

SUPREME COURT

THE JUDICIARY

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

P.O. Box 248 Koror, Palau 96940
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PRESS RELEASE # 159

September 20, 2023

*(It is our duty at the Judiciary to inform the people what we do.
This Press Release is one way to achieve that responsibility.)*

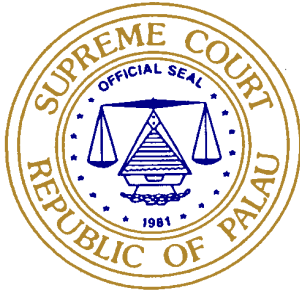
Re: The Palau Judiciary is pleased to welcome on-island three Court Counsels, Ms. Vicky Cheng, Mr. Dylan Houle and Ms. Heidi E. Johnson



Vicky Cheng is from Toronto, Canada, and attended university at McGill University in Montreal, majoring in International Development Studies and minoring in Economics. During her time in undergrad, Vicky gained an increasing interest in international relations and the law as she was an avid participant and later organizer of McGill's Model United Nations conference and volunteered with Artistri Sud, a local women's social entrepreneurship NGO that ran leadership programs in South America and Vietnam. Vicky began law school in the midst of COVID as she was an international student at Washington College of Law in D.C. In addition to Law Review, Vicky was involved in the Moot Court Honor Society in which she competed in the Jessup International Law Competition for two years. Vicky has interned at the D.C. Department of Employment Services, working with Administrative Law Judges, and was a Summer Associate at Shearman & Sterling's New York office. Having never been to southeast Asia, Vicky is excited to join the Office of the Court Counsel at the Supreme Court of Palau where she will sharpen her legal knowledge and writing skills throughout the following year.



Dylan Houle comes to the Palau Judiciary from Berkeley, CA, where he obtained his Juris Doctor from Berkeley Law. During law school, Dylan served as the Editor-in-Chief for the *Berkeley Technology Law Journal* and was also active in the *California Law Review* and *Berkeley Journal of Entertainment & Sports Law*. He also externed at the California First District Court of Appeal and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Hawaii. Before law school, Dylan served in the United States Army in various locations, including a deployment to Afghanistan. He looks forward to scuba diving and learning more about Palauan culture during his term as court counsel.



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Heidi E. Johnson comes to Palau from Vermont, where she received her Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Vermont Law School with a full, merit-based scholarship. During law school, Heidi clerked for the U.S. EPA, served as a Party Delegate for Palau at COP27 in Egypt, and was a Student Attorney at the VLGS Environmental Advocacy Clinic. She was a teaching assistant for Constitutional Law, Property Law, and International Climate Change Law, an Academic Success Mentor, the Women's Law Society Treasurer, an ELS and LALSA member, and a JURIST international legal news writer. Heidi was also the Senior Managing Editor for *Vermont Law Review*, vol. 47 and a member of her school's Moot Court Advisory Board. She competed in Emory Law's Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition and in the Debevoise Moot Court Competition, placing as a Finalist before the Vermont Supreme Court and winning the Best Brief for Petitioners Award. Heidi recently passed Vermont's administration of the Uniform Bar Exam. Before moving to Vermont, Heidi lived in San Diego, California, where she earned her B.A. in Political Science from UC San Diego. During her time in Palau, Heidi most looks forward to becoming a certified scuba diver and exploring Blue Corner with her family.