

Thank you so much for your warm welcome. I am truly honored to appear before you this morning on behalf of Guam's judicial branch to deliver my first State of the Judiciary Address as Chief Justice of Guam.

The theme of this year's State of the Judiciary speech is "Access to Justice." Today I'm going to ask and answer the question: What can we do-all of us-to make it easier for the people of Guam to obtain the justice they need and deserve? I chose this theme because I envision Guam as a place where everyone has equal access to justice-rich and poor, men and women, children and the elderly, military and civilian, immigrant and long-time resident. Today, I'm going to share with you some of our ideas for improving access to justice. But before I do, let me first remind you that the judiciary does not act in a vacuum. It takes all three branches of government-and the support of the people of Guam-to make fundamental changes in the way people access justice. Now, with that theme in mind, let me acknowledge some of the people who have supported our vision for the future of Guam's judiciary.

I would like to welcome Acting Governor Michael Cruz, his wife Jen as well as first Lady Joann Camacho. Governor Camacho called me before he left to testify at the Senate on the Guam Buildup to extend his regrets and he and I discussed some of the plans that I will reveal today. I know the Executive Branch shares our commitment to addressing the public's needs in our judicial system and am gratified by their willingness to meet with us to discuss the issues affecting the courts, and our aspirations for the future.