



# ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF YAP

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Floor Leader  
**Terrence R. Fong**

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March 4, 2026

Standing Comm. Report No. 11-21

Re: Resolution No. 11-152

The Honorable Nicholas Figirlaarwon  
Speaker  
Eleventh Legislature of the State of Yap  
Fourth Regular Session, 2026

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Government, Health and Welfare, to which was referred Resolution No. 11-152, entitled:

~~“A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING MARY E. LAYAN AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE STATE COURT OF YAP.”,~~

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of the resolution is expressed in its title.

On February 25, 2026, Governor Francis Itimai transmitted his nomination for the vacancy in the Yap State Court for Associate Justice. The letter was designated as Governor's Communication No. 11-531, and on February 26, 2026, Floor Leader Terrence R. Fong, by request, introduced Resolution No. 11-152, and both were assigned to your Committee. Governor Itimai stated in his transmittal, “Her commitment to upholding the values and traditions that define our people, respect for the rule of law, and genuine desire to serve the interests of all our citizens make her a fit choice for this important role.”

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on February 4, 2026 at 3:00 pm with Mary Layan, Governor Francis Itimai, Chief Justice Cyprian Manmaw, Associate Justice Magmay, Speaker Nicholas Figirlaarwon, Senator Liyon Sulog, and Celestine Chuntineg present. In his opening statement, Governor Itimai stressed the need to have all three seats at the Yap State Court filled to allow the Judiciary to do its work. Chief Justice Manmaw added that the court now has many sections, including land dispute court, that needs judges and he hopes that filling all the positions as soon as possible would alleviate the caseload still pending.

Your Committee did go over the qualifications of State Court Justices for clarity during the hearing. Qualifications are found in Section 151 of Title 4 in the Yap State Code.

*"Section 151. Qualification of State Court Justices. A person nominated to the position of Chief Justice or Associate Justice of the State Court shall be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia by birth, be at least thirty-five years of age, have been a resident of the State for at least twenty-five years and for five years immediately preceding his appointment, and learned and experienced in the law."*


The nominee testified to her willingness to accept the appointment, knowing the great need of having sitting judges in our Court, and with the support of the current Chief Justice, Associate Justice, and other witnesses present at the hearing. Her answers to questions posed during the hearing demonstrated her ability to articulate answers to differing scenarios, which should be a factor in deciding cases. Your Committee reviewed her resume and her background information to ensure compliance with the law. Ms. Layan is an FSM citizen, who is more than thirty-five years old, and has been a resident of the State her whole life, including the five required years before the appointment. She has been a Yap State Bar member since March of 1997 as a practicing trial counselor, including working for the Attorney General's Office from 2013 through 2017. Her records at court show her representation in varied legal cases, both from her work at the AG Office and as a defense counsel for clients, and also some civil casework, representing either the plaintiff or defendant/respondent. We therefore recommend that her appointment be confirmed based on her character and abilities, which is consistent with the required qualifications.

Your Committee, after reviewing the nomination, is in accord with the purpose and intent of Resolution No. 11-152 and recommends its adoption, in its original form.

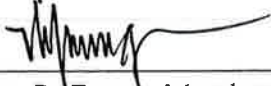
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Victor Bamog- Chairman

3/17/2026  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gabriel Ramoloilug - Vice Chairman

3/9/26  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terrence R. Fong - Member

3.12.26  
Date