

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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JUDICIARY CONFERENCE OPENS

Marianas

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Apr. 14 . . . With "HOW WE CAN IMPROVE THE SERVICE RENDERED BY THE JUDICIARY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY" as the general theme, the annual Trust Territory Judiciary Conference opens tonight with a dinner meeting and ends April 20 with a breakfast meeting.

Truk

Ponape

Participating in the Conference from the Judiciary will be the Chief Justice, and the Associate Justice from the Territory; the Temporary Judge of the High Court and Judge of the District Court of Guam; the Clerk of Courts of each district as well as the Administrative Assistant to the Justices and the Judiciary law clerks. Additionally, the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, the High Commissioner, and the Marianas District Administrator, the Attorney General, the Acting District Attorney and Public Defender of the Trust Territory; the Legislative Counsel of the Congress of Micronesia; Peace Corps representatives; and the President of the Palau and Ponape Bar Associations and many observers will attend the Conference.

Marshalls

Yap

In line with the general theme, part of the conference will be devoted to discussion of the meaning of due process of law and speedy trial including the extent to which recent extensions of the concept of due process as determined by decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States should apply in the Trust Territory. Such topics

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as legislation or rules for probate procedure; recommendations for the best uses of Peace Corps lawyers; improvements of courthouses and court facilities, including expansion of district law libraries; possible increase in district court personnel; better facilities for juvenile detention; ways of reducing backlogs of cases; training sessions for community judges, and recommendations as to the financial arrangements for prompter translation of legislation and regulations into local vernaculars as required by Public Law 2-7, are also among the items on the agenda scheduled for discussion during the six-day conference.

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