

Stephen C. Woodruff

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Engaged in the practice of law for over twenty years with strong record of achievement of results for clients. More than sixteen years experience in private practice.

Practice of law presently limited to the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Formerly the leading immigration practitioner in the CNMI. Subjected to a campaign commencing in January of 2013 to destroy ability to advocate effectively in the CNMI on behalf of foreign nationals, the economically disadvantaged, and politically disenfranchised in ways offensive to prevailing political, economic, and social elites. That campaign began with an unprecedented action in January 2013 commenced in the CNMI Supreme Court by the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of the CNMI Bar Association seeking imposition an interim suspension from the practice of law wholly unsupported by the disciplinary rules and despite complete absence of legal standing or capacity on the part of the Disciplinary Committee to sue or be sued.

Following a compressed hearing schedule disallowing the time requested to meaningfully respond, and despite numerous irregularities, the CNMI Supreme Court proceeded to issue an interim suspension on February 1, 2013, effective immediately. This action triggered a summary suspension by the Board of Immigration Appeals from practice before the Board, immigration courts, and the Department of Homeland Security. That suspension can be set aside upon motion duly brought and supported, but such request has not been made as it is deemed preferable to concentrate instead on a limited number of matters and on defending against the wrongful disciplinary proceedings.

In the CNMI Superior Court, the campaign continued with proceedings where no charges were ever proven by evidence but instead procedural devices were employed to avoid decision on the merits and the Court proceeded to order disbarment in June of 2013. Timely appeal was taken to the CNMI Supreme Court. However, during the final months of 2013 and the first six months of 2014, a number of hostile actions were taken in the Superior Court. In December of 2015, a divided Commonwealth Supreme Court affirmed the Superior Court disbarment order. Currently presenting reasons in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Hawaii why reciprocal discipline is unwarranted.

Proven record of over 40 years working successfully in multi-cultural environments. Strong oral and written communication skills.

In 2014, unsuccessfully sought election to the Senate of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. In 2016 a delegate pledged to Bernie Sanders for the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in July, chairman of the Sanders preference group in the Northern Mariana Islands delegation, and the NMI Delegation representative to the Platform Committee.

EDUCATION

William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii, J.D., May 1994

University of Hawaii Law Review 1992- 94, Executive Editor - Production 1993-94

1993 American Jurisprudence Award for Excellence in Evidence

1992 Susan McKay Oral Advocacy Competition, Runner-up

National Moot Court Team 1992-93

American Inns of Court, Aloha Inn 1993-94

Phi Delta Phi

Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Student Organization/International Law Student Association 1991-94 ; President 1993-94

Student Representative, Library Committee 1992-93

Advocates for Public Interest Law

Pacific Islands Legal Studies Association

Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA

B.A., Politics and Economics (double major), 1974

R. E. Lee Research Scholar

LEGAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

PRIVATE PRACTICE OF LAW , Saipan, Mariana Islands Past and present clients include private individuals, corporations, public officials, the Mayor of Saipan, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, and the Marianas Public Land Trust	2000 - present
SENATE CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL , Legislative Bureau, Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	1998 - 2000 Saipan, Mariana Islands
SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL , Legislative Bureau, Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	1994 - 1998 Saipan, Mariana Islands
RESEARCH ASSISTANT , for Professor Jay Dratler, William S. Richardson School of Law University of Hawaii	1994 Honolulu, Hawaii
SUMMER LAW INTERN , Department of the Attorney General, Appellate Division, Honolulu, Hawaii	1993
RESEARCH ASSISTANT , for Professor Addison M. Bowman, William S. Richardson School of Law University of Hawaii	1992 - 1993 Honolulu, Hawaii

MAJOR PUBLISHED CASES

In Re: Petition of Maria Frica Tudela Pangelinan and Christina-Marie E. Sablan for Reapportionment and Redistricting, 2008 MP 12.

In Re: Petition of Maria Frica Tudela Pangelinan and Christina-Marie E. Sablan for Reapportionment and Redistricting, 2007 MP 14.

Atalig v. Inos, 2006 MP 1.

Rayphand v. Sablan, 95 F. Supp. 2d 1133 (D. Nor. Mar. I. 1999), *summarily affirmed sub nom. Torres v. Sablan*, 528 U.S. 1110, 120 S. Ct. 928 (2000).

Sablan v. Tenorio, 4 N.M.I. 351 (1996).

In re Status of Certain Tenth Legislature Bills, 1998 MP 3, 5 N.M.I. 155.

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. v. Marianas Public Land Trust, 1998 MP 1, 5 N.M.I. 150.

NON-LEGAL EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

OWNER-MANAGER , Pacific Vanguard, Saipan, Mariana Islands Consulting practice: economic analysis, public policy analysis and development, public relations and advertising, business advising and management assistance, computer selection and support, research and writing.	1984 - 1991
INSTRUCTOR , Computer courses, Northern Marianas College, Saipan, Mariana Islands	1990 - 1991
LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT Senate, Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature	1984 - 1991 Saipan, Mariana Islands
FOUNDER , Managing Director, Treasurer, Secretary Island Food & Beverage, Inc. (beachfront bar and restaurant)	1986 - 1989 Saipan, Mariana Islands
CHIEF CONSULTANT , Second Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention, Saipan, Mariana Islands	1985
ADVISOR , Task Force on Income and Sales Taxation and Business Incentives Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	1984 - 1985 Saipan, Mariana Islands
GENERAL PARTNER , Western Pacific Associates (management/consulting), Saipan, Mariana Islands Major projects: demonstration public bus system; invitational kit for Peace Corps/Micronesia.	1982 - 1983
PURCHASING MANAGER Hyatt Regency Saipan (formerly Saipan Continental Hotel)	1979 - 1982 Saipan, Mariana Islands
FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTROLLER Saipan Continental Hotel (now Hyatt Regency Saipan)	1977 - 1979 Saipan, Mariana Islands
PROOFREADER , Congress of Micronesia, Saipan, Mariana Islands	1977

RÉSUMÉ OF STEPHEN C. WOODRUFF

Page 3

MANAGER, M.S. Villagomez Enterprises (import, wholesale, and retail), Saipan, Mariana Islands 1976
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, Commissioner's Assistant, Municipal Government, Saipan, Mariana Islands 1974 - 1976

PUBLICATIONS

"Dekada aspirations equal CNMI's long-term best interest," SAIPAN TRIBUNE, June 19, 2005
"A New Beginning" AMERICAN PACIFIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE, January/February 2002
"Back to the Future?" AMERICAN PACIFIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE, November/December 2001
"Dollars and Sense," AMERICAN PACIFIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE, September/October 2001
"Politics and PSS," MARIANAS VARIETY, August 13, 2001
"Crisis Economics and Workforce Development," AMERICAN PACIFIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE, July/August 2001
"Facts about Leg. Initiative 10-8," MARIANAS VARIETY, Oct. 30, 1997 (analysis of proposed constitutional amendment revising and increasing the legislative budget ceiling)
"What voters need to know about . . . Legislative Initiative 10-3," MARIANAS VARIETY, Oct. 27, 1997 (analysis of proposed constitutional amendment concerning the Commonwealth Judicial branch)
"The 3rd Con Con and the Public," MARIANAS VARIETY, Feb. 5, 1996 through March 1, 1996 (critique of the work of the 1995 NMI Constitutional Convention, in a series of 20 columns appearing daily Monday-Friday)
Henderson v. Professional Coatings Corp.: Narrowing Third-Party Liability in Automobile Accidents, 15 U. HAW. L. REV. 353 (1993).
"The 'CARABAO EXPRESS' had a short life," GUAM BUSINESS NEWS, May 1983, Vol. 1, No. 3

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Delegate (pledged Bernie Sanders) & Platform Committee Member, 2016 Democratic National Convention
Coach, CNMI Mock Trial Competition, Calvary Christian Academy team, 4th place, 2000 & 2002
1997-98 Executive Transition Committee, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, subcommittees on Passport Office, Board of Parole, Board of Elections & Board of Professional Licensing, and Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, and Governor's Legal Counsel
CNMI Council of PTA, 1997-98 School Year, Director - Northern Region, Chair, Constitution and By-laws Committee
Tanapag Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, 1994-1998, President - 1997-98 School Year, Vice President - 1996-97 School Year
Saipan Chamber of Commerce - Member, 1984-91; Government Relations Committee, 1984-88; Chairman, Infrastructure Subcommittee of Ad hoc Committee on Economic Development Priorities, 1986; Group Leader, Economic Development Priorities Conference, 1985
Foreign Investment Practices Advisory Panel - Member, 1985-86, by appointment of the Lt. Governor