

I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2006 (SECOND) Regular Session

Executive Committee

Resolution No. 136

Introduced by:

J. T. Won Pat

L.A. Leon Guerrero

Relative to commending and congratulating Attorney Therese M. Terlaje for her outstanding service as Legal Counsel to the Guam Legislature and as Counsel to the Democrat Senators of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the past ten years.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I
2 MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, Therese is one of ten children and the eldest daughter of
4 former Senator Edward and Shirley Terlaje of Yona; and

5 WHEREAS, upon graduating from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam,
6 pursued her undergraduate studies and was conferred a Bachelor of Science
7 in Biology in 1985 from Creighton University, a renowned and respected
8 private Catholic University in Omaha, Nebraska; and

9 WHEREAS, recognizing the need for attorneys, especially those rooted
10 on Guam with the desire to serve in the interest of the island and her people,
11 Therese was inspired to continue her education earning a degree of Juris
12 Doctor in 1989 from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); and

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ETOM

1 WHEREAS, while a first year law student at UCLA Therese served as
2 Co-Chair of the Asian and Pacific Law Students Association (APLSA),
3 Admissions Committee, and through her work to ensure that minority students were
4 treated equally, she was responsible for the admission of numerous minority and diversity
5 students to UCLA's Law School; and

6 WHEREAS, Therese made history when she became the first Pacific
7 Islander to chair the Asian and Pacific Law Students Association (APLSA), an
8 accomplishment unprecedented in which a woman of Pacific Islander
9 heritage won election to this seat; and,

10 WHEREAS, Therese was chosen by a coalition of all minority
11 organizations at UCLA as the single student representative to the faculty
12 counsel to negotiate proposed changes in diversity and minority student
13 admissions to law school; and

14 WHEREAS, Therese, despite the rigors of law school found time to play
15 intramural volleyball for a team in Santa Monica while living in California;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Therese is admitted to practice law in both California and
18 Guam;

19 WHEREAS, between the years 1990-1991, she worked as one of the
20 founding partners at the law firm of Torres, Phillips, Bordallo, Terlaje &
21 Barcinas, P.C.; and

22 WHEREAS, in late 1991, she started a new law firm known as Barcinas
23 & Terlaje, P.C.;

1 WHEREAS, Therese is an active member of the Democrat Party of
2 Guam where she has chaired the Platform Committee on a number of
3 occasions; and

4 WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Guam selected Therese to be the
5 keynote speaker at its annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner in 1994; and

6 WHEREAS, Therese attended the National Democrat Convention as a
7 Guam delegate in 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, Therese has represented the Democrat Party as their
9 representative to the Guam Election Commission for two terms; and

10 WHEREAS, Therese joined two other local attorneys in defending the
11 constitutionality of the Chamorro Land Trust Act and successfully obtained a
12 judgment compelling the Government of Guam to implement the Act; and

13 WHEREAS, Therese represented the *I Liheslaturan Guahan* in the original
14 Earned Income Tax Credit brought before the Supreme Court of Guam to
15 compel the executive branch to implement the EITC program and was
16 successful in obtaining a favorable Supreme Court decision upholding the
17 validity of EITC and the government's obligation to pay earned income
18 refunds; and

19 WHEREAS, Therese represented the Legislature in a lawsuit filed by
20 Governor Felix Camacho to invalidate the Legislature's authority to provide
21 the Lt. Governor and other executive branch agencies with independent
22 authority and successfully persuaded the Supreme Court that the Legislature
23 had the organic powers to create agencies outside the direct control of the
24 Governor of Guam; and

1 WHEREAS, Therese was a founding member of the Guam
2 Commonwealth Hearings Association, an organization that raised over
3 \$50,000 to send local residents to Hawaii for the first congressional hearings
4 on the Guam Draft Commonwealth Act; and

5 WHEREAS, Therese is a loving, devoted mother of three beautiful
6 daughters, Maria, Rita, and Arisa; and

7 WHEREAS, Therese and is a proud soccer Mom and can be seen
8 cheering proudly at Maria's soccer games; and

9 WHEREAS, Attorney Therese M. Terlaje has dedicated her professional
10 law career for the past decade as legal counsel to the Guam Legislature and
11 Counsel to the Democrat Senators of the *I Liheslaturan Guahan*; now, therefore
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina Bente Ocho Na*
14 *Liheslaturan Guahan*, does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* and the
15 people of Guam commend and congratulate Attorney Therese M. Terlaje for
16 her outstanding service as legal counsel to the Guam Legislature and the
17 Counsel to the Democratic Senators of the *I Liheslaturan Guahan* for the past
18 ten years; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify and the Chairman of the Executive
20 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest the adoption
21 hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. and Mrs.
22 Edward Terlaje, parents of Attorney Therese Terlaje; and the Honorable Felix
23 P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guahan*.

1 DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I
2 *MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* ON THE ____ DAY OF FEBRUARY,
3 2006.

Mark Forbes

Speaker

Eddie J. B. Calvo

Senator and Legislative Secretary