



The Honorable Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood Chief Judge, U.S. District Court of Guam

CHIEF JUDGE OF GUAM'S FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT

In July 2005, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam, recommended Frances to the President of the United States, the Honorable George W. Bush, for nomination as the Chief Judge for the District Court of Guam. On April 25, 2006, President Bush officially nominated her to be Guam's District Court Chief Judge. On July 11, 2006, a hearing was held before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, during which Congressional Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo testified and recommended her confirmation. On August 4, 2006, Frances was confirmed as the Chief Judge of the District Court of Guam. On October 30, 2006, she was sworn in as the Chief Judge of the District Court of Guam – Guam's First Chamorro Woman Chief Judge.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ON GUAM

On September 1, 2001, then-Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez appointed Frances to an Associate Guam Supreme Court Justice position. She served in this position from February 8, 2002 to October 27, 2006.

TRIAL JUDGE ON GUAM

In 1994, Frances was appointed to a trial judge position in the Superior Court of Guam by then-Governor Joseph F. Ada. Her appointment and confirmation are a source of much pride for our island community; she is a daughter of Guam and its first Chamorro woman judge. She has authored hundreds of decisions and orders as a trial judge. She has presided over numerous cases, including high profile criminal cases. She served in this position from 1994 to 2002.

PROSECUTOR ON GUAM AND IN MISSOURI

From 1984 to 1988, Frances became the first Chamorro woman assistant attorney general on Guam. During this time period, she earned a reputation for being a tough, yet fair prosecutor. She prosecuted many major felonies, including murder, robbery, rape, and drug cases. She was an assistant prosecutor with the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office in Missouri from 1988 to 1990. During this time, Frances prosecuted major felony cases, including homicide and drug cases, and served as the Trial Team Leader for the Sex Crimes Unit. She supervised several attorneys and staff members while serving as the Trial Team Leader. In 1990, Frances returned home to become Guam's first Chamorro woman Chief Prosecutor and served in that capacity until 1994. She supervised many lawyers and staff of the Prosecution Division while at the same time handling a substantial felony case load. She worked as a designated Federal Prosecutor for the United States Attorney's Offices on Guam from 1985 to 1988 and 1990 to 1994 and in Kansas City, Missouri from 1989 to 1990.

LAW CLERK

Frances realized her goal of becoming a lawyer at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, and her first legal foray was as the law clerk for the Honorable Forest W. Hanna, Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Circuit Courts in Kansas City, Missouri, from 1983 to 1984.

EDUCATION

Frances Tydingco-Gatewood obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1980 at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Guam's Professional Technical Scholarship. In 1983, Frances obtained her Juris Doctorate law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

FEDERAL JUDICIARY COMMITTEES

Frances is a member of three federal committees: the Conference of Chief District Judges, the Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges, and the Ninth Circuit's Pacific Islands Committee.

PACIFIC JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Frances is also the Treasurer for the Pacific Judicial Council. The Pacific Judicial Council is comprised of Justices and Judges from Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, American Samoa, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. The mission of the council is to promote judicial education for all of its island court members and their staff.