

Activity Narrative

Throughout Law Week 2011, the Judiciary of Guam, the District Court of Guam, and the Guam Bar Association co-hosted events designed to engage the community in celebration of our legal system, and to recognize the important legacy of the first American lawyer-president and one of our nation's greatest founders, John Adams.

A joint press conference and proclamation signing on April 25, 2011, kicked off Law Week events. In a show of unity, all branches of the Government of Guam issued proclamations declaring May 1, 2011 as Law Day, and April 25-30, 2011 as Law Week 2011.

During each day of Law Week, the Judiciary of Guam held an Open House and invited the public to tours of the Superior Court, and opened courthouse doors to the public. The island's elementary and middle school students filled the courtrooms with colorful costumes and inspiring performances during their mock trial plays, which reinterpreted fairy tales and other stories. The entertaining and educational plays featured headline cases such as *The Three Bears v. Golden Locks*, *State v. Jack Robinson*, and *Red Riding Hood v. I.M.A. Wolf*. An original mock trial script inspired by John Adams' representation of less popular clients highlighted this year's Law Day theme. In *People v. Mario Lopez*, the famous Hollywood actor was charged with attempted murder after he set off a bomb at the island's annual Liberation Day Parade and injured the Liberation Day King.

Other events included the annual State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido, the Mock Trial Awards and Recognition Ceremony honoring the participants and winners of the High School Mock Trial Program, and the art and essay contest from the island's school children.

An important Law Week event is the annual presentation of the Hustisia Award, which honors and recognizes a member of our community who has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening the rule and role of law. This year, the Hustisia Award was presented to Sister Brigid Perez, R.S.M., Program Director of Alee Shelter for battered women. As an advocate for those whom John Adams called the “friendless and feeble,” her work with family violence victims truly embodied the theme of Law Day 2011, “The Legacy of John Adams.”

Law Week events at the federal District Court of Guam included an Open House, when students from Andersen Middle School toured the courthouse, met with Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, observed court proceedings and learned about the U.S. Probation Office and the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Attorney’s Office and Federal Public Defenders. Students from the University of Guam and University of Maryland obtained a firsthand look at a federal Drug Court proceeding, and learned about therapeutic justice by observing a “staffing meeting” with treatment team members, including the judge, attorneys, probation officers and therapists. The court hosted the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Citizens’ Academy, a program aimed at giving civic leaders and businesspeople an inside perspective of the mission and capabilities of the FBI.

The District Court once again held a Law Week Naturalization Ceremony, welcoming 51 new citizens to the United States of America, in conjunction with its Citizenship Outreach Program. The program allowed citizens to meet representatives from the Guam Election Commission, the Guam Passport Office, and the Social Security Administration. For the first time, recruiters from the United States Armed Forces participated in the outreach program, and were available to speak with the new citizens about opportunities in the military.

Law Week culminated with the annual Law Fair held at the Micronesia Mall, which brought together governmental agencies and community organizations and non-profit organizations that are part of Guam's legal system. The Law Fair drew several hundred citizens, giving them the chance to speak personally with representatives from these organizations. Entertainment included cultural dances by Natibu Dance Academy, song and dance performances by students of St. Anthony Catholic School, as well as demonstrations from K-9 drug detection dog units from Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency and the military. A crowd favorite were mock trial performances by the island's schoolchildren, which both showcased their acting skills and taught legal concepts and trial procedure.

This year's Law Week celebration continued our jurisdiction's proud tradition of educating our island community about the law and legal resources, and reflects the commitment of the Judiciary of Guam, federal District Court, and the Guam Bar Association, to work cooperatively and foster in our citizens an appreciation for the rule of law.