

TITLE IV

United States Judicial Authority

Section 401. The Northern Mariana Islands shall constitute a judicial district of the United States. There shall be in the judicial district of the Northern Mariana Islands a District Court which shall be a court of record known as the "United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands" which shall be a court of the United States and a District Court of the United States. The judicial district of the Northern Mariana Islands shall be within the same judicial circuit as is the judicial district of the State of Hawaii.

Section 402. (a) The President shall nominate and by with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a District Judge for the judicial district of the Northern Mariana Islands, who shall hold office for a term of eight years, and until a successor is chosen and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President for cause.

(b) Until such time as a District Judge for the judicial district of the Northern Mariana Islands is chosen and qualified in accordance with Subsection (a) of this Section and whenever thereafter it is made to appear that such an assignment is necessary for the proper dispatch of the business of the Court, the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States may assign the Judge of the District Court

of Guam or a Circuit or District Judge of the Ninth Circuit, or the Chief Justice of the United States may assign any other United States Circuit or District Judge with the consent of the Judge so assigned and of the Chief Judge of his Circuit, to serve temporarily as a Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Section 403. The United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands shall have the same jurisdiction as a United States District Court for a District within the State of the Union. In addition, the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands shall have the jurisdiction conferred upon it by Section _____ of this Agreement [naturalization], and such original and appellate jurisdiction as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide.

Section 404. (a) For purposes of appeals from decisions of the federal Courts of Appeals to the Supreme Court of the United States, for purposes of review by the Supreme Court of final judgments and decrees, and for purposes of the original jurisdiction of the District Courts based on diversity of citizenship, the Northern Mariana Islands shall be treated as if it were a State of the Union.

(b) The laws of the United States which govern the relations between the Courts of the United States and the Courts of the several States with respect to appeals, certiorari, removal of causes, issuance of writs of habeas corpus, and other matters or proceedings shall govern the relations between the Courts of the United States and the local courts of the Northern Mariana Islands as if the Northern Mariana Islands were a State of the Union.