

## Biography of The Honorable Robert J. Torres, Jr.



**The Honorable Robert J. Torres, Jr.**, born and raised on the Pacific Island of Guam, is the current Chief Justice of the Judiciary of Guam (*Hustisian Guåhan*). His Honor was first sworn in as Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam in 2004, served his first term as Chief Justice of Guam from 2008 to 2011, his second term from 2014 to 2017, and his third term began on January 17, 2023. Chief Justice Torres is also a Justice Pro Tempore for the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Chief Justice Torres received his B.B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1980 (*magna cum laude*; Beta Gamma Sigma; Beta Alpha Psi) and J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1985. He was also awarded two Doctor of Laws (LL.D.), *Honoris Causa*, from the University of Cebu and Centro Escolar University in the Philippines, and elected a Science and Technology Fellow by the

Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center in Washington, D.C.

Since his appointment to the Supreme Court, as a self-professed technophile, Chief Justice Torres has played a central role in expanding access to court services with the opening of the Northern Court Satellite, employing wireless technology in the courtrooms, effecting videoconferencing in initial appearances, implementing e-filing, and adopting ethical and use standards for technology in the Judicial Branch. As Chair of the Judiciary's technology subcommittee, Chief Justice Torres laid the groundwork for the design and acquisition of the Judiciary's first case management system in 2010 and continues to oversee the phases of the transition to a more innovative case management and probation system. Through his knowledge and vision, the Judiciary's advances in technology and automation have brought the courts of Guam into the 21st century.

Chief Justice Torres was President of the American Judges Association (AJA) in 2019, serves on their Executive Committee and Board of Governors, and was recently honored as the 2022 Recipient of the Judge William H. Burnett Award for outstanding service to the AJA. His Honor chairs several Judiciary of Guam subcommittees and has lectured in over twenty countries on a variety of subjects including the International Framework for Court Excellence, case flow management, cultural responsiveness, court community communication, alternative dispute resolution, technology, and judicial ethics and discipline.

Chief Justice Torres has authored landmark opinions in subjects such as attorney discipline and ethics, adverse possession, quantum meruit, holdover tenancy, easements, the gifting and sales of excess lands returned by the federal government to original landowners, the distribution of estate property, employment law, search and seizure, and "Takings" jurisprudence. He works tirelessly for the Judiciary, handling his own caseload while also serving as the chairperson of the subcommittees that craft rules governing the practice of law on Guam including the Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Superior Court of Guam Local Rules.

Chief Justice Torres is married to the Honorable Mary Camacho Torres, former senator of the Guam Legislature (*I Liheslaturan Guåhan*). They have 3 children and 11 grandchildren.