



Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention -2796-

Delegate Amendment No. 011

Date: July 21, 1995

ARTICLE AND SECTION TO BE AMENDED: Article IV, Section 9(c)

COMMITTEE ASSIGNED: Committee on Judiciary and Other Elected Offices


It is proposed that the article passed on first reading be amended as follows:

Article IV

Section 9: Administrative

(c) The supreme court has administrative and policy authority with respect to the judicial branch and shall promulgate rules of the courts with respect to appellate procedure, civil and criminal procedure, assignment of judges to Rota and Tinian for effective judicial service for the people of those islands, attorney admission and discipline, governance of the bar, court fees, judicial and professional ethics, duties and responsibilities of the presiding judge and court officials, establishment of special sections or divisions for particular subject matters, mandatory arbitration of claims for less than \$25,000, and all other matters pertaining the administration of the judicial branch.

Submitted by:



Delegate VICENTE S. ALDAN

Notes: This provision would require the Supreme Court to establish, by its rules, a system of mandatory arbitration of disputes involving claims of less than \$25,000. This would provide flexibility in setting up the system. The courts would not have to decide these smaller cases unless one of the parties challenged the arbitration proceeding on the basis of the qualifications of the arbitrators to be fair and neutral, fraud, or going beyond the matter submitted for arbitration.