



**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE CORPORATION**  
(*Kotperasion Setbision Defensot Pupbleku*)

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE CORPORATION  
RELATIVE TO COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING  
MRS. BERNADETTE S.N. CHARGUALAF  
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE  
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE CORPORATION  
ON OCTOBER 17, 2014**

**RESOLUTION NO. PDSC 01-15**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Hon. Robert J. Torres, Jr.  
Chairman
- Hon. Alberto C. Lamorena, III  
Vice-Chairman
- Atty. Cynthia V. Ecube  
Member
- Atty. Donna Cruz  
Member
- Mrs. Annette Ada  
Member

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Eric D. Miller  
Director
- Bernadette S.N. Chargualaf  
Administrative Director

- WHEREAS,** on February 28, 1978, Bernadette S.N. Chargualaf ~ Bennette commenced her employment with the Public Defender Service Corporation (PDSC) as an Interviewer; and
- WHEREAS,** Bennette, a firm believer of education, requested for time off to pursue her degree. She graduated from Arizona State University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and returned back to PDSC; and
- WHEREAS,** during her 36 years of dedicated service, Bennette has excelled and was promoted to various positions within PDSC – Research Analyst, Special Investigator I, II & III, Program Coordinator IV; and
- WHEREAS,** for the last 20 years Bennette has held the position of Administrative Director for PDSC, which also included her appointment as Board Secretary for the Board of Trustees; and
- WHEREAS,** Bennette was instrumental in the creation and establishment of the Alternate Public Defender, from preparing their budget, hiring staff and purchasing furniture and equipment; and
- WHEREAS,** Bennette was successful in securing PDSC current location to include organizing the move from one location to another, ensuring that each division had their files, furniture and equipment packed, labeled and ready to transfer and then setting up the new location; and
- WHEREAS,** Bennette, who believes in leading by example, strived for excellence in achieving goals for PDSC through enhancement of programs and activities that provided for a more efficient and effective delivery of services to the people PDSC serves and ensuring that each fiscal year our budget was prepared and submitted and worked closely with our Legislative Chairman; and
- WHEREAS,** Bennette was instrumental in ensuring that the Competitive Wage Act of 2014 and the Law Enforcement Pay Plan was authorized for PDSC & APD through our Legislative Chair and once approved that the implementation was completed and employees were paid; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Trustees of the Public Defender Service Corporation in its meeting on October 28, 2014, hereby commends Administrative Director, Bernadette S.N. Chargualaf ~ Bennette for her outstanding duty and leadership while serving the Public Defender Service Corporation, and extends an *Un Dângkolo na Si Yu'us Mâ'âse* for her dedication and service to the employees and clients of the PDSC, and in closing, good luck and best wishes on her retirement and future endeavors.
- RESOLVED,** the Board of Trustees of the Public Defender Service Corporation commends and congratulates Mrs. Bernadette S.N. Chargualaf on the occasion of her retirement from the Public Defender Service Corporation on October 17, 2014.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.**

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**Chief Justice ROBERT J. TORRES, JR.**  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BERNADETTE L.P. LIZAMA**  
Acting Secretary

## **Retirement – 36 Years of Service**

**February 28, 1978 – October 17, 2014**

**Bernadette Marie San Nicolas Chargualaf**

**~ Bernie ~ Bennette ~**

**Administrative Director, Public Defender Service Corporation**

### **Personal Biography**

Bernadette Marie San Nicolas Chargualaf is her full name, but everyone calls her Bennette or Bernie.

Bennette comes from a family of five siblings, where she is child #2. In fact, she and her siblings are named in alphabetical order, from oldest to youngest: Annette, Bennette, Charlie, Dorothy, and Elaine. Her parents are +Vicente C. San Nicolas and Ana L. San Nicolas.

Bennette is married to Joseph G. Chargualaf and the two are members of the Agaña Dulce Nobre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica Choir. Bennette and Joe has a son, Mark Andrew San Nicolas Chargualaf, whom a lot of PDSC employees know because he grew up here at PDSC. Mark is married to Meghan and has blessed Bennette and Joe with two beautiful granddaughters, Gemma & Gianna. Everyday Bennette & Joe begin their mornings with FaceTime sessions with their girls and now are looking forward to waking up in the mornings with their precious babies.

Bennette is a 1973 John F. Kennedy graduate and as a firm believer of education, she graduated from Arizona State University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She took her education, ran with it and fulfilled her government of Guam career.

### **Professional Service**

On February 28, 1978, Bennette began her career with the Public Defender Service Corporation (PDSC) as an Interviewer. Through the years she was promoted to various positions such as Research Analyst, Special Investigator I & II, Program Coordinator IV, Special Investigator III to where she is retiring from Administrative Director. Bennette has been the Administrative Director for PDSC for the last 20 years. She has seen and been a part of PDSC as it evolved through the last 36 years. Below is the breakdown of her employment with PDSC:

- 02/28/78 – 04/22/79 Interviewer
- 04/23/79 – 05/03/80 Research Analyst
- 05/04/80 – 10/05/80 Special Investigator I
- 10/06/80 – 10/03/81 Special Investigator II

- 10/04/81 – 09/15/85 Program Coordinator
- 09/16/85 – 09/30/87 Special Investigator II
- 10/01/87 – 06/04/89 Special Investigator III
- 06/05/89 – 09/25/94 Program Coordinator IV
- 09/26/94 – 10/17/14 Administrative Director

In addition to her Administrative Director duties and responsibilities, she has been the Board Secretary for PDSC Board of Trustees, ensuring that agendas, minutes of meetings, publications of meetings, and that subject matter such as PDSC budgets, request of use of lapse funds, etc., were prepared and complete for each board meeting.

Bennette's personal attributes towards work and home has made such an impact that allowed her to grow from an Interviewer to the Administrative Director. Her organizational skill was most effective in coordinating activities and programs to ensure successful implementation. One prime example would be the creation and establishment of the Alternate Public Defender (APD) office. Getting this program was more than just securing a location for APD. It took setting up their budget, hiring staff, purchasing furniture and equipment. Another would be securing the current home for PDSC. Organizing the move from one location to another was a huge task in itself, ensuring that each division had their files, furniture, and equipment packed, labeled and ready to go and then setting up at the new location.

Leadership, she believes in leading by example. Striving for excellence and not perfection is her motivation for achieving goals. One of her main objectives was to enhance programs and activities within the divisions to provide for a more efficient and effective delivery of services to the people PDSC serves and ensuring that each fiscal year our budget was prepared and submitted and worked closely with our Legislative Chairman. Another was to cultivate better working relationships amongst staff to increase productivity and promote positive teamwork. Many employees have knocked on her door for advice, motherly counseling or just to catch up with each other's lives. Her number goal for employees was to ensure that they were duly compensated pursuant to the initial Hay Study of 2011 and the current Compensation Wage Act of 2014 (CWA) and the Law Enforcement Pay Plan (LEO). She was instrumental in making sure that the CWA and LEO was authorized for PDSC & APD through our Legislative Chair and once approved that the implementation was completed. Lastly, to develop resources within PDSC that would benefit our clientele and improve PDSC's public image.

Bennette has always been very supportive and compassionate towards staff. She just has this motherly concern of all employees' wellbeing. Because of her supportive and compassionate ways, she was recognized by the U.S. Army for supporting our military during deployment and the soldier that nominated her for this recognition was Joselito Marquez. Her compassionate nature has her seeking other employees to assist when one of our fellow co-workers is in need of help. Bennette may be firm, but she truly has a huge compassionate heart.

Bennette's motherly counseling and advice, support and presence will be truly missed. The next Administrative Director will have huge shoes to fit and continue the work that has been laid out for PDSC to continue its success. We wish Bennette lots of luck as she begins her retirement life and may God continue to bless her and her family.