

DRAFT
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TITLE IV

UNITED STATES JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

Section 401.(a) There shall be established by the United States for and within the Northern Mariana Islands, a court of record to be known as the "District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands."

(b) The President of the United States shall nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a district judge for the District Court for 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 [, provided however that if the President appoints an incumbent judge of the District Court of Guam to be the judge of the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, his term as such judge shall not extend beyond that as judge of the District Court of Guam].

Section 402. The District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands shall have the same jurisdiction as a district court of the United States [, except that in all causes arising under the Constitution, treaties and laws of the United States it shall have jurisdiction regardless of the sum or value of the matter in controversy]; shall also have such jurisdiction as is otherwise conferred upon it by this Agreement; and shall also

have such additional original and such appellate jurisdiction as the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands may provide.

(b) The Northern Mariana Islands shall be within the same judicial circuit as is the Territory of Guam, and appeals from reviewable decisions of the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands shall be taken to the same court of appeals as appeals from the District Court of Guam.

Section 403(a) For purposes of review by the Supreme Court of the United States of judgments and decrees of courts of the United States, and for purposes of the original jurisdiction of the district courts of the United States 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 courts established by the Northern Mariana Islands as if the Northern Mariana Islands were a State of the Union.