



District Court of Guam

520 W SOLEDAD AVE, FL 4
HAGÁTÑA, GU 96910



CHAMBER OF
Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge

TEL: (671) 969-4501
FAX: (671) 969-4492

July 17, 2023

TO: Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Guam; United States Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the NMI; United States Probation Office for the Districts of Guam and the NMI; United States Marshals Service Office for the Districts of Guam and the NMI; District Court of Guam Clerk's Office; Judiciary of Guam Judicial Officers; Guam Public Defender Service Corporation; Office of the Attorney General of Guam; Guam Bar Association; Cynthia Ecube, Esq., District Court of Guam Lawyer Representative

RE: Announcement of New Federal Public Defender

Dear Court Unit Executives, Stakeholders, and Colleagues,


Hafa Adai!

I have recently received some exciting news from the Honorable Kim McLane Wardlaw, Chair for the Federal Public Defenders Standing Committee, and it is with great pleasure that I relay to you that with the report and recommendation of the Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has voted to appoint Ms. Leilani Lujan as the next Federal Public Defender for the District of Guam, as she was the most qualified candidate.

Ms. Lujan's appointment to a four-year term is contingent on successful completion of a background investigation. Although the Court of Appeals will not make a public announcement prior to the completion of the investigation, I am able to share the news of her selection with colleagues, court unit executives, and other stakeholders. If the investigation is not completed prior to Mr. John Gorman's retirement, the court will appoint Ms. Lujan as Interim Federal Public Defender.

I have no doubt that Ms. Lujan will do great things for Guam's Federal Public Defender Office. I have had a front-row seat on her courtroom performance for over a decade, and I cannot recall a time where her performance was subpar. With her being pro-defendant and committed to providing every defendant equal justice under the law, she is a fantastic fit for this role. Ms. Lujan is a zealous and passionate advocate, but she is also calm, courteous, and respectful in court. She has earned my respect, and I am sure, that of everyone around her, and I look forward to her future endeavors as Guam's Federal Public Defender.

Sincerely,


Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge
District Court of Guam

Cc: John T. Gorman
Leilani Lujan