IN THE

SUPREME COURT

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF COURTROOM ATTIRE

SUPREME COURT NO. 2024-ADM-0015-MSC

COURTROOM AND WORK ATTIRE POLICY OF 2024

¶ 1   In 2000, General Order No. 2000-100 established a guideline of acceptable courtroom attire for attorneys and Judiciary staff appearing before the Supreme Court. In 2021, recognizing the importance of our island heritage, we established a new set of appropriate attire to include island print, mwar mwar, and flower leis on Fridays, and applied the attire policy to all attorneys, their staff, and Judiciary staff appearing before and working at both the Supreme Court and Superior Court. *See* 2021-ADM-0014-MSC, *In re Matter of Courtroom Attire*.

¶ 2   In recognition of September being Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month and the upcoming Cultural Day holiday in October, we further amend the courtroom and work attire policy to permit the wearing of lighatúttúr and sinahi. Effective immediately, attorneys, their staff, and judiciary staff shall adhere to these guidelines.

¶ 3   Appropriate attire includes:

- Business suit and tie
- Pantsuit or dress suit
- Dress pants and dress shirt with tie
- Blouse with a blazer or jacket
- Dress with blazer or jacket
- Dress shoes, inclusive of dress pumps/heels
- Sinahi or lighatúttúr (may be worn in addition to, or in place of a tie)
- On Fridays, island print, mwar mwar, and flower leis

¶ 4   Prohibited attire includes:

- Jeans or shorts
- Leggings
- Unreasonably short skirts or dresses
- See-through blouses
- Halter Tops
- Clothing which bares the midriff

¶ 5   This order shall be read consistent with the Judiciary [Employee] Dress Code adopted July 24, 2013, and Court Order 2021-ADM-0014-MSC. Persons unable to comply with this Order because of medical reasons are excused.

        SO ORDERED this 24th day of September, 2024.

/s/
ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/s/
JOHN A. MANGLONA
Associate Justice

/s/
PERRY B. INOS
Associate Justice