

June 1, 1995

Memo for the Legal Team

From: Deanne Siemer

Re: Article 12

Brian McMahon called to request that we consider an amendment to the definition of Northern Marianas descent in Article 12, Section 4, to cover Chamorros who from Guam who came to the Northern Marianas from Guam in German times. Apparently there was significant migration out of Guam in the period around 1910 due to homestead incentives in Saipan.

Chamorros from Guam who resided in Saipan from 1910 through 1950 would not qualify as persons of Northern Marianas descent because, although domiciled in the Northern Marianas, they were not citizens of the Trust Territory as Guam was not part of the TTPI. There was a naturalization program in the 1960s, but some of these people did not take part.

This issue came up recently in litigation that Brian has been handling. He believes there are 200 or so people in this class (Guamanian Chamorros who were in Saipan before the WWII but who were not naturalized and therefore never had TT citizenship) and many people now resident in the CNMI who claim their Northern Marianas descent through these people.

{ 322-0843
Bernice }