

SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

SAIPAN, CM 96950

Telephone

6517/6572

Officers

Herman T. Guerrero, President
Vicente M. Calvo, 1st Vice President
David M. Cing, 2nd Vice President
Maria T. Pangellinan, 3rd Vice President
William B. Nabors, Convention Secretary
Juan T. Lizama, Floor Leader

Members

Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero
Alonzo Iglisomar
David L. Igitol
Rita H. Inos
Benusto R. Kaipat
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Paul A. Manglona
James M. Mendiola
Aniceto H. Mundo
Felicidad T. Ogumoro
Karl T. Reyes
Joaquin A. Tenorio
Francisco Tomokane
William S. Torres
Ramon G. Villagomez
Ignacio Villanueva

REPORT TO THE CONVENTION BY THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Subject: Committee Recommendation No. 58

Your Committee on Governmental Institutions recommends to the Convention, meeting as Committee of the Whole, adoption of Delegate Proposal No. 157-85 with respect to Commonwealth Trial and Appeals Courts and the qualifications of a judge.

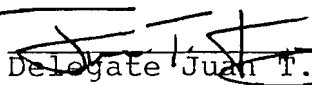
The Committee's recommended constitutional amendment will clarify the intent of Section 2 and Section 3 of Article IV and it will make the language of the Constitution more current and up-to-date.

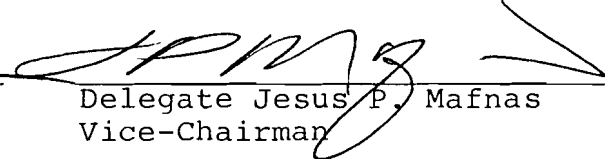
Delegate Proposals

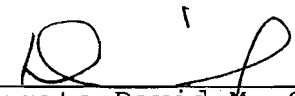
The Committee considered Delegate Proposals Nos. 38-85, 61-85, 98-85, 152-85, 157-85, 173-85 and 178-85.


The Committee strongly urges all Convention delegates to support this recommendation for a constitutional amendment.

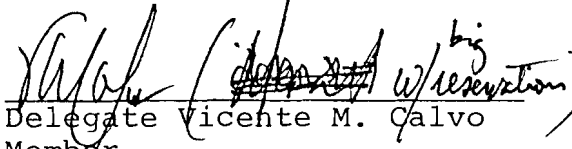
Respectfully submitted,



Delegate Juan T. Lizama
Chairman



Delegate Jesus P. Mafnas
Vice-Chairman


Delegate David M. Cing
Member


Delegate Benusto R. Kaipat
Member


Delegate Vicente M. Calvo
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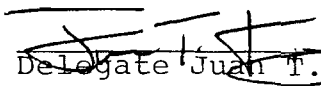
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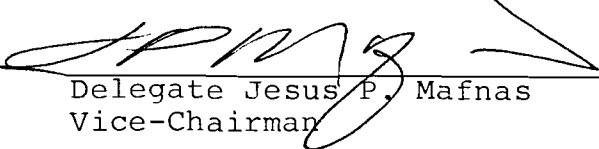
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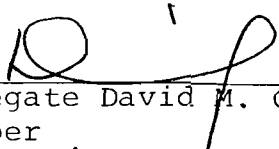
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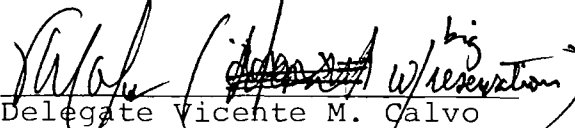
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Member


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Delegate Vicente M. Calvo
Member


Delegate Felicidad T. Ogumoro
Member


Delegate Alonzo Igisomar
Member

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

To amend Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Article IV of the Northern Marianas Constitution relating to the Judicial Branch.

BE IT ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

Upon ratification pursuant to Section 5 of Article XVIII of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution and Public Law No. 4-30, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is amended as follows:

1. Effective upon ratification, Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Article IV is amended to read:

"Section 2. Commonwealth Trial Court. The Commonwealth trial court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases in equity and in all cases at law which involve land in the Commonwealth, and in all other civil actions. The court shall also have original jurisdiction in all criminal actions. At least one full-time judge shall be assigned to civil and criminal actions filed in Rota and Tinian. The legislature shall determine the number of judges.

"Section 3. Commonwealth Appeals Court. The legislature may establish a Commonwealth appeals court to hear those appeals from judgments and orders of the Commonwealth trial court."

Committee on Governmental Institutions

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8 criminal actions filed in Rota and Tinian. The legislature shall determine
9 the number of judges.

10 "Section 3. Commonwealth Appeals Court. The legislature may
11 establish a Commonwealth appeals court to hear those appeals from
12 judgments and orders of the Commonwealth trial court."

13 "Section 4. Appointment and Qualifications. The governor shall appoint
14 judges of the Commonwealth courts with the advice and consent of the senate.
15 The judges of the Commonwealth courts shall be elected at large within the
16 Commonwealth at the time at which a governor is elected upon the adoption of
17 this section. The term of office shall be as provided by law, except that
18 no judge shall serve his office for more than six years. A judge shall be at
19 least thirty five years of age, a citizen or national of the United States
20 and possess other qualifications provided by law."
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