

Guam People for Choice

Reproductive choice continues to be protected in Guam

February 4, 2026

(Hagatna) Guam People for Choice, an ad hoc group of more than 100 persons who stand for access to all aspects of reproductive health care in Guam, is pleased with the decision by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to deny the Guam Office of the Attorney General's petition for panel rehearing, and its petition for rehearing "en banc," of the Ninth Circuit panel's order dismissing the OAG's appeal to enact Public Law 20-134 as moot.

"En banc" is a legal term that refers to a session when all the judges of a court sit to hear a case, not just one judge or a smaller panel of judges, according to Guam Attorney Anita Arriola.

The Ninth Circuit Court order, written by Judge Lawrence Van Dyke, states, "...the panel made the right call in dismissing the appeal on mootness grounds after the Supreme Court of the Territory of Guam declared—as a matter of local law—that Public Law 20-134, which bans abortion, no longer possesses any force or effect in Guam."

Arriola, who succeeded in having 20-134 declared unconstitutional when it was originally enacted into law back in 1990, noted that **"the Ninth Circuit's decision today is yet another loss in a long string of losses in the courts by Doug Moylan. Despite being told by the Guam Supreme Court, the US District Court of Guam, the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (twice) and the US Supreme Court that his case to revive P.L. 20-134 is meritless, Moylan persisted in using public dollars to fund his power trip to nowhere. Those funds could have been better spent hiring prosecutors to prosecute crimes against women, particularly rapes, sexual assault, and domestic violence."**

Guam People for Choice advocate Jayne Flores, who recently retired as director of the Bureau of Women's Affairs, had this to say about the fifth rejection of General Moylan's attempt to revive Public Law 20-134:

"We advise General Moylan to take a more productive and practical approach to this issue: Start a campaign to convince men of all races on Guam NOT to rape women and girls. A billboard campaign focused on this goal will go a long way toward reducing the island's alarming rate of sexual assaults among women and children, and be a far more productive use of public funds."

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