GUAM CODE ANNOTATED

TITLE 7

JUDICIARY AND CIVIL PROCEDURE

UPDATED THROUGH P.L. 38-136
(AUGUST 28, 2026)

COL 2026-10-26

INTRODUCTORY NOTE FOR TITLE 7 - JUDICIARY AND CIVIL PROCEDURE

2015 NOTE: The judicial branch of Guam was established on August 1, 1950, by the Organic Act of Guam, codified at 48 U.S.C. § 1424-1. The branch was reorganized pursuant to P.L. 12-085 (Jan. 16, 1974), known as the Court Reorganization Act, with appellate jurisdiction vested in a newly created the Supreme Court of Guam. However, after a legal challenge to P.L. 12-085, the Supreme Court of Guam was abolished when the U.S. Supreme Court determined that the Guam Legislature could not divest the District Court of Guam of appellate jurisdiction and transfer of appellate jurisdiction to Supreme Court of Guam. *See Guam v. Olsen*, 431 U.S. 195 (1977). Subsequent amendments to the Organic Act authorized the Guam Legislature to create an appellate court, and in 1985, legislation was drafted to create Chapters 1 through 10 of Title 7 of the Guam Code Annotated. This draft legislation was eventually enacted into law by P.L. 21-147:2 (Jan. 14, 1993), known as the Frank G. Lujan Memorial Court Reorganization Act of 1992. Although P.L. 21-147:2 expressly stated that it was adding Chapters 1 through 10 of Title 7, the law itself enacted only Chapters 1 through 9. The provisions in the draft version of Chapter 10 were enacted as uncodified provisions; specifically, Sections 1 through 7 of P.L. 21-147.

Past print publications of the GCA included annotations from the 1985 draft legislation, which were not included in Bill 102, the draft legislation introduced to the 21st Guam Legislature that was eventually signed into law as P.L. 21-147. These annotations, designated “1985 Source” and “1985 Comment,” have been retained as they provide background information as to the source and legislative drafting history.

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