



AUG 16 2016

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Speaker

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*

155 Hesler Place

Hagatna, Guam 96910

*Rory J. Respicio*

VIA: The Honorable Rory J. Respicio  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

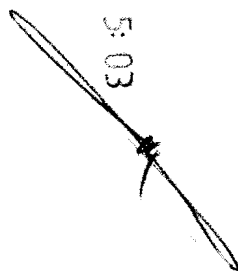
RE: Committee Report on the Appointment of Benjamin C. Sison

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on Appointment of **Attorney Benjamin C. Sison** to serve in the position of **Magistrate Judge** of the **Judiciary of Guam**, and which was referred to the Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety and Judiciary.

- TO CONFIRM
- TO NOT CONFIRM
- TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

2016 AUG 16 PM 5:03



Respectfully,  
*[Signature]*

FOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Committee Chairman on Guam U.S. Military Relocation | Public Safety | Judiciary  
*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature*

Senator  
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Chairman

Senator  
Thomas C. Ada  
Vice Chairman

Vice-Speaker  
Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Member

Senator  
Rory J. Respicio  
Member

Senator  
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Member

Senator  
Dr. Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D.  
Member

Senator  
V. Anthony Ada  
Member

Senator  
Frank F. Blas Jr.  
Member

Senator  
James V. Espaldon  
Member

Senator  
Brant T. McCreadie  
Member

Speaker  
Dr. Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Ex-Officio



29-33

COMMITTEE ON

Guam U.S Military Relocation | Public Safety | Judiciary

I MINA' TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN | 33<sup>RD</sup> GUAM LEGISLATURE



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Senator  
V. Anthony Ada  
Member

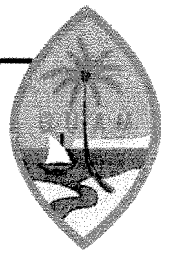
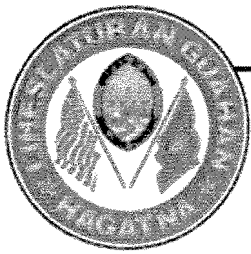
Senator  
Frank F. Blas Jr.  
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James V. Espaldon  
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Brant T. McCreadie  
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Speaker  
Dr. Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Ex-Officio

**COMMITTEE  
REPORT  
ON  
THE APPOINTMENT OF  
BENJAMIN C. SISON  
TO SERVE AS  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
OF THE  
JUDICIARY OF GUAM**



**AUG 16 2016**

**MEMORANDUM**

Senator  
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Chairman

Senator  
Thomas C. Ada  
Vice Chairman

Vice-Speaker  
Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Member

Senator  
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Senator  
Brant T. McCreddie  
Member

Speaker  
Dr. Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D  
Ex-Officio

To: ALL MEMBERS  
Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary

From: Senator Frank B. Aguon,  
Committee Chairperson

Subject: Committee Report  
Appointment of Attorney. Benjamin C. Sison, Magistrate Judge

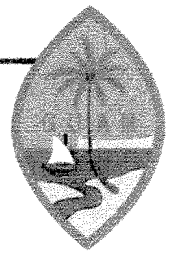
Transmitted herewith for your information and action is the Committee Report on the Appointment of Attorney. Benjamin C. Sison, to serve in the position of Magistrate Judge, of the Judiciary of Guam.

This report includes the following:

- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Appointment Letter to the Speaker
- Copy of Appointment Packet and Supporting Documents
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Testimony & Supporting Documents
- Copy of COR Referral of the Appointment
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Copy of Public Hearing Agenda
- Related News Report

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase'!



COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

Senator  
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Chairman

APPOINTEE:  
POSITION:  
AGENCY:

BENJAMIN C. SISON  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Senator  
Thomas C. Ada  
Vice Chairman

Vice-Speaker  
Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Member

Senator  
Rory J. Respicio  
Member

Senator  
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
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Senator  
Dr. Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D.  
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James V. Espaldon  
Member

Senator  
Brant T. McCreddie  
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Speaker  
Dr. Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D  
Ex-Officio

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	SIGNATURE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
AGUON, FRANK B., JR. Committee Chairperson	 8/12/16	✓				
ADA, THOMAS C. Committee Vice Chairperson		✓				
VICE-SPEAKER CRUZ, BENJAMIN J. F. Committee Member		✓				
RESPICIO, RORY J. Committee Member		✓				
RODRIGUEZ, DENNIS G. JR. Committee Member		✓				
UNDERWOOD, NERISSA B. Ph.D. Committee Member	 8/15/16	✓				
ADA, V. ANTHONY Committee Member		8/17				
BLAS, FRANK F., JR. Committee Member				8/17/16		
ESPALDON, JAMES V. Committee Member		8/12				
MCCREADDIE, BRANT T. Committee Member		7/17				
SPEAKER WON PAT JUDITH T. Ed. D. Committee Member		7/17				



**COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

Senator  
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Chairman

Senator  
Thomas C. Ada  
Vice Chairman

Vice-Speaker  
Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Member

Senator  
Rory J. Respicio  
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Dr. Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D.  
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**I. OVERVIEW**

The Committee on Guam US Military Relocation, Public Safety and Judiciary convened a public hearing on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 5:30PM in I Liheslatura's Public Hearing Room. Among the items on the agenda was the consideration of the appointment of Benjamin C. Sison to serve as a Magistrate Judge of the Judiciary of Guam, and whose appointment history is as follows.

- Appointed by the Chief Justice on May 2, 2016 to serve as Magistrate Judge of the Judiciary of Guam.
- Appointment packet forwarded to I Liheslaturan on May 2, 2016.
- Appointment packet forwarded to this committee for public consideration on May 2, 2016.

**Public Notice Requirements**

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 (5-Day Notice), and again on Friday, July 29, 2016 (48-Hour Notice).

**Senators Present**

Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr., Chairman  
Senator Tom Ada, Vice Chairman  
Senator Tony Ada, Committee Member  
Senator Tommy Morrison

The public hearing was Called-to-Order at 5:30 PM.

**II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION**

**Chairman Aguon:**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, this confirmation hearing on the appointment of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison as magistrate judge for the Judiciary of Guam is hereby convened. For the information of the public in accordance with the open government law, the initial notification to the stakeholders as well as to the community with the assistance of our media partners was disseminated on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July and with the second notice also being forwarded to our stakeholders and our media partners on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. We have received some written testimonies, but I noticed that there are individuals in the audience who have provided those written testimonies.

**Chairman Aguon:**

So rather than highlighting them, I'll wait until in fact we hear from them. Anyone wishing to provide oral testimony please I encourage you to sign up. If by any chance you are here to signify whether you are supporting the nominee or stating your position and you do not plan on presenting oral testimony, then as I call out your name then just please let the chair know so that we can go ahead and proceed with other individuals who have signed up. Before we begin to call up witnesses, I would like to recognize the Vice Chair of the committee Senator Tom Ada, and also the members of the committee Senator Tommy Morison, Senator Tony Ada. Thank you senators for joining us this evening. Again, the only item on the agenda is the confirmation hearing of the appointment of Mr. Benjamin, Attorney Benjamin C. Sison as magistrate judge for the Judiciary of Guam. We will begin by calling the Honorable Former Congressman and President of the University of Guam Mr. Robert Underwood if you can join us at the table please. Ms. Lisa Baza-Cruz. Mr. Gerald Cruz. Please ladies and gentlemen as I call your name and you would like to provide oral testimony proceed to the table. Carina Castro. Joann Mazaca. You're Carina? Carina and Joann. Okay, thank you. Ms. Dot Harris. Are you providing oral testimony this evening? Herm T. Paulino. Herman Paulino. I'm sorry Mr. Paulino. Will you be providing oral testimony? Okay. Thank you. Shaun Perez. Thank you Mr. Perez. Polli Huseby. Thank you Ms. Huseby. Dana Gutierrez. Please if you can join us up front. Cynthia Ecube. Lia Dungca. Ladies and Gentlemen if you could bear with me. We are just trying to ensure that we fill out the chairs and we'll proceed with receiving testimony. Mr. David Castro. Thank you Mr. Castro. Alan Paulino. Will you be presenting oral testimony? Okay. Thank you Mr. Paulino. Ben Sison. We'll call you up shortly. Okay. Theodore Santos. Okay please if you can join us up front. Simone Bollinger. Okay. Thank you Ms. Bollinger. Julianne Perez. Okay. Thank you. Colin Perez. Thank you. Alberto Tolentino. We are almost there ladies and gentlemen. Betty Ann Wustig. Thank you. Frank Perez. Thank you Mr. Perez. Geri Terlaje. No testimony. Thank you Ms. Terlaje. Annie Harris. Thank you Ms. Harris. Daryl. Daryl. Daryl if you can help me out here. Darell Harris. Okay. Vicki Renacia. Okay, thank you Ms. Renacia. Try to fill out that last seat. Okay Rosita Quitugua. Thank you Ms. Quitugua and Dominic Terlaje. Thank you Mr. Terlaje. Okay ladies and gentlemen. That is all the individuals who have signed in this evening and we still have one table and one seat left at the table but we are going to proceed with Congressman Underwood. Former Congressmen and President of the University of Guam if you can proceed and identify yourself for the record.

**Mr. Robert Underwood:**

Okay and thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Hafa Adai todos hamyu. It's a pleasure and an honor to be here this evening and actually it's a letter that is cosigned between me and the universities' legal counsel Vicki Renacia and I am here to testify on behalf of Benjamin Sison as being a magistrate judge. We have worked with him on a contractual basis for over 15 years at the university and we find him to be really, a great attorney. He helps us out not on a lot of issues, but on a number of issues. We always found him to be ethical, professional. Offers very sound legal advice and in that professional capacity he has served the university very well. I'm really happy to see him perform this role as magistrate judge. I'm glad to have worked with him in the past. I hope never to see him in his professional capacity in the future, but I'm just very happy to present that he is. The university believes that Attorney Sison has the judicial temperament and the integrity to be a good magistrate judge given his background experience as a professor at the Guam Community College.

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**Mr. Robert Underwood:**

Small claims and traffic court referee, tax and estate planning lawyer in addition to his own private practice, the university thinks without doubt qualified for the job as magistrate judge. His familiarity and experience of those duties required by a magistrate judge make him the perfect candidate for the position and we hope that you confirm him. Thank you so much.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Mr. President. Ms. Renacia did you want to add any comments because you cosigned the testimony.

**Ms. Vicki Renacia:**

Just to reiterate everything that President Underwood had said, I've known Ben for over 20 years now and I find him to be highly ethical. He has been very responsive to the universities' needs and without hesitation the university fully supports his confirmation.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Ms. Renacia. If we can now start with Ms. Ecube.

**Ms. Cynthia Ecube:**

Buenas noches Chairman Aguon and members of the Committee on Guam U.S Military Relocation, Public Safety and Judiciary. Good evening Senator Ada, Senator Morrison and Senator Ada.

[Written Testimony Attached]

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Attorney Ecube. Ms. Gutierrez.

**Ms. Dana Gutierrez:**

Hafa Adai and good evening Chairperson Aguon, Senator Tom Ada, Senator Tony Ada, and Senator Morrison. My name is Dana Gutierrez and I am the Director of Policy Planning and Community Relations and the Judiciary of Guam. I am present today on behalf of our Chief Justice Robert J. Torres who recently attended the conference of Chief Justices and is off-island. I note that our Administrator of the Courts Joshua Tenorio is also off-island having recently attended the conference of state court administrators. Chief Justice Torres has requested that I read his written testimony on the appointment of Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. as magistrate judge into the record.

[Written Testimony Attached]

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Ms. Gutierrez and can you please extend our appreciation to Chief Justice Torres for not only his nomination but also his written testimony in support of the nomination.

**Ms. Dana Gutierrez:**

I will senator. Thank you.

**Dr. Liza Baza Cruz:**

Hi, my name is Dr. Lisa Baza-Cruz and I am a professor at the Guam Community College.

**[Written Testimony Attached]**

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Ms. Baza-Cruz for your testimony this evening.

**Mr. Theodore Santos:**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Theodore Santos and I have known Ben Sison and his family since childhood, but I am here to speak as a client of Ben. I have been a client of his for over 15 years and I speak not only as a client, but also as a member of the California State Bar and I can attest to Ben's outstanding knowledge of the law, legal procedure and court rules and regulations. I greatly admire Ben's efficient and pragmatic approach in his ability to identify the core legal issues in many different areas of law. Ben is also committed to an impartial and equitable application of the law in our community and has an appreciation of the effect that his decision will have on those who appear on the court on a day to day basis. I think that this the sort of approach that engenders respect in our legal system and faith in that system and would make Ben a very worthy magistrate judge. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my support for his appointment.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Mr. Santos for your testimony this evening.

**Judge Alberto Tolentino:**

Chairmen Aguon and the members of the committee good evening. My name is Alberto Tolentino and I am the magistrate judge of the Superior Court of Guam and I'm here today to voice my support for the nomination and confirmation of Benjamin Sison as a magistrate judge. As you are aware, the position of the magistrate was created to address and alleviate the case load demands of the judges of the Superior Court of Guam by providing a judicial officer of limited jurisdiction who would preside over matters which, if they were to be included in the calendars of the seven general jurisdiction judges, some of who are also presiding over specialty courts, would certainly impede the timely and efficient delivery of judicial services to the people of Guam. I can attest that the magistrate duties, as outlined in the earlier versions of statute, which created the position, although limited as it was, had required a great deal of time and effort to discharge.



**Judge Alberto Tolentino:**

By way of illustration in the first quarter of this year, I presided over three thousand five hundred hearings at the northern court satellite. Which include the first appearances of criminal defendants, arraignments, collection cases in the master court calendar, the criminal collections court, small claims, traffic trials and other related hearings, and assisted sometimes in juvenile preliminary hearings. I have conducted over four hundred some matters via video conference also at the NCS. And in the second quarter of this year, the number of hearings conducted at the northern court was around thirty-eight hundred. This activity doesn't include the weekend magistrate hearings, which is probably primarily why I'm here, I need a break from the weekends. Since I've started, I've worked every weekend. And this is about seven years or so, but with the expansions of the powers and duties of the magistrate as encompassed in Public Law 3374 including the authority to conduct criminal trial settings and preside over preliminary hearings and criminal cases, which would also involve decisions and judgments and over procedural and discovery motions, as well as other duties pertaining to the civil cases, which were outlined by the speakers before, the need for an additional magistrate judge is warranted, I respectfully submit that. There would have been no way I would have been able to do that, given the case load that I have, just as the magistrate trying to help out with the judges. In my estimations, Ben is an extremely qualified to undertake and effectively discharge the duties of the magistrate judge. His nomination by the Chief Justice of Guam came after a selection process, which included input from the Guam Bar Association and his peers, he has maintained a successful private practice of law for many years in the fields of estate planning collections tax and other areas. He has, in addition to his Juris Doctorate, Ben has also obtained an NLM in the field of tax law and he has served as a referee at the Superior Court of Guam for a number of years and has consequently developed an understanding and appreciation of the demand and obligations and expectations of and upon a judicial officer of the courts of Guam. In my professional interactions with Ben, he has demonstrated knowledge and thoughtful consideration of the matters entrusted to him as a referee and has been an invaluable resource as I was first discharging my duties as a magistrate in the small claims in the traffic arenas. His insight and perspective in the many areas of law will serve him well and make him an invaluable asset to the judiciary and the capacity of a magistrate judge. I have known Ben for a long time, we both come from almost common backgrounds. We are both the sons of medical practitioners. I went to San Vicente and he went to St. Anthony. But, and we went off to, we actually started off with BS's in biology and actually ended up practicing law. Which I don't know how that works out. But I do know that Ben as person and individual as everyone else has said, is a very personable person, approachable, does not come across with any pretense because of the success of his practice and his other accomplishments. He's a very straight forward guy and it would be a great honor and privilege to also work with him as a magistrate and I hope that the committee looks favorably upon his nomination and confirms him to the position of the magistrate. Thank you very much.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Judge Tolentino for you testimony this evening. Senators, any question for the panel members? If not Attorney Ecube, Attorney Gutierrez, Attorney Renacia, Dr. Baza-Cruz, Mr. Santos, and Judge Tolentino, thank you very much for your testimonies this evening. You are dismissed. Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to invite the following individuals if by any chance, I know that this is an additional list of individuals that came in shortly after the introduction.

**Chairman Aguon:**

If by any chance you're here to express your physical support rather than provide oral testimony, please signify and let the chair know. Mr. Paul Kaneshiro. Thank you. Benjamin Sison. Ofelia Sison. Thank you. Norman Quidachay Thank you. Arlou Mendiola. Thank you. David Blas. Please please, approach the table, thank you. Susan Kaneshiro. Francis, someone help me out here. No testimony, okay thank you Francis. And Reynald Del Carmen thank you sir. We have two additional individuals before. Attorney Sison. Please if you can.

**Mr. David Blas:**

Chairmen Aguon, Senator Ada, Senator Morison, Senator Ada. I'm reading this as a third party for my friend. And I'll go ahead and just read it.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Okay sure. No problem.

**Mr. David Blas:**

[Written Testimony Attached]

Thank you very much.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Mr. Blas.

**Dr. Suzanne Sison Kaneshiro:**

[Written Testimony Attached]

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much. Dr. Kaneshiro for your testimony and Mr. Blas. Any questions for the panel members? If not, you are both dismissed, thank you. Before I call up the nominee, there are a few items that I'd like to share with the public, just so that we all understand exactly what some of the requirements are. First and foremost, the Guam Legislature, through the Speakers office did receive the nomination from Chief Justice Torres on the second of May and one of the requirements by the committee was to ensure that an investigation, a thorough investigation is conducted on the character as well as the professional traits of the individual, being appointed as a magistrate judge. So that was one of the undertakings of the committee and it was completed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. So upon the immediate completion of that, my office had contacted Attorney Sison, notified him on the completion of that and the findings

**Chairman Aguon:**

Copies were disseminated on that particular report and made available to the members of the committee and then also in conjunction with that, I will read a couple of excerpts directly from that particular investigation report, but for the information of the public, the individual who is qualified, or individuals who are qualified for magistrate must be at least 35 years of age, shall be a United States, US citizen a bonafide resident of Guam for at least 5 years and shall be in the active practice of law on Guam for a period of seven years before said nomination, be a member in good standing of the Guam Bar Association, not have been convicted of any felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, not be related by blood within the third degree of consanguinity, or marriage to a judge or justice of the courts of Guam at the time of his or her initial appointment and must be subjected to the same ethical standard as the superior court justice do include the Guam rules for judicial and disciplinary enforcement. So based on the initial qualification requirements, Attorney Sison does meet all those requirements. Now based on the investigation report, I will just read the two factors that highlight the individual and the qualification. The first one is the finding of the investigation on the qualifications, in accordance with the Guam Code Annotated GCA title seven chapter three subsection 3109C and 3, it was determined through documentation review, interviews and investigative checks, conducted throughout the course of this background report that Mr. Benjamin C Sison Jr. satisfies the requirements outlined in this section, therefore is considered qualified for the position of a magistrate judge. That's for the the provision of qualifications. The other finding was under suitability and in accordance with the Guam Code Annotated GCA title seven title four subsection 4401B2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, for those of us who are not attorneys in the room, please excuse all this numerical presentation, but I'm sure the attorneys can recognize the specifics of this. Chapter four also includes, subsection seven, it was determined through documentation review, interviews and investigative checks conducted throughout the course of this background board that Mr. Benjamin C. Sison Jr. satisfies the requirements outlined in this section, therefore is considered suitable for the position of the magistrate judge. So please be mindful that the investigation was inclusive of any background information on the individual whether it be financial whether it be professional in its nature or whether it deals with government outstanding obligations in terms of taxes due through our government. So that, those are the findings in the report by the investigator. So now if I can invite the nominee, Attorney Benjamin Sison, if you can join us up front please and identify yourself for the record and proceed with your testimony please.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

Good evening my name is Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. It's a privilege to be before you today. I'm sorry.

**Chairman Aguon:**

You may proceed.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

Oh, okay. First of all, I want to say thank you all for coming here today, through the storm. A lot of nice, kind words, I'm speechless in a way. But again, thank you for coming. My family of course, my extended family, my adopted family, from Hinapsan, the Castro-Perez-Harris-Torres clan and my close friends, fellow colleagues, clients, I'm touched that you're all here today.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

I just wanted to give you a little bit of why I believe that I would make a good magistrate for the Superior Court of Guam. As magistrate Tolentino indicated the magistrate judges intended to take on any matters wherever he or she may be needed by the court and assisting the trial judges in processing their civil and criminal cases. All towards the goal of ensuring that justice is administered efficiently and effectively for our island population. I believe that I do have a breath of experience and knowledge that will assist the Superior Court of Guam in meeting their mission. I did. I've been serving as an attorney for over twenty years. I've worked in as a government attorney; I've also worked as a private attorney. I've had clients that are private individuals, corporate entities, business entities, government entities. And I have worked with, I'm familiar with various types of laws, including family laws, juvenile law, commercial transactions, business law, real property estate planning probate tax law, and other areas of law. And I think that given this and my fortunate ability to go and have very good and varied education as well, I would be able to handle any type of cases that is presented before me in the Superior Court of Guam, immediately. At this point, I've been working as a traffic and small claims judge referee, handling all areas of law. Recently because of the resignation of judge Canto and the burden of his case load needing to be handled, they've had me working in the past two or three week on child support cases. So I want to contribute. The reason why I want to be a magistrate judge, is for the challenge. I want to expand my ability to handle various cases and I believe that my experience and my ability to apply what I've learned over the last twenty years, will benefit the Superior Court of Guam. And that's the only reason that I want to do it. I want to help the. You got to know that the. Our court system is one of the best in the country. I'm amazed at the amount of reform and dedication they have into improving our system and I think you can see that our judicial system is doing well and is getting prepared to battle whatever's necessary in the future. Thank you.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Attorney Sison. First and foremost, I want to thank the Chief Justice for nominating an individual who not only meets the qualification but certainly an individual who has that desire to continue to serve our community, especially in this particular capacity. So I want to thank the Chief Justice for making that nomination. I want to also thank you for stepping up and really offering yourself in terms of the last three weeks with the increase case load, of the judiciary because of the one, I guess the resignation of one of the judges. That was a very compressed timeline where in fact the Judiciary of Guam needed that additional support and you did step up to provide that assistance and continue to provide that assistance to this very day. So I want to thank you very much with regards to that. I was taking a look at your, not only the investigation report and the finding, but your entire credentials and I think that by virtue of the individuals who provided testimony here speaks for itself. Your credentials, your background, your experience and what you actually bring to the table in terms of participating service as a magistrate judge at the Superior Court of Guam. So I want to thank you for that. The only question I have would be in reference to your present employment with Guam Community College. How will you address that, should you be confirmed, and I will say very strongly confirmed.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

The position requires me that I give up my practice of law as well as any other job. So I'm going to dedicate full time my efforts towards my position.

**Chairman Aguon:**

So you do recognize that?

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

I do recognize that. It was a difficult decision.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

I did enjoy and I do enjoy teaching at the Guam Community College. It's another great organization here on Guam, but yes I recognize that I have to give up that position

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you. Thank you very much for that response. Let me just close my comments by initially saying this. When you came out with that phrase, and I caught it twice "I want to contribute" and you did not only say it once, you said it twice during the course of your testimony. And it's really that kind of passion in your voice and that kind of desire that our judiciary is in need of in terms of serving our people with the public service as our component. It's really the driving factor. You've got a tremendous responsibility just like Judge Tolentino has just shared with us in terms of the work load. I look forward to entertaining your nominations on the floor. And Mr. Sison you certainly have my support considering all the information I have. So as the chair you have my support.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

Thank you, senator.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you. Senator Ada.

**Vice Chair Ada:**

Good evening, I don't have any question but I do have a couple of comments. First of all, I never made the connection between who your dad was. I go long ways back with your father even when he was in uniform in the army reserves. I do subscribe to the notion that the fruit does not fall far from the tree. So knowing who your father is, certainly is a real check mark there. The other part is that I have always seen you down a Hinapsan at auntie Susie's ranch and I've always observed you from a distance and you've always been a very cool and calm collected fellow. So I think, I know that when you're in the courtroom you have to maintain a certain decorum and if you really wanted to let loose, Hinapsan would have been the place to do that, but you were still cool calm and collected down there. And the fact that you are affiliated with the extended Hinapsan family.

**Vice Chair Ada:**

Obviously I guess for full disclosure, I'm also a part of that family and if you're good enough for them, you're good enough for me. So I congratulate you. And you have my support.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

Thank you. Thank you, sir.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Senator Tom Ada. Senator Morrison.

**Senator Tommy Morrison:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think we are related.

**Senator Tommy Morrison:**

First of all, I want to thank everyone who provided testimony this evening and helped us to at least helped me understand Mr. Sison and certainly you bring a, based on going through your packet and clearly indicating from your record that it's clearly what a nominee should possess for the judiciary. I appreciate all the efforts that and your public service that you provided to our community and as the chairman alluded to. Willing to step up and fill up a gap in the courts. You have my full support sir and all I could look forward to is you further strengthening this high institution so I look forward to working with you and all the best.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

Thank you Senator.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Senator Morrison. Senator Tony Ada.

**Senator Tony Ada:**

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, Attorney Sison. You know that's a lot to give up. Your practice and your passion for teaching our children for something that you want to contribute to, and I take my hat off to you on that but I don't think that's the only thing you have to give up. Those hand-gliding or rock climbing or whatever else you want to do, you might have to give that up too being that you're going have a full agenda there, but you know I congratulate you on being nominated and thank you for accepting that nomination and I look forward on voting for your confirmation and you have my vote and full support. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

Thank you Senator. Thank you for the kind words.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you very much Senator Tony Ada. Well Attorney Sison I think you pretty much have a general understanding where members of the legislative body will proceed in terms of casting their votes. I just want to close again as chair by thanking you very much for stepping up to that. The one thing that I look at especially with regards to magistrate judges and superior court judges is really the nature and compassion of the individual because the individual, the judges that serve have to be compassionate to our people but yet firm with the law and I see that in your personality and in your character because really a lot of the cases that you and Judge Tolentino will be undertaking are at the front line making sure that all of our people will have to go through either small claims or other concerns at the initial stage. Really that's where being firm with the law is required but also being compassionate and understanding of some of the challenges that individuals in in the community go through and I see that those two traits directly in you and I'm very pleased that in fact, and I could say it again that the Chief Justice selected you as a nominee and made the appointment and I look forward to your service and your contribution to our people, but I mostly look forward to you extending that firmness of the law and also extending that compassion to our people. So I thank you very much. You have our support. The confirmation report should be completed by early next week. We will present it to the legislature and hopefully upon the conclusion of the legislative session in August. Hopefully by that timeline you will be confirmed. So thank you and congratulations again.

**Mr. Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.:**

Thank you senators.

**Chairman Aguon:**

Thank you everyone for your attendance this evening. This concludes our confirmation hearing on the appointment of magistrate judge to magistrate judge Benjamin Sison. Ladies and gentlemen if by any chance the public would like to submit written testimony the committee will continue to receive written testimony on he nomination through close of business this Friday. Thank you very much and have a good evening ladies and gentlemen.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:20PM.

### III. WRITTEN TESTIMONY

The following individuals submitted written testimonies to the Committee on Guam U.S Military Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary before or after the scheduled public hearing on Tuesday, August 02, 2016, at 5:30 PM in *Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room.

1. Mr. Robert A. Underwood, President, University of Guam
2. Ms. Victorina M. Y. Renacia, University Legal Council, University of Guam
3. Ms. Cynthia V. Ecube, ESQ., Attorney, Law Office of Cynthia V. Ecube, ESQ.
4. Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam
5. Ms. Lisa Baza-Cruz, Ed. D, Department Chair, Criminal Justice and Social Science Department, Guam Community College
6. Mr. David Blas
7. Dr. Suzanne Sison Kaneshiro
8. Mr. Bruce Kloppenburg, President, Kloppenburg Enterprises, Inc.
9. Mr. J. Roberto, M.S.W., Department Chair, Criminal Justice and Social Science Department, Guam Community College
10. Mr. Dominic Terlaje
11. Ms. B. Ann Keith, Esq., Staff Attorney, Judiciary of Guam
12. Ms. Mary A. Y. Okada, Ed. D., President, Guam Community College
13. Mr. Rodney J. Jacob, Attorney, Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP

### IV. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Guam U.S Military Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary hereby reports out the appointment of Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. to serve as a Magistrate Judge of the Judiciary of Guam with the recommendation to TO DO CONFIRM





# Supreme Court of Guam

SUITE 300 GUAM JUDICIAL CENTER  
120 WEST O'BRIEN DRIVE, HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910-5174  
www.guamsupremecourt.com  
Telephone: +1 (671) 475-3300 • Facsimile: +1 (671) 475-3337



HON. ROBERT J. TORRES  
CHIEF JUSTICE

May 2, 2016

43-16-1586

Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Speaker  
*I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagátña, Guam 96910

**Re: Appointment of Magistrate Judge**

*Håfa Adai* Speaker Won Pat:

After much thought and consideration, I hereby appoint Referee Benjamin C. Sison Jr. to serve as a magistrate pursuant to 7 Guam Code Annotated § 4401 subject to the approval of *I Liheslaturan Guahan*. Attorney Sison was one of three candidate names provided by the Guam Bar Association to me, after one candidate withdrew their application. A copy of the letter from the Guam Bar Association President, Mr. Jehan'Ad Martinez, the transmittal records from the Magistrate Selection Chairperson, Mr. Leevin Camacho, and Mr. Sison's application form submitted to the Guam Bar Magistrate Selection Committee are enclosed for your records and convenience. Also enclosed is the letter from one of the candidates who withdrew their application and my correspondence with Mr. Camacho requesting that the committee submit another name for consideration to complete the three candidate requirement by statute. I ask that Mr. Sison be given due consideration as required by Guam law.

Attorney Sison satisfies the requisite statutory qualifications and has the competence, integrity, experience, and temperament to be successful as a magistrate. Attorney Sison graduated from Boston College Law School, obtaining his Juris Doctorate degree in 1990. He has held positions of Assistant Attorney General with the Washington State Attorney General's Office, Associate Attorney for Torres, P.C., Partner for the law office of Limtiaco, Cruz, and Sison PLLC, and served as a Commissioner with the Worker's Compensation Commission. Referee Sison currently maintains dual employment as a solo practitioner in his law firm, Sison P.C., and Referee with the Superior Court of Guam serving as the presiding judge over traffic and small claims court trials and hearings. His area of practice have included Tax, Probate and Estate Planning, Contract, Business, Real Property, and Government Procurement Law. Presently, he is also a tenured Assistant/Adjunct Professor at the Guam Community College teaching courses in Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Criminology, Juvenile Justice, Traffic Law, American Government and Business and Contract Law.

2016 MAY - 2 PM 3:24

Letter to Speaker Judith T. Won Pat  
Re: Magistrate Appointment  
May 2, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

Attorney Sison is admitted to the practice of law in Guam and Washington.

Once again, I thank you, Chairman Frank B. Aguon, Jr., and his Committee on Judiciary, as well as your fellow Senators in advance for your consideration of Attorney Sison. I request your expeditious approval of my appointment of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison Jr. as magistrate for the Judiciary of Guam.

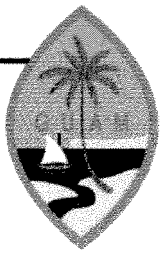
If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Senseramente,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Torres". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

ROBERT J. TORRES  
Chief Justice

Enclosures



**QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST  
APPOINTMENT OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
SUPREME COURT OF GUAM**

Senator  
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Chairman

Senator  
Thomas C. Ada  
Vice Chairman

Vice-Speaker  
Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Member

Senator  
Rory J. Respicio  
Member

Senator  
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Member

Senator  
Dr. Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D.  
Member

Senator  
V. Anthony Ada  
Member

Senator  
Frank F. Blas Jr.  
Member

Senator  
James V. Espaldon  
Member

Senator  
Brant T. McCreddie  
Member

Speaker  
Dr. Judith T. Won Pat Ed.D  
Ex-Officio

§ 4401. **Magistrates.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam may appoint such magistrates as are necessary for the proper administration of justice. A magistrate shall be appointed as follows:

In Compliance=

(1)	be at least thirty-five (30) years of age; Note: Magistrate Application Pg. 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2)	shall be a United States citizen, a bona-fide resident of Guam for at least five (5) years and shall be in the active practice of law on Guam for a period of seven (7) years before said nomination; Note: Magistrate Application Pg. 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3)	be a member in good standing of the Guam Bar Association; Note: Certificate of Admission to the Bar and Certificate of Good Standing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4)	not have been convicted of any felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; Note: Magistrate Application Page 12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(5)	not be related by blood within the third degree of consanguinity or marriage to a judge or justice of the courts of Guam at the time of his or her initial appointment; and Note: Magistrate Application Pg. 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(6)	be subject to the same ethical standards as a Superior Court Judge or Justice, to include the Guam Rules for Judicial Disciplinary Enforcement; Note: Refer to Background Investigation Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**COMMITTEE ON GUAM U.S. MILITARY RELOCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY**

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 33rd Guam Legislature*



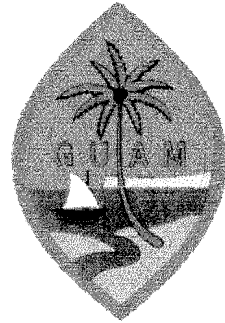
**SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.**  
**CHAIRMAN**

APPOINTEE: BENJAMIN C. SISON JR.  
POSITION: MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
AGENCY: JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Contact Number	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	In favor	Not In Favor
✓ Robert Underwood	UOG	7277715	✓	✓		
✓ GERI TERLAJE					✓	
✓ ANONIE HARRIS		6327524	✓	✓	✓	
✓ Darrell Harris		u	✓	✓	✓	
✓ Vicki Renacia	UOG	735-2978	✓	✓	✓	

**COMMITTEE ON GUAM U.S. MILITARY RELOCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY**

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Lihelaturan Guahan | 33rd Guam Legislature*



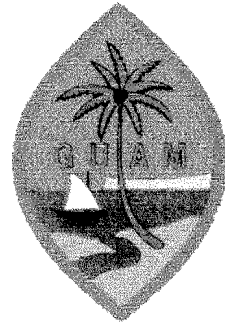
**SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.**  
**CHAIRMAN**

APPOINTEE: BENJAMIN C. SISON JR.  
POSITION: MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
AGENCY: JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Contact Number	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	In favor	Not In Favor
✓ Lisa <del>Perez</del> Cruz	Guam Community College	687-4033	✓	✓	✓	
Gerald A.B. Cruz	G.C.C.	687-5567			✓	
✓ Carina Duenas Castro		971-4009			✓	
✓ JOANN MALACA		647-0110			✓	
✓ Dot Harris		689-4675			✓	
✓ Herm T. Pohn		687-5568			✓	
✓ Shaun Perez	Judiciary of Guam	727-7971			✓	

# COMMITTEE ON GUAM U.S. MILITARY RELOCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Lihelaturan Guahan | 33rd Guam Legislature*



## SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR. CHAIRMAN

APPOINTEE: BENJAMIN C. SISON JR.  
 POSITION: MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
 AGENCY: JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Contact Number	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	In favor	Not In Favor
✓ Polli Huseby	GCC	789-3727			✓	
✓ Dana Gutierrez on behalf of Chief Justice Torres	Judiciary of Guam	3004882	✓	✓	✓	
✓ <del>CYNTHIA ELUPE</del>	<del>ATTY</del>	472-8889	✓	✓	✓	
✓ Lia Joshua Duenca		647-8107			✓	
✓ DAVID B CASTRO		969-1214			✓	
✓ Alan Paulino	Superior Court Guam	797-0815			✓	
Ben Sison	GCC	987-6543			✓	

# COMMITTEE ON GUAM U.S. MILITARY RELOCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 33rd Guam Legislature*



## SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR. CHAIRMAN

APPOINTEE: BENJAMIN C. SISON JR.  
 POSITION: MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
 AGENCY: JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Contact Number	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	In favor	Not In Favor
✓ Theodore Santos		788-0036	X		X	
✓ Simone Bollinger		687-6610			X	
✓ Lilianna Perez		483 6270			✓	
✓ Colin Perez		"			✓	
✓ Alberto Tolentino	JUDICIARY	300 7098	X			
✓ Betty Ann Muesing Perez					✓	
✓ FRANK PEREZ					✓	

# COMMITTEE ON GUAM U.S. MILITARY RELOCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 33rd Guam Legislature*



## SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR. CHAIRMAN

APPOINTEE: BENJAMIN C. SISON JR.  
 POSITION: MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
 AGENCY: JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Contact Number	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	In favor	Not In Favor
✓ ROSITA QUINTANA	GCC	735-5602			✓	
✓ Dominic Terleje	OAG	483-8447		✓	✓	



**COMMITTEE ON GUAM U.S. MILITARY RELOCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY**

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 33rd Guam Legislature*



**SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.**  
**CHAIRMAN**

APPOINTEE: BENJAMIN C. SISON JR.  
POSITION: MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
AGENCY: JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Contact Number	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	In favor	Not In Favor
✓ Paul Kaneshiro	Family (nephew)	787-0697			✓	
✓ Benjamin Sison	Father	632-9562			✓	
✓ Orelia Sison	Mother	632-9562			✓	

# COMMITTEE ON GUAM U.S. MILITARY RELOCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan | 33rd Guam Legislature*



## SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR. CHAIRMAN

APPOINTEE: BENJAMIN C. SISON JR.  
 POSITION: MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
 AGENCY: JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Contact Number	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	In favor	Not In Favor
✓ Norman Quidacay	Judiciary of Guam	686-2367			✓	
✓ Arlan Mueda	"	486-8282			✓	
✓ David Blas	Friend	929-3283	✓		✓	
✓ Francis Sanga	Judiciary of Guam	483-5533			✓	
✓ Sozanne Kaneshiro		688-1882	✓			
✓ Reynald DeCarmen	Friend	888-5568			✓	

August 1, 2016

Hon. Senator Frank B. Aguon  
Chair, Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety & Judiciary  
Suite 503 DNA Bldg., 238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Confirmation Hearing on the Appointment of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.  
as Magistrate Judge

Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Senators:

My name is Victorina Yamashita Renacia, University of Guam in-house legal counsel, and my name is Robert A. Underwood, President of the University of Guam. Together we offer a professional testimonial in support of the confirmation of Attorney Benjamin Sison, Jr. as Magistrate Judge.

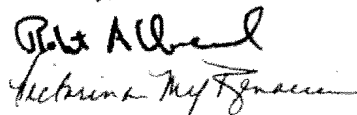
The University has worked with Ben over the years in a professional capacity. During this time he has shown to be timely and responsive to the University issues. His advice to the University has always been reasonable, legally sound, and without challenge.

The University believes that Attorney Sison has the judicial temperament and integrity to be a good Magistrate Judge. Given his background experience as a professor at Guam Community College, a Small Claims and Traffic Court Referee, tax and estate planning lawyer, in addition to his own private practice, the University thinks he is without doubt qualified for the job as Magistrate Judge. His familiarity and experience with those duties required of a Magistrate Judge make him the perfect candidate for the position.

When confirmed, the University knows that Ben will prove to be an outstanding member of the Judiciary and proud son of Guam. Without hesitation, we highly support his confirmation as Magistrate Judge.

Thank you all for your time and for allowing us to speak on Ben's behalf.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Underwood, President  
Victorina M.Y. Renacia, University Legal Counsel

LAW OFFICE OF  
**CYNTHIA V. ECUBE, ESQ.**

A Professional Corporation

Cynthia V. Ecube, Esq.

August 2, 2016

**VIA HAND DELIVER**

Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr.  
Chairman on Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety & Judiciary  
I MINA' TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: **Testimony on Behalf of the Confirmation of the Appointment of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. to serve as Magistrate Judge for the Superior Court of Guam.**

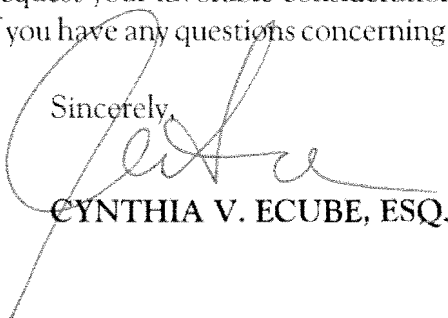
Dear Chairman Aguon and Members of the Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety & Judiciary:

My name is Cynthia V. Ecube, Esq., and I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the local Courts of Guam, the Federal District of Guam, and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for approximately twenty six (26) years. I am pleased to present my testimony in support of the confirmation of the appointment of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. to serve as Magistrate Judge for the Superior Court of Guam.

I have known Ben and the Sison family for many years dating back to our childhood days when we first attended parochial elementary school together. For as long as I have known Ben, he has always been a very bright and intelligent student and who has received numerous academic and meritorious awards throughout his school life. Ben also comes from a family of successful professionals who have aspired to do well in their professional careers.

In addition to his strong academic achievements, Ben has had extensive legal experience as a private practitioner in the areas domestic and family law, tax law, probate and estate planning, contract law, real property and procurement law. He also teaches as an Adjunct Professor with GCC and serves as a referee over traffic court and small claims cases in the Superior Court of Guam. Ben is an individual who possess qualities of leadership, honesty, and integrity, along with maintaining good work ethics. I am confident that Ben's legal and professional experience combined with his commitment and contribution to our community will make him valuable asset to the Judiciary of Guam and I humbly request your favorable consideration to serve as Magistrate Judge for the Superior Court of Guam. If you have any questions concerning this testimony, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



**CYNTHIA V. ECUBE, ESQ.**



# Supreme Court of Guam

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**HON. ROBERT J. TORRES**  
CHIEF JUSTICE

August 2, 2016

The Honorable Frank Aguon, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety & Judiciary  
Suite 503 DNA Bldg.  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

**Re: Appointment of Benjamin C. Sison Jr. as Magistrate Judge**

Dear Chairman Aguon:

This testimony is provided in provide support of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison Jr.'s appointment as magistrate judge to the Superior Court of Guam.

I would like to thank the Guam Legislature for funding the additional magistrate judge position and for expanding the duties of the magistrate judge. The magistrate judges with their expanded duties will further assist the Superior Court trial judges as they are now able to conduct criminal trial settings; preside over preliminary hearings and render decisions over procedural and discovery motions in criminal cases; preside over initial scheduling conferences in civil matters; and preside over unlawful detainer proceedings. The Judiciary appreciates the continuing support provided by the Guam Legislature to ensure that we meet our mission to administer justice by interpreting and upholding the laws, resolving disputes in a timely manner, and providing accessible, efficient and effective court services.

As provided in my May 2, 2016 appointment letter, Attorney Sison was selected from the three candidates put forward by the Guam Bar Magistrate Selection Committee. In December 2015, the Selection Committee solicited applications from its members for the magistrate judge position. Upon receipt and evaluation of applications, the Selection Committee forwarded the applications of three candidates to me for consideration. I, along with the Administrator of the Courts and the Clerks of Court for the Supreme and Superior Courts, reviewed each application and met with each applicant to discuss their vision of the role of the magistrate judge. Upon review and interview, I selected Attorney Sison as my appointment for magistrate judge.

Attorney Sison obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Boston College Law School in 1990. He has held positions in both the private and public sectors including, Assistant Attorney General with the Washington State Attorney General's Office, Associate Attorney for Torres,

To: The Honorable Frank Aguon, Jr.  
Re: Appointment of Benjamin C. Sison Jr. as Magistrate Judge  
August 2, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

P.C., and Partner for the Law Office of Limtiaco, Cruz, and Sison PLLC. Currently, Attorney Sison runs a solo practice, Sison P.C., and serves as a Superior Court referee presiding over traffic and small claims court trials and hearings. With the recent resignation of Judge James Canto, Attorney Sison is presiding over child support cases to allow Referee Linda Ingles to serve as Judge *Pro Tempore* over Judge Canto's cases. Additionally, since 2006, Attorney Sison has served as a professor at the Guam Community College teaching courses in criminal law, criminal procedure, criminology, juvenile justice, traffic law, American government and business and contract law.

Aside from satisfying the requisite statutory qualifications for the position of magistrate judge, I believe Attorney Sison has the competence, experience and temperament to be a successful magistrate. Further, Attorney Sison exemplifies the core values adopted by the Judiciary as part of its Strategic Plan: professionalism, integrity and excellence.

I encourage the Guam Legislature to support my appointment of Attorney Sison and confirm him as the next Superior Court of Guam magistrate judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Attorney Sison.  
If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Senseramente,*



ROBERT J. TORRES  
Chief Justice

August 2, 2016

Senator Frank Blas Aguon, Jr., Chairperson  
Committee on the Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary

Vice Chairperson:  
Senator Thomas C. Ada

Members:  
Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Senator Rory J. Respicio  
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Senator Nerissa Bretania Underwood, Ph.D.  
Senator V. Anthony Ada  
Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.  
Senator James V. Espaldon  
Senator Brant T. McCreadie  
Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. (*Ex-Officio* member)

Without reservation, I gladly write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Benjamin Sison Jr. in support of his confirmation as Magistrate Judge.

This testimony is written from my perspective as a client, a colleague, as well as a long-time family friend.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Sison in the early 90s when my father sought and retained his professional services. During these past twenty years, Ben has sustained a high level of quality in his professional responsibilities. He is aware of the history of my family's current estate and is able to provide useful, practical, and realistic direction. He is articulate, thoughtful, and personable. I have found him to be sincere when responding to the concerns and needs I have brought before him. As a client, this is of utmost importance.

In addition, Professor Sison is a colleague at the Guam Community College; he is with the Criminal Justice and Social Sciences Department and I am the Department Chairperson for English. About eight years ago, Ben began to undertake adjunct courses at the community college. It was at this time that our relationship transitioned into the educational field, which is my expertise. I was impressed by his knowledge base and his ability to provide clear responses to legally-based questions which arose during his class sessions. In other words, his students did not get lost in all the legalese. He secured a permanent faculty position in fall 2014. Since then, we have served on the same college committee. He and I continue to hold lively debates regarding the professional implications, both positive and negative, which apply to current and controversial educational issues and concerns.

In all his endeavors, Ben remains knowledgeable in his field, dedicated in his work ethic, and professional in his performance. Within our interactions, I have found Ben to be extremely versed in Guam's laws, procedures and policies. He is cognizant of the unique diversity and

demographics of our community and the Pacific Region population. He continues to develop and finesse his career goals through continuous professional experiences within the educational realm. As a colleague, this is of utmost importance.

Ben's cheerful nature, commitment to the highest professional standards, and compassion toward others are only some of the qualities that make him an exemplary role model and would certainly benefit our island community. He is a conscientious individual and is deliberate in his thinking. In many of our discussions, he weighs the situation I present to him and provides feedback that allows me to consider the position as I undergo the decision making process. He has a great sense of humor which he uses to apply levity in rather tense situations. He is trustworthy and dependable. Ben has goodness in his heart. As a friend, this is of utmost importance.

It is a privilege to be able to speak on Ben's behalf. It is without hesitation that I fully support the application of Mr. Benjamin Sison Jr. He has indeed earned this consideration through his unwavering efforts and high standards and years of professional experience. He is an articulate, dedicated, professional, and erudite individual. More importantly, he is a man of profound integrity. He has and continues to demonstrate the commitment, professionalism, and leadership skills critical to the Magistrate Judge position.

If I may be of any further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me;  
[lisa.bazacruz@guamcc.edu](mailto:lisa.bazacruz@guamcc.edu) or 671-687-4033

Sincerely,



Lisa Baza-Cruz, Ed.D.  
Department Chairperson/Professor  
Guam Community College



I was asked by Ben or Benji, as he is known by many of his friends, to say a few words on his behalf, so I'll keep it short and sweet.

I won't be able to tell you about remarkable feats of heroism done by Benji, I'm not sure if he's even saved a stray cat or dog.

I won't elevate him to a superhero status, especially in light of all the recent testimonials the past two weeks in this political season.

But I can tell you about Benji from the perspective of both a friend and a client.

Benji is thoughtful, engaging and considerate.

There's a group of us who routinely meet for weekend coffee. Although Benji's beverage of choice is ice tea, we have YET to exclude him. During these moments, I have had ample opportunities to witness his interactions with others; be it a former client, student, friend or just an acquaintance, and I have always seen him treat them with courtesy and respect.

This initially left me wondering if it was all an act, and as the old saying goes, time will tell.

It's no act at all; this is Benji, a decent, honest, likable person who any one of us would be privileged to call a friend.

Prior to Benji considering this position, he asked me my thoughts; weighing out the pros and cons. His dilemma: at GCC, leaving his students and his passion for teaching the law. In his private practice, his loyalty to his clients, his concern of who would best serve them.

During these conversations I don't believe anyone who knows Benji would question his competence and abilities to take on this new chapter.

I was more concerned about the compromise he would make for his love of traveling; visiting UNESCO sites; sharing the 'foodie' experience; engaging with local cultures; paragliding in the Himalayas; swimming with whalesharks, and visiting a panda sanctuary?

We believe Benji's love for the law, the willingness to take on a new challenge with the firm belief that he can make a greater difference has lead to his decision.

So on behalf of his coffee shop crew, we humbly ask that you favorably consider Ben Sison for magistrate.

-David Blas

## **Testimony for Benjamin Sison, Jr.**

Hafa Adai! I'm Dr. Suzanne Sison Kaneshiro and I am here in support of my brother Ben's nomination to be a magistrate judge.

Growing up, I always thought my brother would follow in my parents' footsteps and choose a career in medicine. My father was a physician and was in private practice on Guam for 37 years before retiring in 2004. My mother was a registered nurse and worked for GMH and the Department of Public Health and Social Services before retiring in 1992 after 30 years of service. I was not surprised when he graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology.

While I was away attending dental school, I heard from my parents that my brother decided to go to law school. It came as shock because I didn't even know he was even considering becoming anything but a physician. But after the initial shock wore off and thinking about it, becoming a lawyer was probably a better fit for him.

Ben is very smart and very knowledgeable. He is constantly on the internet reading about the latest news and world events. He is very technologically savvy and always knows about the latest gadgets on the market. If I have any questions about my computer or iPhone, I ask him.

My brother loves to learn. For a while we all thought he would be a professional student. After receiving his law degree, he went back to school two more times and earned two masters' degrees. I thought that would be the end of his college life, but I was wrong. For the past several years, instead of being the student, he is now an associate professor at GCC imparting his knowledge to others.

It is very difficult to win an argument with my brother. If you hope to succeed, you better get your facts straight and have evidence and supporting documents to back up your claims especially if it is in opposition of his views. Even then, he will try and win the argument. He is tenacious. This is probably why he is a good lawyer because he will defend his clients to the end. This is also a good trait for judge because he will base his decisions on facts presented to him.

My brother loves to travel. Every chance he gets, he is off seeing the world, enjoying the people, learning new cultures and going to new places. He realizes that once he becomes a judge he will no longer have the opportunity to travel as much. He still wants to do it because he wants to give back to the community and make Guam a better place to live.

He would make a good magistrate judge and I hope you give him the opportunity to be one.



## Kloppenburger

Enterprises, Inc.

P.O. Box 6098  
Tamuning, Guam 96931

August 2, 2016

The Honorable Frank Aguon Jr.  
Suite 503 DNA Bldg.  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatña, Guam

*Håfa Adai* Senator Aguon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the confirmation hearing on the appointment of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. to serve as Magistrate Judge pursuant to 7 Guam Code Annotated §4401.

I have known Attorney Sison, Jr. on a professional level for over 25 years. He has proven to be a very competent, capable and fair individual. It takes a very special person to uphold the laws that govern our island home and help oversee the justice system. I firmly believe Attorney Sison, Jr. has the right temperament to become a great Magistrate Judge and to serve the people of Guam in this new capacity.

With my roles as a business owner of Kloppenburger Enterprises, Inc. and the vice chairman of the Guam Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, I believe it's important to give back to the community and to stand behind passionate individuals that actively contribute to improving our island and giving us a better quality of life. Attorney Sison, Jr. is one of those individuals that our island will greatly benefit from in the role of a Magistrate Judge.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase again for allowing me to testify in support of Attorney Sison, Jr.

*Senseramente',*

BRUCE KLOPPENBURG  
President  
Kloppenburger Enterprises, Inc.

*Est. 1964*

Office: 671-649-1941/2 Fax: 671-649-3253

[www.adventureguam.com](http://www.adventureguam.com)



August 2, 2016

Honorable Frank B. Aguon, Jr.  
33rd Guam Legislature  
Chairman  
Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety and Judiciary

SUBJECT: Written Testimony - SISON, Benjamin C. Jr.  
To Serve As Magistrate Judge, Judiciary of Guam

Dear Mr. Chairman and members on the Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety and Judiciary:

My name is J. Peter Roberto and I write this letter in my capacity as department chair for the Criminal Justice and Social Science department at the Guam Community College. The department currently includes courses in Social Sciences and two degree programs: Criminal Justice and Human Services. Due to conflicting schedules, I am unable to provide verbal testimony; however, please accept my written testimony **IN SUPPORT** of Chief Justice Robert J. Torres' nomination of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. as Magistrate Judge for the Judiciary of Guam.

I was first introduced to Ben in 2012 when I joined the department. The growth of our collegial relationship has afforded me the opportunity to come to know Ben as one who passions the law, teaching and dedicated to help his students learn. As a member of the criminal justice program, Ben has taught the following courses: Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Juvenile Justice, Business Law and American Government. In addition to his professorial responsibilities, Ben serves as academic advisor for criminal justice students, serves on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, participates in numerous department sponsored activities promoting student engagement and, is a member of the General Education college committee.

Ben has contributed to the following department growth initiatives: Human Services Associates Degree Program and the Limited License Legal Technician (LLLT) Program Concept proposal. For the Human Services program, Ben joined department faculty in providing substantive review and feedback of the Program – a program that recently completed its first year of implementation. With respect to the LLLT Program Concept, Ben introduced this initiative of Chief Justice Torres to the department faculty. With faculty and program support, the LLLT Concept Paper

was written and subsequently approved by both the Academic Vice President and GCC President. The LLLT curriculum will be written this Fall 2016 which will provide a new academic career pathway for students in civil law under the criminal justice program.

The department values our continuing collaborative partnership with industry experts. One valuable aspect about industry collaboration is that it affords our students an opportunity to learn "beyond the classroom" from industry experts themselves. Through Ben's affiliation with the justice system, his students have benefitted from learning about the justice system for many guest speakers in the field, as well as conducting classes at the superior court to learn from judges and other court personnel. Additionally, Ben was very instrumental on two occasions to bring legal experts visiting from off-island to the college campus to speak with students and the general public on *"International Solution Focused Courts"* and *"4<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: Searches and Seizures"*.

As I mentioned earlier, Ben is passionate about the law, teaching and dedication to his students. Given the opportunity to serve as Magistrate Judge, the department will look forward to working with Ben in our continuous efforts to improve our department initiatives and courses for our students.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to provide written testimony. I humbly ask that your Committee afford Ben its most favorable review and subsequent approval by your esteemed colleagues in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature.

Very Sincerely,



J. Peter Roberto, M.S.W.  
Department Chair  
Criminal Justice & Social Science Department

xc: Department File: LOR, SISON Jr., Benjamin C.

August 2, 2016

Testimony submitted in support of Attorney Benjamin (Ben) Sison for Magistrate Judge.

I have known Ben for 20 some years and was fortunate enough to have worked with him during my internship at a local law firm here in 2001 and then again in private practice in 2006. As a lifelong resident of Guam, spending nearly 20 plus years as a practicing attorney on Guam, I know that Ben is the best choice for Magistrate judge. Whether Ben was reviewing a case, preparing for court or trying a case in court, I found Ben to be fair and impartial. He would not overlook the smallest of details, regardless of whether or not that detail would benefit his case or the opposing party's case. Ben is an even-tempered individual who has displayed a passion for justice while representing his clients. He stays current with ever-changing case law and shares that knowledge.

While working with Ben, I was able to witness firsthand his passion for the cases he handled as well as his ability to keep a contemplative, open mind while judiciously weighing all facts from a disciplined and objective point of view. This zeal for justice held firm throughout his work while in private practice and I am confident that Ben will continue to apply this zeal if he is confirmed as a Magistrate Judge.

Respectfully submitted,



Dominic Terlaje

dsterlaje@yahoo.com

B. Ann Keith, Esq.  
Staff Attorney, Judiciary of Guam  
210 North Paulino Heights  
Talofofo, Guam 96915

Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr.  
Chair, Committee on the Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety and Judiciary  
Suite 503 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores Street  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Confirmation Benjamin C. Sison Jr. as Magistrate Judge for the Superior  
Court

Dear Senator Aguon:

I write to submit comments in my personal support of the confirmation of Benjamin C. Sison Jr., to serve as Magistrate Judge at the Superior Court of Guam. I have worked with Mr. Sison as a contract hearing officer since 2009. I have been a member of the Guam Bar Association as long as Mr. Sison has, and he is a uniquely conscientious and courteous person as long as I have known him.

Because Ben has presided over our small claims and traffic cases for many years on a part-time basis, I know that he has encountered every kind of litigant who can appear before the bench. He has always demonstrated judicious temperament with the wide variety of litigants before him. The work of a Magistrate Judge requires a patience and wisdom which I think he possesses. It is a challenging job, and I think he is well suited to it. He is a learned man, and the Guam Judiciary would be enriched by his appointment.

Thank you for permitting me to submit these comments in support of the confirmation of Benjamin C. Sison Jr. to the position of Magistrate Judge in the Superior Court of Guam.

Sincerely,



B. Ann Keith



Office of the President  
Mary A. Y. Okada, Ed.D

August 2, 2016

Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr.  
Committee on Guam US Military Relocation,  
Public Safety, and Judiciary  
Suite 503, DNA BLDG. 238  
Archbishop Flores Street  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Hafa Adai Senator Aguon,

On behalf of the Guam Community College, I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of the appointment of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. as the Magistrate Judge for the Superior Court of Guam.

I apologize for not being available to personally convey my message of support due to previously arranged travel. However, I did not want this important event to pass without providing my support for Attorney Sison.

Attorney Sison has been with the Guam Community College as a full time faculty member since 2011. Since then, the college has expanded its Criminal Justice program and garnered federal funding support for this expansion and program improvements. GCC's Criminal Justice Department that Attorney Sison is a member of has been innovative and continues to provide educational pathways and the necessary support to ensure that our students succeed in college. This collective commitment of our faculty is one major reason for the increasing number of students interested in the criminal justice program at the college.

Attorney Sison has had an extensive career serving in various legal occupations in both the private and public sector on Guam. I believe that both perspectives will provide a valuable service to our residents on Guam.

As a member of Team GCC, Attorney Sison has supported the mission of the Guam Community College, "as a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality, student-centered education and job training for Micronesia." I wholeheartedly support his confirmation by the members of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature.

Should you have any questions, please contact me. at [mary.okada@guamcc.edu](mailto:mary.okada@guamcc.edu) or 735-5700.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase,

/s/ Mary A. Y. Okada, Ed. D.  
President



August 15, 2016

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Honorable Frank B. Aguon, Jr.  
Senator  
**33<sup>RD</sup> GUAM LEGISLATURE**  
Chairman, Committee on Guam U.S. Military,  
Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary  
Suite 503, DNA Bldg.  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**RE: Nomination of Benjamin C. Sison, Jr., Magistrate Judge,  
Superior Court of Guam**

Dear Chairman Aguon and Distinguished Committee Members:

We write in full support of the nomination of Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. as Magistrate Judge to the Superior Court of Guam. Lawyers in our firm have maintained professional and personal relationships with Attorney Sison for nearly twenty years and we know Attorney Sison to be a person of integrity and intelligence. We are confident that he will be a strong asset to the Judiciary of Guam.

Attorney Sison is a valuable member of Guam's legal and judicial community. He is smart and understands that the law must work for our community. He believes in the rule of law and as a judge, will strictly follow the law. Attorney Sison understands that being a magistrate judge is not about choosing the winning or losing litigant - someone has to win and someone has to lose in most cases - but it is about listening completely and fully to both sides and working hard to understand the complexities of the issues. It is about giving people a fair shake and Attorney Sison exudes these qualities; the qualities that will translate into a good magistrate judge. Also, Guam is a small community, and judges here are a part of our community. We know from experience that Attorney Sison is of solid character and is prepared to make tough decisions even if those decisions may sometimes be unpopular.

Attorney Sison is a hard worker and has effective time management skills. He has demonstrated over the years that he is able to handle a very large workload in his professional life and through his prior experience on the bench. We are confident that as a



CALVO FISHER & JACOB LLP

Honorable Frank B. Aguon, Jr.  
Senator  
**33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE**  
Chairman, Guam U.S. Military  
Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary  
August 15, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

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Magistrate Judge he will carry out his public duties to improve the lives of those served by our Third Branch of Government.

We proudly support the appointment of Benjamin C. Sison, Jr. to the Superior Court of Guam. We hope that his appointment will be handled swiftly so that Attorney Sison may continue serving the public as a member of Guam's distinguished Judiciary.

Sincerely,

**CALVO FISHER & JACOB LLP**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RODNEY J. JACOB

cc: Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Honorable Tina R. Muna-Barnes  
Honorable Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas  
Honorable Nerissa B. Underwood  
Honorable V. Anthony Ada  
Honorable Thomas A. Morrison  
Honorable Mary C. Torres  
Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.



## COMMITTEE ON RULES

*I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • The 33rd Guam Legislature

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E-mail: [roryforguam@gmail.com](mailto:roryforguam@gmail.com) • Tel: (671)472-7679 • Fax: (671)472-3547

Senator

Rory J. Respicio  
CHAIRPERSON  
MAJORITY LEADER

Senator

Thomas C. Ada  
VICE CHAIRPERSON  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Speaker

Judith T.P. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Member

Vice-Speaker

Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Member

Legislative Secretary

Tina Rose Muna Barnes  
Member

Senator

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Member

Senator

Frank Blas Aguon, Jr.  
Member

Senator

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas  
Member

Senator

Nerissa Bretania Underwood  
Member

V. Anthony Ada  
MINORITY LEADER

Mary C. Torres  
MINORITY MEMBER

June 7, 2016

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Rennae Meno  
*Clerk of the Legislature*

**From:** Senator Rory J. Respicio  
*Chairperson of the Committee on Rules*

**Subject:** Referral of Appointment

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of the following appointment:

**Appointee:** Attorney Benjamin C. Sison Jr.  
**Position:** Magistrate Judge, Judiciary of Guam

For a copy of Attorney Benjamin C. Sison Jr's appointment packet, please visit the Guam Legislature's website at [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com). Under the "Reports" menu select the "Messages & Communications" option and refer to:

**"Doc. 33GL-16-1586: Supreme Court of Guam message transmitting the appointment of Benjamin C. Sison Jr., to serve as Magistrate Judge, Judiciary of Guam."**

Please ensure that the subject appointment is referred, in my name, to **Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr., Chairperson of the Committee on the Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary**. I also request that the same be forwarded to all Senators of *I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

*Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*

*I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan*  
**Appointment Log Sheet**

Date Received	M&C No.	Appointee	Position	Agency	Appt. Date	Term Length	Committee Referred	Date Referred	PH Date	CR Filed	Confirmed	Notes
05/02/16	33GI-16-1586	Atty. Benjamin C. Sison Jr.	Magistrate Judge	Supreme Court of Guam	05/02/16		Committee on the Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety and Judiciary	06/07/16				



Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. <admin@frankaguonjr.com>

## 1st Notice – Confirmation Hearing on Appointment of Magistrate Judge on Tuesday, August 02, 2016 at 5: 30 PM

Office of Senator Frank Aguon, Jr. Admin <admin@frankaguonjr.com> Tue, Jul 26, 2016 at 9:26 AM

To: "Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr." <admin@frankaguonjr.com>

Cc: "Frank Aguon, Jr." <aguon4guam@gmail.com>, Committee <committee@frankaguonjr.com>, Communications Specialist <communications@frankaguonjr.com>, Lourdes Eclavea <staff@frankaguonjr.com>, Senator Aguon's Assistant <officeassistant@frankaguonjr.com>, Tricia Benavente <media@frankaguonjr.com>

Bcc: arthur.paulino@gpd.guam.gov, chuck.ada@guamairport.net, cme.guam@gmail.com, communications@guam.gov, dcaguero@portguam.com, ebanderson@guamag.org, elaine.gogue@guam.gov, euntalan@fhh.com, faguon@portguam.com, gerry@postguam.com, gerrypartido.mvguam18@gmail.com, governor@guam.gov, guamwardeny2k@yahoo.com, louella@postguam.com, madeleine.bordallo@mail.house.gov, michael.cura@dpr.guam.gov, michael.uncangco@gfd.guam.gov, phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Carla Borja <carla.borja@doc.guam.gov>, Carlina Charfauros <ccharfauros@guamag.org>, Cathy Gogue <cgogue@guampdsc.net>, "Chief J. I. Cruz" <joseph.i.cruz@gpd.guam.gov>, "chris.duenas" <chris.duenas@guam.gov>, Christopher Budasi <cbudasi@guamcourts.org>, Cynthia Ige <cynthia.ige@gpd.guam.gov>, Gerry Partido <gerrypartido@gmail.com>, "Honorable Robert J. Torres" <guamjustice@hotmail.com>, "hottips@kuam.com" <hottips@kuam.com>, Janela Buhain Carrera <janela@spbguam.com>, Joey San Nicolas <joey.sannicolas@gfd.guam.gov>, John O'Connor <john@postguam.com>, Jon Calvo <jon.calvo@mail.house.gov>, "Joseph I. Cruz" <joseph.i.cruz66@gmail.com>, "joseph.duenas" <joseph.duenas@guam.gov>, Joshua Tenorio <jtenorio@guamcourts.org>, Joy Unpingco <joy.unpingco@guam.gov>, Ken Quintanilla <kenq@kuam.com>, kim santos <kim.santos@gpd.guam.gov>, "Lt. Andrew Quitugua" <andrew.quitugua@gpd.guam.gov>, "Lt. Paul Sayama" <paul.sayama@gpd.guam.gov>, "manuel.babauta" <manuel.babauta@gpd.guam.gov>, Mark Calvo <mark.calvo@guam.gov>, Matt Sablan <matt.sablan12@yahoo.com>, "monica.salas" <monica.salas@gpd.guam.gov>, "news@guampdn.com" <news@guampdn.com>, Philip Tajeron <philip.tajeron@cqa.guam.gov>, Ray Tenorio <ray.tenorio@guam.gov>, Robert Camacho <bobcamacho@guamairport.net>, Robert Tupaz <robert@postguam.com>, "ronald.taitano" <ronald.taitano@gpd.guam.gov>, Rose Ramsey <rose.ramsey@guam.gov>, Shawn Raymundo <rraymundo@guam.gannett.com>, "Stephen P. Hattori" <sphattori@guampdsc.net>, "susan.reyes" <susan.reyes@gpd.guam.gov>, Valerie Cruz <vcruz@guamcourts.org>, bmomayor@teleguam.net, hagatnamayor@hotmail.com, mcogadmin@teleguam.net, mtm\_mayors\_office@yahoo.com, nblas\_mangilaomayor@yahoo.com, peter\_daigo@hotmail.com, pitimayor@yahoo.com, talofofomayor@gmail.com, vicemayor\_allan.ungacta@yahoo.com, Agat <agatmayorsoffice@hotmail.com>, Anthony Sanchez <yigovce@gmail.com>, Barrigada MayorsOffice <broadmin@teleguam.net>, Dale Alvarez <dalealvarez@gmail.com>, Diana Sojo <yigomayorsoffice@gmail.com>, Doris Lujan <mayordorisfloreslujan@gmail.com>, Ernest Chargualaf - Merizo <mayoremernestc@yahoo.com>, inarajan municipality <inarajanmayorsoffice@gmail.com>, Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>, Joana Margaret Blas <mayorjmcblas@gmail.com>, ken ada <kenjoeada@yahoo.com>, "Mayor Louise C. Rivera" <mayorlcrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>, "Mayor Paul M. McDonald" <mayor.mcdonald671@gmail.com>, "melissa.savares@gmail.com" <melissa.savares@gmail.com>, Robert Hofmann <guammayor@gmail.com>, rudy iriarte <rudyiriarte@gmail.com>, Umatac Mayor <umatacmo@gmail.com>, "Vice Mayor Ken C. Santos" <vicemayorksantos.tatuha@gmail.com>, janela@k57.com, news@k57.com, news@kuam.com, parroyo@k57.com, Gaynor Daleno <gdumat-ol@guam.gannett.com>, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Jerick Sablan <jpsablan@guampdn.com>, Krystal Paco <krystal@kuam.com>, Mar-vic Cagurangan <marvic.cagurangan@yahoo.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, Shawn Raymundo <rraymundo@guampdn.com>, Steve Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, Benjamin Sison <jinapsan@hotmail.com>, amendiola@guamcourts.org, mthompson@tgalaw.net, Dana Gutierrez <dgutierrez@guamcourts.org>, gconcepcion@guamlawfirm.com, Harold Parker <harold.parker@guamlsc.org>, info@ecubelaw.com, mpangelinan@calvofisher.com, "Deputy A.G. Phil Tydingco" <ptydingco@guamag.org>, Jehan'Ad Martinez <jgmartinez@bsjmlaw.com>

July 26, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders**

**Fr: SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.**

**Subject: 1<sup>st</sup> Notice – Confirmation Hearing on Appointment of Magistrate Judge on Tuesday, August 02, 2016 at 5: 30 PM**

In accordance with the *Open Government Law of Guam*, relative to notice for public meetings, please be advised that the *Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety & Judiciary*, will convene a **Confirmation Hearing on August 02, 2016 at 5:30 PM.** Included on the agenda are the following:

- **Doc33GL-16-1586** – Confirmation Hearing on the appointment of **Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.** to serve as **Magistrate Judge** pursuant to 7 Guam Code Annotated §4401.

The Hearing will broadcast on local television, *GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117* or streamed online at: [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com).

The Committee requests that, if written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, copies be submitted one day prior to the public hearing date, to the Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. at Suite 503 DNA Bldg. 238 Archbishop Flores St. Hagatña, Guam, via fax to 475-GUM3(4863), or via email to: [aguon4guam@gmail.com](mailto:aguon4guam@gmail.com). Copies of the aforementioned Bill(s) may be obtained at *Liheslaturan Guahån* 's website at: [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact Niel Tirador at 475-4861/2 or email at: [committee@frankaguonjr.com](mailto:committee@frankaguonjr.com). Please feel free to contact my office should you have any additional questions or concerns.

*Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

—  
Thanks!

**Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr.**

Committee on Guam US Military Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary

SUITE 503, DNA BLDG. 238 ARCHBISHOP FLORES STREET HAGATÑA, GUAM 96910

Tel: (671) 475-GUM1/2 (4861/2)

Fax: (671) GUM3 (4863)

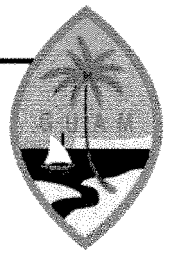
aguon4guam@gmail.com | www.frankaguonjr.com

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**1ST NOTICE MAGISTRATE JUDGE CONFIRMATION HEARING.pdf**

993K



July 26, 2016

MEMORANDUM

Senator  
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Chairman

Senator  
Thomas C. Ada  
Vice Chairman

Vice-Speaker  
Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Member

Senator  
Rory J. Respicio  
Member

Senator  
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
Member

Senator  
Dr. Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D.  
Member

Senator  
V. Anthony Ada  
Member

Senator  
Frank F. Blas Jr.  
Member

Senator  
James V. Espaldon  
Member

Senator  
Brant T. McCreadie  
Member

Speaker  
Dr. Judith T. Won Pat. Ed.D  
Ex-Officio

To: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

Fr: SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.

Subject: 1<sup>st</sup> Notice – Confirmation Hearing on Appointment of Magistrate Judge on Tuesday, August 02, 2016 at 5: 30 PM

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Included on the agenda are the following:

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*Un Dangko Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.  
Committee Chairman on Guam U.S. Military Relocation | Public Safety | Judiciary  
*I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahãn* | 33<sup>rd</sup> Guam Legislature





Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. <admin@frankaguonjr.com>

## 2ND Notice – Confirmation Hearing on Appointment of Magistrate Judge on Tuesday, August 02, 2016 at 5: 30 PM

Office of Senator Frank Aguon, Jr. Admin <admin@frankaguonjr.com>

Fri, Jul 29, 2016 at 8:16 AM

To: "Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr." <admin@frankaguonjr.com>

Cc: "Frank Aguon, Jr." <aguon4guam@gmail.com>, Committee <committee@frankaguonjr.com>, Communications Specialist <communications@frankaguonjr.com>, Lourdes Eclavea <staff@frankaguonjr.com>, Senator Aguon's Assistant <officeassistant@frankaguonjr.com>, Tricia Benavente <media@frankaguonjr.com>

Bcc: arthur.paulino@gpd.guam.gov, chuck.ada@guamairport.net, cme.guam@gmail.com, communications@guam.gov, dcaguero@portguam.com, ebanderson@guamag.org, elaine.gogue@guam.gov, euntalan@fhb.com, faguon@portguam.com, gerry@postguam.com, gerrypartido.mvguam18@gmail.com, governor@guam.gov, guamwardeny2k@yahoo.com, louella@postguam.com, madeleine.bordallo@mail.house.gov, michael.cura@dpr.guam.gov, michael.uncangco@gfd.guam.gov, phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Carla Borja <carla.borja@doc.guam.gov>, Carlina Charfauros <ccharfauros@guamag.org>, Cathy Gogue <cgogue@guampdsc.net>, "Chief J. I. Cruz" <joseph.i.cruz@gpd.guam.gov>, "chris.duenas" <chris.duenas@guam.gov>, Christopher Budasi <cbudasi@guamcourts.org>, Cynthia Ige <cynthia.ige@gpd.guam.gov>, Gerry Partido <gerrypartido@gmail.com>, "Honorable Robert J. Torres" <guamjustice@hotmail.com>, "hottips@kuam.com" <hottips@kuam.com>, Janela Buhain Carrera <janela@spbguam.com>, Joey San Nicolas <joey.sannicolas@gfd.guam.gov>, John O'Connor <john@postguam.com>, Jon Calvo <jon.calvo@mail.house.gov>, "Joseph I. Cruz" <joseph.i.cruz66@gmail.com>, "joseph.duenas" <joseph.duenas@guam.gov>, Joshua Tenorio <jtenorio@guamcourts.org>, Joy Unpingco <joy.unpingco@guam.gov>, Ken Quintanilla <kenq@kuam.com>, kim santos <kim.santos@gpd.guam.gov>, "Lt. Andrew Quitugua" <andrew.quitugua@gpd.guam.gov>, "Lt. Paul Sayama" <paul.sayama@gpd.guam.gov>, "manuel.babauta" <manuel.babauta@gpd.guam.gov>, Mark Calvo <mark.calvo@guam.gov>, Matt Sablan <matt.sablan12@yahoo.com>, "monica.salas" <monica.salas@gpd.guam.gov>, "news@guampdn.com" <news@guampdn.com>, Philip Taijeron <philip.taijeron@cqa.guam.gov>, Ray Tenorio <ray.tenorio@guam.gov>, Robert Camacho <bobcamacho@guamairport.net>, Robert Tupaz <robert@postguam.com>, "ronald.taitano" <ronald.taitano@gpd.guam.gov>, Rose Ramsey <rose.ramsey@guam.gov>, Shawn Raymundo <rraymundo@guam.gannett.com>, "Stephen P. Hattori" <sphattori@guampdsc.net>, "susan. reyes" <susan.reyes@gpd.guam.gov>, Valerie Cruz <vcruz@guamcourts.org>, bmomayor@teleguam.net, hagatnamayor@hotmail.com, mcogadmin@teleguam.net, mtm\_mayors\_office@yahoo.com, nblas\_mangilaomayor@yahoo.com, peter\_daigo@hotmail.com, pitimayor@yahoo.com, talofofomayor@gmail.com, vicemayor\_allan.ungacta@yahoo.com, Agat <agatmayorsoffice@hotmail.com>, Anthony Sanchez <yigovice@gmail.com>, Barrigada MayorsOffice <broadmin@teleguam.net>, Dale Alvarez <dalealvarez@gmail.com>, Diana Sojo <yigomayorsoffice@gmail.com>, Doris Lujan <mayordorisfloreslujan@gmail.com>, Ernest Chargualaf - Merizo <mayoremestc@yahoo.com>, inarajan municipality <inarajanmayorsoffice@gmail.com>, Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>, Joana Margaret Blas <mayorjmcblas@gmail.com>, ken ada <kenjoeadada@yahoo.com>, "Mayor Louise C. Rivera" <mayorlcrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>, "Mayor Paul M. McDonald" <mayor.mcdonald671@gmail.com>, "melissa.savares@gmail.com" <melissa.savares@gmail.com>, Robert Hofmann <guammayor@gmail.com>, rudy iriarte <rudyiriarte@gmail.com>, Umatac Mayor <umatacmo@gmail.com>, "Vice Mayor Ken C. Santos" <vicemayorksantos.tatuha@gmail.com>, janela@k57.com, news@k57.com, news@kuam.com, parroyo@k57.com, Gaynor Daleno <gdumat-ol@guam.gannett.com>, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Jerick Sablan <jpsablan@guampdn.com>, Krystal Paco <krystal@kuam.com>, Mar-vic Cagurangan <marvic.cagurangan@yahoo.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, Shawn Raymundo <rraymundo@guampdn.com>, Steve Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, Benjamin Sison <jinapsan@hotmail.com>, amendiola@guamcourts.org, mthompson@tgalaw.net, Dana Gutierrez <dgutierrez@guamcourts.org>, gconcepcion@guamlawfirm.com, Harold Parker <harold.parker@guamlsc.org>, info@ecubelaw.com, mpangelinan@calvofisher.com, "Deputy A.G. Phil Tydingco" <ptydingco@guamag.org>, Jehan'Ad Martinez <jgmartinez@bsjmlaw.com>

July 29, 2016

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

Fr: SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.

Subject: 2ND Notice – Confirmation Hearing on Appointment of Magistrate Judge on Tuesday, August 02, 2016 at 5: 30 PM

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*Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase!*

—  
Thanks!

Office of Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr.

Committee on Guam US Military Relocation, Public Safety, and Judiciary

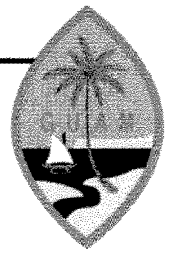
SUITE 503, DNA BLDG. 238 ARCHBISHOP FLORES STREET HAGATÑA, GUAM 96910

Tel: (671) 475-GUM1/2 (4861/2)

Fax: (671) GUM3 (4863)

[aguon4guam@gmail.com](mailto:aguon4guam@gmail.com) | [www.frankaguonjr.com](http://www.frankaguonjr.com)

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July 29, 2016

MEMORANDUM

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Vice Chairman

Vice-Speaker  
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Member

Senator  
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Member

Senator  
James V. Espaldon  
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Senator  
Brant T. McCreddie  
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Speaker  
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July 26, 2016

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Ex-Officio

The Honorable Edward J. Calvo  
Governor of Guam

513 West Marine Corps Drive  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Sent via email to: [governor@guam.gov](mailto:governor@guam.gov)

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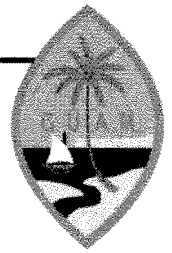
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PHONE: (671) 475-GUM1/2 (4861/2) | FAX: (671) 475-GUM3 (4863) | EMAIL: [AGUON4GUAM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AGUON4GUAM@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.FRANKAGUONJR.COM](http://WWW.FRANKAGUONJR.COM)



July 26, 2016

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The Honorable Ray Tenorio  
Lieutenant Governor of Guam  
513 West Marine Corps Drive  
Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
Sent via email to: [ray.tenorio@guam.gov](mailto:ray.tenorio@guam.gov)

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The Honorable Robert J. Torres, Jr.  
Chief Justice of Guam  
Judiciary of Guam

Suite 300, Guam Judicial Center 120 West O'Brien Drive  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Sent via email to: [rjtorres@guamsupremecourt.com](mailto:rjtorres@guamsupremecourt.com)

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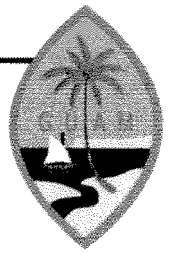
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Mr. Joshua Tenorio  
Administrator of Courts  
Judiciary of Guam  
Suite 300, Guam Judicial Center 120 West O'Brien Drive  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910  
Sent via email to: [jtenorio@guamcourts.org](mailto:jtenorio@guamcourts.org)

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July 26, 2016

**The Honorable Elizabeth Barrett Anderson**  
**Attorney General of Guam**

590 S. Marine Corps Drive

ITC Bldg., Suite 706

Tamuning, Guam 96913

Sent via email to: [ebanderson@guamag.org](mailto:ebanderson@guamag.org)

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*Un Dauekolo Na Si'au'os Ma'ase!*

**SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.**

Committee Chairman on Guam U.S. Military Relocation | Public Safety | Judiciary  
*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan* | 33rd Guam Legislature

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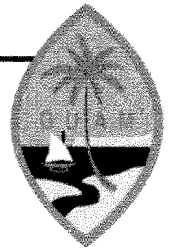
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Dr. Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Ex-Officio





July 26, 2016

**Attorney Jehan'ad G. Martinez**

**President and Chairman**

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238 Archbishop Flores St.

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Sent via email to: [jgmartinez@bsjmlaw.com](mailto:jgmartinez@bsjmlaw.com)

**Subject: INVITATION – Confirmation Hearing on Appointment of Magistrate Judge on Tuesday, August 02, 2016 at 5: 30 PM**

In accordance with the *Open Government Law of Guam*, relative to notice for public meetings, please be advised that the *Committee on Guam U.S. Military Relocation, Public Safety & Judiciary*, will convene a **Confirmation Hearing on Appointment of Magistrate Judge on August 02, 2016 at 5:30 PM.**

Included on the agenda are the following:

- **Doc 33GL-16-1586** – Confirmation Hearing on the appointment of **Attorney Benjamin C. Sison, Jr.** to serve as **Magistrate Judge** pursuant to 7 Guam Code Annotated §4401.

The Hearing will broadcast on local television, *GTA Channel 21 and Docomo Channel 117* or streamed online at: [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com).

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*Un Dangkol Na Sa' u'os ma'ase!*

**SENATOR FRANK B. AGUON, JR.**

Committee Chairman on Guam U.S. Military Relocation | Public Safety | Judiciary

*I Mina' Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guahan* | 33rd Guam Legislature

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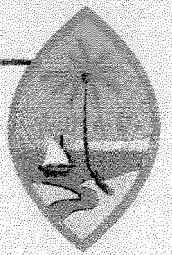
Updated: June 30, 2016

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Updated: June 30, 2016

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**CONFIRMATION HEARING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 5:30 PM**

*I Liheslaturan Guahan's Public Hearing Room, Hagåtña*

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order at 5:30PM**
- II. Opening remarks/Announcements**
  - Doc 33GL-16-1586 – Confirmation Hearing on the appointment of Benjamin C. Sison as Magistrate Judge for the Judiciary of Guam.
- III. Closing Remarks**
- IV. Adjournment**

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