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NoraV Borja

IN THE
SUPREME COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF COURTROOM ATTIRE

SUPREME COURT NO. 2021-ADM-0014-MSC

ORDER ESTABLISHING NEW COURTROOM AND WORK ATTIRE POLICY

¶ 1 On July 11, 2000, General Order No. 2000-100 (“General Order”) established a guideline of acceptable courtroom attire for all attorneys and Judiciary staff appearing before the Supreme Court.

¶ 2 The Court recognizes the need for a new General Order to include acceptable courtroom and work attire for all attorneys, their staff, and Judiciary staff appearing before and working at both the Supreme Court and Superior Court. Attorneys and their staff attending proceedings in the courtroom(s) of the Guma’ Hustisia, Centron Hustisia, Kotten Tinian, or other Judiciary facilities, shall be dressed appropriately so as to maintain the dignity, integrity, decorum, seriousness, and professional atmosphere of the court and the administration of justice. Clothes and appearance must not be disruptive to the judicial process.

¶ 3 With the recent conclusion of Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month in September and upcoming Commonwealth Cultural Day in October, the Court is given occasion to promote the appreciation of our island heritage, while maintaining a sense of professionalism in Judiciary facilities. The Court recognizes the importance of celebrating our island heritage by the use of island print attire, mwar mwar, and flower leis. Attorneys, their staff, and Judiciary employees are especially encouraged to celebrate our island heritage in their attire each Friday.

¶ 4 WHEREFORE, the Court on its own motion rescinds the General Order and establishes a new acceptable courtroom and work attire policy for all attorneys, their staff, and Judiciary staff appearing before and working at the Supreme Court and Superior Court as follows:

Effective October 4, 2021, attorneys and their staff attending courtroom proceedings in Guma’ Hustisia, Centron Hustisia, Kotten Tinian, or other Judiciary facilities, shall adhere to the following appropriate attire.

Appropriate attire includes:

- Men's business suit and tie
- Women's pantsuit or dress suit
- Dress pants and dress shirt with tie
- Blouse with a blazer or jacket
- Dress with blazer or jacket
- Dress shoes or women's pumps

Prohibited attire includes:

- Island shirts and dresses, except for instances listed below.
- Jeans or shorts
- Leggings
- Extremely short skirts or dresses
- See-through blouses
- Halter Tops
- Midriffs
- Athletic shoes, zoris or thong slippers

Further, in celebration of our island heritage, attorneys, their staff, and Judiciary employees may use island print attire, mwar mwar, and flower leis on Fridays in the courtroom(s) or Judiciary facilities. This order shall be read consistent with the Judiciary [Employee] Dress Code adopted July 24, 2013. Persons unable to comply with this Order because of medical reasons are excused.

¶ 5

SO ORDERED this 4th day of October, 2021.

/s/
ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/s/
JOHN A. MANGLONA
Associate Justice

/s/
PERRY B. INOS
Associate Justice