

**I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN  
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
66-38 (COR)	Telo T. Taitague Frank F. Blas, Jr. Chris Barnett Therese M. Terlaje Joe S. San Agustin Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Sabrina Salas Matanane Jesse A. Lujan William A. Parkinson Vincent A.V. Borja V. Anthony Ada Shelly V. Calvo Tina Rose Muña Barnes Sabina Flores Perez Christopher M. Dueñas	Relative to recognizing and congratulating the Public Defender Service Corporation (PDSC) on the occasion of its Fiftieth (50th) Year Anniversary; and commending the PDSC for its commitment and dedication to providing effective legal assistance to those unable to afford private counsel.	6/26/25 4:39 p.m.	7/11/25 11:15 a.m.						

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2025 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 66-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague  
Frank F. Blas, Jr.  
Chris Barnett  
Therese M. Terlaje  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao  
Sabrina Salas Matanane  
Jesse A. Lujan  
William A. Parkinson  
Vincent A.V. Borja  
V. Anthony Ada  
Shelly V. Calvo  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Christopher M. Dueñas

**Relative to recognizing and congratulating the Public Defender Service Corporation (PDSC) on the occasion of its Fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) Year Anniversary; and commending the PDSC for its commitment and dedication to providing effective legal assistance to those unable to afford private counsel.**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**  
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** the concept of free legal assistance in Guam emerged in response  
4 to the landmark 1963 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which  
5 required states to provide counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases; and

1           **WHEREAS**, one of the core principles affirmed in the 1966 U.S. Supreme Court  
2 decision *Miranda v. Arizona* is a person’s right to counsel; and

3           **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the fundamental rights established by *Gideon* and  
4 *Miranda*, the Public Defender Service Corporation (PDSC) was conceived to provide  
5 effective legal aid and assistance to those persons in Guam who are unable to afford  
6 private counsel; and

7           **WHEREAS**, in 1968, the PDSC was launched under the Judicare Program,  
8 within the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS). The program  
9 was comprised of a Public Defender, an Attorney II, an Administrative Law Secretary,  
10 a Special Investigator, and a General Helper, and was created to provide legal advice  
11 and representation to indigent persons in civil, criminal, and juvenile proceedings; and

12           **WHEREAS**, in 1972, the PDSC was removed from DPHSS and established as a  
13 separate office through the enactment of Public Law 11-128, which created the Office  
14 of the Public Defender. This law provided for the appointment of the Public Defender  
15 by the Governor, along with the authority to hire personnel needed to fulfill the office’s  
16 mission; and

17           **WHEREAS**, in 1975, Bill No. 291-13 was enacted as Public Law 13-051,  
18 officially marking the inception of the PDSC as an autonomous corporation governed  
19 by a Board of Trustees, and establishing it as the primary legal aid organization serving  
20 Guam’s indigent population; and

21           **WHEREAS**, Public Law 13-051 not only ensured that those unable to afford an  
22 attorney in criminal matters would be provided free, effective, and competent counsel,  
23 but also recognized what is referred to, today, as ‘Civil Gideon,’ which describes the  
24 legal movement that seeks to extend the right to counsel to civil matters involving basic  
25 human needs, such as housing, health, and child custody ; and

26           **WHEREAS**, through this visionary legislation, the PDSC’s Civil Law Center  
27 (CLC), a separate and distinct office within the Corporation, has been able to achieve

1 Civil Gideon for fifty (50) years, providing civil legal aid and representation to those  
2 deemed indigent that included, domestic and family matters, protective orders,  
3 guardianships over minors and incompetent/disabled adults, bankruptcy, tenant housing  
4 issues, name change, establishment of paternity, right of sepulcher, power of attorneys,  
5 wills, health care directives, uncontested probates, war claims, court-appointed  
6 representation in involuntary commitment proceedings and in juvenile special  
7 proceedings involving child abuse matter, and other civil legal assistance and  
8 representations that adversely affected a person’s basic human rights ; and

9       **WHEREAS**, Guam’s implementation of Civil Gideon surpassed many  
10 jurisdictions across the United States when, which gained national momentum in the  
11 early 2000s and was formally supported by the American Bar Association (“ABA”)  
12 2006 Resolution 112A urging federal, state, and territorial governments to provide legal  
13 counsel as a matter of right at public expense to low-income persons in those categories  
14 of adversarial proceedings where basic human needs are at stake, such as those  
15 involving shelter, sustenance, safety, health or child custody, as determined by each  
16 jurisdiction; and

17       **WHEREAS**, in 1978, Public Law 14-98 granted the PDSC authority to represent  
18 claimants in federal land takings cases on Guam. The law charged the PDSC with  
19 exerting every effort to ensure that fair compensation is awarded to those landowners,  
20 their heirs and/or legatees who were paid less than fair market value as a result of (1)  
21 duress, unfair influence or other unconscionable action; or (2) unfair, unjust or  
22 inequitable actions of the United States, as mandated by Section 204(a) of U.S. Public  
23 Law 95-134. This responsibility became a primary focus for the PDSC, leading to the  
24 creation of its Land Taking Claims Division and resulting in the successful resolution  
25 of numerous cases in favor of the people of Guam; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in 1978, the PDSC also played a key role in organizing the Guam  
2 Legal Services Corporation (GLSC), which was formally established in 1981 to provide  
3 additional civil legal aid to those in need; and

4           **WHEREAS**, through Public Law 15-180, the Land Taking Claims Division  
5 merged fully with the PDSC, which, during that period managed its highest caseload  
6 since its inception - handling as many as six thousand (6,000) cases annually, compared  
7 to three thousand (3,000) cases in prior years.

8           **WHEREAS**, throughout the 1980s, the PDSC expanded and strengthened its  
9 investigative divisions through the hiring of additional investigators and enhanced  
10 training, allowing the PDSC to provide more efficient and effective investigative  
11 support to its clients; and

12           **WHEREAS**, in 2004, the PDSC established the Alternate Public Defender  
13 (APD) Office to represent indigent clients in cases where the PDSC has a conflict of  
14 interest. The APD currently consists of six (6) attorneys and eight (8) support staff, and  
15 is led by Managing Attorney Ana Maria Gayle; and

16           **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the PDSC partnered with the DPHSS Division of Senior  
17 Citizens to launch the Guam Elder Justice Center (EJC), a program providing legal  
18 services to individuals age sixty (60) and older with the greatest economic or social  
19 need. The EJC became a permanent division within the government of Guam in October  
20 2021, further expanding the services of the PDSC through the Civil Law Center under  
21 Managing Attorney Carol Hinkle-Sanchez and a team of three (3) attorneys and six (6)  
22 support staff; and

23           **WHEREAS**, to date, the PDSC has opened over one hundred twenty thousand  
24 (120,000) client files and has employed more than one hundred (100) attorneys,  
25 supported by dedicated legal secretaries, investigators, process servers, paralegals,  
26 social workers, and administrative staff in carrying out its mission; and

1           **WHEREAS**, For the past fifty (50) years, the PDSC has steadfastly advanced its  
2 mission by providing high-quality legal assistance to those unable to afford private  
3 counsel, and has grown into a respected criminal defense organization, now comprised  
4 of sixteen (16) attorneys and forty (40) professional support staff, under the leadership  
5 of Executive Director Stephen P. Hattori; and

6           **WHEREAS**, the PDSC, APD, and the CLC continue to advocate for all indigent  
7 individuals – whether accused of crimes or facing civil legal challenges - upholding the  
8 U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of the right to counsel and ensuring that justice for all is  
9 not just a phrase, but a reality in Guam’s legal system; and

10          **WHEREAS**, the PDSC's vision is to maintain a dynamic, efficient, and client-  
11 focused environment for both its clients and employees while steadfastly defending  
12 justice and equality for the people of Guam; now therefore, be it

13          **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na*  
14 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people  
15 of Guam, recognize and congratulate the Public Defender Service Corporation (PDSC)  
16 on the occasion of its Fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) Year Anniversary; and commending the PDSC for  
17 its commitment and dedication to providing effective legal assistance to those unable to  
18 afford private counsel; and be it further

19          **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules  
20 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
21 the same be thereafter transmitted to Stephen P. Hattori, Executive Director of the  
22 Public Defender Service Corporation; to the Honorable Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief  
23 Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the  
24 Public Defender Service Corporation; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero,  
25 *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF  
*I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE        DAY  
OF MONTH 2025.**

---

**Frank F. Blas, Jr.**  
**Speaker**

---

**V. Anthony Ada**  
**Chairperson, Committee on Rules**

---

**Sabrina Salas Matanane**  
**Legislative Secretary**