



Miguel S. Demapan

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan is the third chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which was established in 1988.

Justice Demapan is one of nine children, born and raised on Saipan. He began his academic distinction early when he graduated as class valedictorian of Marianas High School in 1971. Originally interested in pursuing a medical career, Justice Demapan attended Seattle University in Washington under a Trust Territory Full Scholarship. He received his Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in chemistry in 1975. He then earned a Masters in Business Administration with honors from Golden Gate University in San Francisco in 1983. He finally settled on a career in law after earning his Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University in California in 1985. In May of 2005, he received a Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Guam.

Upon his return to Saipan, Justice Demapan embarked on a legal career, beginning as general counsel for J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. He then opened a solo private practice. A few years later, the law offices of Demapan and Atalig were representing major business and local clients. Also during his private practice, Justice Demapan served as a member of the CNMI Tax Task Force.

The Chief Justice first joined the judiciary in November 1992, when he became an Associate Judge for the Commonwealth Superior Court. In July 1998, he was appointed to the Commonwealth Supreme Court as an Associate Justice. In July 1999, after being nominated by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Miguel S. Demapan was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Commonwealth Supreme Court.

Aside from his duties and responsibilities under Section 9 of Article IV of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Chief Justice Demapan's activities include:

- Chairman, Commonwealth Judicial Council • Chairman, Commonwealth Law Revision Commission
- Chairman, Criminal Justice Planning Agency Supervisory Council
- Judge Pro Tem, Supreme Court of Guam
- Judge Pro Tem, Superior Court of Guam
- President, Pacific Judicial Council (2000-2002) and (2008 – present)

- Member, Conference of Chief Justices (U.S.A.)
- Board of Directors, United States Conference of Chief Justices (2002-2003)
- Chairman, Resolutions Committee, United States Conference of Chief Justices (Former)
- Member, Asia Pacific Conference of Chief Justices
- Member, CNMI Federal Bench Council
- Member, World Jurist Association

Demapan and his wife, Frances Tenorio Demapan, have five children.