



PACIFIC JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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Regional Judges Tackle Digital Evidence, AI in Three-Day Conference

(Hagåtña, Guam) — Courtrooms across the Pacific are increasingly shaped by digital evidence and technology—and the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC) is making sure that judges have the tools to handle them. Last week, the PJC convened its Digital Evidence for Judges Conference, which brought together 50 judges and law clerks from across the region for three days of training.

The conference, held at the Westin Resort in Tumon, was led by distinguished faculty from the National Computer Forensics Institute in Alabama: Judge Alison Emerson of Deschutes County, Oregon and retired Judge Mark McGinnis of Outagamie County, Wisconsin; both recognized experts in forensic technology and judicial education.

“Digital evidence is becoming more common in courtrooms across our region, and judges must be equipped to evaluate it with the same rigor they apply to other evidence,” said PJC President and Guam Supreme Court Justice, the Hon. Robert J. Torres. ***“Training like this ensures that geography is not a barrier to excellence in judicial education. We are proud to bring experienced faculty and a practical curriculum directly to the Pacific—so that judges serving our island communities have access to the same caliber of training available anywhere in the country.”***

The curriculum covered digital evidence, emerging technology, and constitutional frameworks governing digital devices and media—with judges working through motion practice, search warrants, and affidavits to blend theory with practice. Sessions on artificial intelligence in the courtroom and social media for judges rounded out the program.

The conference reflects the Pacific Judicial Council's commitment to judicial education and regional cooperation. As digital evidence becomes routine in criminal and civil matters alike, training of this depth equips the region's courts to provide justice with confidence and consistency.

For more information, please visit the pacificjudicialcouncil.org or contact Andrew Jay M. Gimenez agimenez@guamcourts.gov

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