

C-3 (Civil Government)

15 July 1948

Saipan

*Summary*  
Summary: With the establishment of the Justice Court, the Community Court ceased trying cases involving traffic violations. All traffic violations on Saipan are now heard before the Justice Court, the revised precept for which is appended hereto marked Exhibit (2).

0786

15 July 1948

Saipan Dist.

Civil Administration Unit,  
Saipan Marianas Islands,  
May 17, 1948

SAIPAN DISTRICT ORDER NO. 2-48 (Amended).

Subject: Establishment of Justice Court, Saipan Island, Saipan District, Northern Marianas Islands.

1. Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Interim Regulation No. 1-48 of February 9, 1948) and effective this date a Justice Court is hereby ordered to convene in the Justice Court Room in the Administration Area of the Civil Administration Unit, Saipan District for the trial of such cases as may be legally brought before it.

2. Lieutenant (jg) Donald J. HANSON, U.S. Navy, is hereby appointed Judge of the Justice Court established by this order.

3. The Court shall be competent to try:

(a) All civil cases beyond the limitations of the Community Court, where the amount at issue does not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), except that it shall not adjudicate title to land or any interest therein,

(b) All criminal offenses against Civil Administration or generally recognized native customs, beyond the limitation of the Community Court, the lawful punishment for which does not exceed a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), or one (1) year imprisonment, or both, and,

(c) All civil or criminal cases on appeal from the Community Court.

4. All cases brought before this court which the court after preliminary hearing shall deem deserving of a greater punishment than that above prescribed shall be certified to the Superior Court for the Saipan District, Northern Marianas Islands and the offenders shall be ordered kept in confinement awaiting the action of such court.

5. Records of trial by the Justice Court shall be transmitted to the Governor, Northern Marianas Islands for review and file.

6. Any person convicted by this court may, within thirty (30) days after the imposition of sentence, file with the trial court or the Civil Administrator a petition addressed to the reviewing authority, submitting reasons why the conviction should be set aside or why the sentence should be modified.

*(Translation in Chamorro  
omitted here).*

Ralph A. Wilhelm,  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Civil Administrator,  
Saipan District.