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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attorney General's Office Wins DISID's Project Act Now Competition

April 17, 2012-Hagatna, Guam- The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has earned the highest points relative to implementing readily achievable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. As a result, they won the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities' Evaluation, Enforcement, and Compliance (DEEC) Project Act Now competition.

DEEC Project Act Now was DISID's challenge to all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinators of various government of Guam line and autonomous agencies to be in compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 by the federally mandated deadline of March 15, 2012.

Assistant Attorney General Devorah Covington and OAG ADA Coordinator, Carlina Charfauros, took the lead in educating their colleagues on the ADAAA of 2008 through in-house training; conducted a building inspection listing known deficiencies; supplied the building engineer with measurement specifications for small renovation jobs around the client receiving areas; and finally, completed a checklist and prepared a memo of building deficiencies that was sent to DISID for concurrence.

The detailed memo will be sent to the Pedro Plaza building owner to execute structural compliance with the ADAAA standards. Additionally, the attorneys employed in the office received continuing legal education credits from the Guam Bar Association for the in-house training they received.

Ms. Covington will be traveling with Dr. Zeni Natividad, Program Manager for DISID, to Florida at the end of the month for the National Association of ADA Coordinators Conference.

"I am so proud of Devorah and Carlina for helping our Office to achieve compliance with the limited means given to them... big congratulations to them both," said Attorney General Rapadas.

"We want to be a role model for other government agencies and private entities and encourage them to do their best to make small changes where necessary. If we can do it, you can too," he continued.

"While we are still a ways away from complete compliance, especially structurally, we took the initiative to make the modifications we could, with the resources we had," said Covington.

"We could not have done this without the support of the AG, our chief deputy and all of our colleagues... so a big 'thank you' to all of them," said Charfauros.

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The OAG, with the help of Covington and Charfauros, intend on taking ADAAA compliance a step further by developing an in-house training video that all new employees must watch.

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