



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Eliza Gano
Communications Manager
egano@actl.com
949.752.1801
American College of Trial Lawyers

ACTL Conducts Trial Training Symposium In South Pacific Republic of Palau Hosts Three-Day Program

Irvine, Calif. November 30, 2015 – Thirteen College Fellows traveled to the Republic of Palau to lead the Advanced Trial Advocacy Symposium from Nov. 4 through Nov. 6, 2015. The program exposed more than 80 lawyers and judges from Palau and neighboring islands to the trial and advocacy skills Fellows of the College are known for.

The Symposium was “one of the great accomplishments of the College,” said Immediate Past President Francis M. Wikstrom of Parsons Behle & Latimer (Salt Lake City, UT).

The training incorporated jury trial strategies and other topics related to trial work, including Successful Opening; Direct Examination; Cross Examination; Advanced Jury Trial Strategies; Murder Trial Strategies; Preserving the Record on Appeal; Advanced Courtroom Evidence; Forensic Evidence; and Successful Closing. Palau, a western Pacific archipelago with a population of around 20,000, has been in formal “free association” with the United States since 1994. In 2009, Palau adopted the jury trial system for serious felonies, with only a handful of jury trials being conducted since that time.

The gathering provided an opportunity for distinguished judges and lawyers in the U.S. to share their knowledge and expertise to their counterparts in the Micronesia Region.

Among those who went to Palau were: Michael P. Atkinson of Atkinson, Haskins, Nellis, Brittingham, Gladd & Fiasco (Tulsa, OK); Richard S. Glaser, Jr. of Parker, Poe Adams & Bernstein (Charlotte, NC); Jan K. Kitchel of Cable Huston, LLP (Portland, OR); Joseph Matthews of Colson Hicks Eidson (Coral Gables, FL); Brian B. O’Neill (Minnetonka, MN); United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Montana Carolyn S. Ostby (Billings, MN); retired District Attorney Thomas J. Orloff (Oakland, CA); Paul Michael Pohl of Jones Day (Pittsburg, PA); Roland G. Riopelle of Sercarz & Riopelle, LLP (New York, NY); Lawrence Robbins of Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck, Unteriner &

Sauber LLP (Washington, DC); Ted A. Schmidt of Kinerk, Schmidt & Sethi, PLLC (Tucson, AZ); Keith Strong, former U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Montana, Great Falls Division (Bozeman, MT); and Michael O. Warnecke of Perkins, Coie, LLP (Chicago, IL).

Because the legal systems of countries and territories in Micronesia are modeled after the U.S., participants were expected to learn and absorb the lectures and discussions easily.

Attendees included judges and lawyers from Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam.

The American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and is widely considered to be the premier professional trial organization in North America. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship of exceptional trial lawyers of diverse backgrounds from the United States and Canada. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.

###