	13%	38%
	Never	Once	2-3x	4-10x	>10	
How many times have you appeared in Judge Barcinas's court over the past 3 years?	15%	4%	19%	17%	46%	
	Yes	No				
Shall Judge Barcinas of the Superior Court of Guam be retained in office?	71%	29%				

5 = Excellent
 4 = Very Good
 3 = Acceptable
 2 = Poor
 1 = Unacceptable
 0 = Don't Know

³ A total of 55 Responses was received.



FINAL RESULTS FOR EVALUATION FOR JUDGE MARIA T. CENZON⁴:

Judge Maria T. Cenzon	0	1	2	3	4	5
Legal Ability - Knowledge of Substantive Law	6%	7%	11%	22%	27%	27%
Integrity & Impartiality - Avoids impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.	4%	6%	6%	24%	26%	36%
Integrity & Impartiality - Presents a neutral presence on the bench.	4%	7%	2%	26%	24%	38%
Communication - Uses clear and logical oral communication while in court.	4%	6%	13%	16%	24%	38%
Communication - Prepares clear and logical written decisions and orders	15%	9%	13%	13%	19%	32%
Professionalism and Temperament - Acts in a dignified manner.	4%	9%	6%	18%	20%	44%
Professionalism and Temperament - Promotes public understanding of and confidence in the courts.	6%	7%	7%	18%	22%	40%
Administrative Capacity - Is punctual for court.	11%	11%	11%	13%	19%	35%
Administrative Capacity - Maintains control over the courtroom.	4%	6%	4%	24%	26%	37%
Administrative Capacity - Makes decisions and rulings in a prompt, timely manner.	9%	16%	4%	16%	24%	31%
Administrative Capacity - Demonstrates appropriate innovation in the use of technology to improve the administration of justice.	18%	13%	4%	16%	18%	31%
Administrative Capacity - Acts to ensure that disabilities and linguistic and cultural differences do not limit access to the justice system.	19%	7%	7%	17%	17%	33%
	Never	Once	2-3x	4-10x	>10	
How many times have you appeared in Judge Cenzon's court over the past 3 years?	17%	10%	23%	12%	39%	
	Yes	No				
Shall Judge Cenzon of the Superior Court of Guam be retained in office?	83%	17%				

5 = Excellent
 4 = Very Good
 3 = Acceptable
 2 = Poor
 1 = Unacceptable
 0 = Don't Know

⁴ A total of 56 Responses was received.

