



Office of the Attorney General of Guam

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oral Arguments in Plebiscite Case

October 12, 2018, Tamuning, Guam- The hearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals took place yesterday at William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii to a packed room of law students and lawyers. The three-judge panel of federal appellate judges heard several immigration cases from the CNMI prior to oral arguments in Guam's plebiscite case.

Special Assistant Attorney General Julian Aguon was the first to argue on Guam's behalf defending the territory's plebiscite statute, passed in 1996, seeking the will of native inhabitants on Guam's political self-determination vote.

"The federal judges appeared very receptive to our legal argument that ancestry should not be viewed in Guam's case as a pretext to racial discrimination because that was not the intent of the law, nor is there evidence to support such a contention," said Attorney General Barrett-Anderson.

"The judges were very engaged in back-and-forth questioning with both sides. It is clear that the legal issues in Guam's case have far reaching constitutional impact."

"The judges submitted the case for decision which may take a few months to issue. I believe we did very well," she finished.

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