

September 6, 1974

TITLE IV

United States Judicial Authority

U. S. Version

MPSC Version

Section 401. The United States will provide for the Northern Mariana Islands a District Court which shall be a court of record.

Section 401. (a) The United States shall establish 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 shall nominate and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, 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.

[U.S. suggests following addition to MPSC § 401(b): between "cause" and the period insert: ", 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. [(a)] The District Court [MPSC: for the Northern Mariana Islands] shall have the jurisdiction of 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 without regard of the sum or value of the matter in controversy; shall have original jurisdiction in all other causes in the Northern Mariana Islands, jurisdiction over which has not been transferred by the legislature to another court established by the Constitution or laws of the Northern Mariana Islands; shall have such additional jurisdiction as is conferred on it by other Sections of this Agreement; and shall have such appellate jurisdiction as the legislature shall determine.

[(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.