



SUPREME COURT

THE JUDICIARY

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

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



On December 16, 2024, Peter D. Huffman was administered the oath of office as an Associate Justice of the Trial Division.

Justice Huffman grew up in small towns in Indiana and Alabama in the United States. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the United States Naval Academy and then served seven years on active duty as an officer in the Navy. His first ship was the destroyer USS JOHN S. MCCAIN, forward deployed in Japan. He then served aboard the aircraft carrier USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER and deployed to the Arabian Gulf.

After the Navy Justice Huffman attend Yale Law School, where he was an articles editor on the Yale Law Journal. After graduation, he practiced complex litigation at a private law firm in New York City and maintained an active pro bono practice. He left the firm in 2015 to clerk for federal judge Henry Floyd on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Following the clerkship, he came to Palau for the first time to serve a year as Senior Court Counsel to the Judiciary. In 2018, Justice Huffman joined the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a non-profit environmental advocacy organization. At NRDC, he litigated environmental protection cases before government agencies and in both state and federal court. He also oversaw various organizational programs for training junior lawyers for litigation.

Justice Huffman is married to Fernanda Huffman. Fernanda has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in Transnational Organized Crime with a focus on combating human trafficking. Most recently, Fernanda was a Senior Program Manager at the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, D.C., a non-profit organization that helps homeless and runaway youth obtain safe housing and stable education and employment. Justice Huffman and Fernanda have a son, Oliver, who is now 6 years old.



The Huffmans enjoy reading, traveling, soccer, and all things Ocean-related. Oliver also particularly enjoys Legos and puzzles. They are all excited to again be part of the community in Palau.