

Judges' Biography

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio

Judge Kim-Tenorio ascended to the bench on December 22, 2013. In 1997, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 2001, she graduated from New England School of Law with her Juris Doctor degree. Judge Kim-Tenorio is licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

In 2015, Judge Kim-Tenorio actively participated alongside other justice professionals in the implementation of the first ever Drug Court program in the CNMI. She oversees the program as the initial Drug Court judge.

On March 8, 2016, at the recommendation of Chief Judge Ramona Manglona of the NMI District Court, Judge Kim-Tenorio was appointed by United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas to serve as a designated judge in the District Court.

In September 2017, Judge Kim-Tenorio was appointed to preside over the Family Court docket.

Judge Kim-Tenorio served as the legal counsel for the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the CNMI, from February 2013 until her ascension in December 2013. Prior to that, she served as the legal counsel for the CNMI Lieutenant Governor, the CNMI Legislature, and was also in private practice.

Judge Kim-Tenorio greatly enjoys giving back to her community by volunteering much of her personal time to various organizations. Prior to becoming a judge, she served as a board member for the NMI chapter of the American Red Cross for almost nine years, an officer for the Marianas High School's Parent Teacher Association (the largest high school in the CNMI), and a coordinator on the CNMI High School Mock Trial competition. She has also been a trustee for the NMI Judiciary Historical Society since 2005.