
PERSONAL STATEMENT OF JACQUELINE TAITANO TERLAJE

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

I am Jacqueline Taitano Terlaje. I am currently the President of the Guam Bar Association; a membership I have served for more than 9 years. I make this statement in my personal capacity to respond, plainly and firmly, to Attorney General Douglas Moylan's September 14, 2026 campaign release rebuffing and ignoring the Guam Bar Association's invitation to debate, and choosing to utilize the media to disparage the efforts of the Guam Bar Association.

I condemn, without reservation, the "joke" that opens that release. That is not humor. Coming from the sitting Attorney General, whose release then accuses the "GBA President" and "at least 1 other GBA leader" — myself and Joaquin C. "Jay" Arriola, Jr., unmistakably — of bias and conflicts of interest, it reads as a line wishing harm on the two of us, dressed up so its author can claim deniability. Rather than utilize direct communication to express any grievance with me or with Attorney Arriola, Douglas Moylan takes to tactless jokes and disrespects, not only the Bar Association, but our profession. Innuendo aimed at named colleagues in the form of a joke, is tasteless, and beneath the office he holds.

I condemn his decision to refuse the Guam Bar Association's invitation. Convening a nonpartisan debate among Attorney General candidates is a public service the Guam Bar Association has performed for years — including four years ago, when Attorney General Moylan himself participated in a debate that Mr. Arriola and I moderated. The current Bar invitation stated plainly that the moderator would be "a neutral professional, not a member of the GBA and not a politician". Thus, Attorney General Moylan's claim of ambush, bias, and the allegation that the GBA "seeks the elimination" of the elected position, is simply a fabricated effort to avoid responding to fair questions about the position of Attorney General. If the Attorney General genuinely believes any individual GBA leader has a conflict of interest, the channels for that are disqualification motions and bar complaints — not a press release boycotting a public debate. Above all, I condemn his refusal to answer for his administration before the voters of Guam. Declining to stand alongside the other candidates does not protect the people of this island. It denies them the chance to hear the Attorney General answer the same questions his opponents will answer, in the same room, at the same time. Manufacturing a conspiracy out of a bar association's civic debate is not a reason to avoid that accountability — it is an admission of the wish to avoid it.

I will not be intimidated out of doing my job by a campaign release that leans on innuendo instead of naming names. I remain willing to ensure that any debate the Guam Bar Association hosts is conducted fairly, and I welcome scrutiny of that process. What I will not do is stay silent while the sitting Attorney General uses his office to disparage a Bar Association that works tirelessly to support the administration of justice and aids the people of Guam in making an informed decision in the exercise of the Right to Vote.

/s/ Jacqueline Taitano Terlaje