



CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-48

RE: C.R. No. 24-165/J&GO

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF MR. BRUCE L. TURCOTT TO SERVE AS THE
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses
Speaker, Twenty-Fourth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Regular Session, 2026

Dear Speaker,

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, to
which was referred Congressional Resolution No. 24-165,
entitled:

"A RESOLUTON GIVING ADVICE AND CONSENT, PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE XI, SECTION 3, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, TO THE APPOINTMENT OF
MR. BRUCE L. TURCOTT TO SERVE AS AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in
its title.

Your Committee reviewed the Presidential Communication that
accompanied C.R. No. 24-165 (P.C. No. 24-373), which
detailed the nominee's professional and educational
background in his curriculum vitae.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-43

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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Presidential Communication No. 24-373 accompanied C.R. No. 24-165 and included Mr. Bruce L. Turcott's curriculum vitae. Mr. Turcott is originally from Washington state in the United States. He earned a bachelor's of arts in Anthropology from the University of Hawai'i in 1974. He then went on to get a master's degree in Education from the University of Washington in 1979. Mr. Turcott received his juris doctorate from the University of Washington School of Law in 1985.

Before attending law school, Mr. Turcott worked as a Law Clerk for FSM Supreme Court Justice Edward C. King from 1982-1983. Upon graduation from law school, he returned to Pohnpei to work as the Chief of the Law Division for the FSM Attorney General from 1986-1988.

Besides one year working as legal counsel for the CNMI School System, Mr. Turcott's legal career from 1988 to present has been in Washington state. He spent 22 years at the Washington State Attorney General's Office from 2000-2022, where he left as a Senior Counsel. He spent four years at the Social and Health Services Division, before moving to the Licensing and Administration Division.

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has reviewed C.R. No. 24-165 and P.C. No. 24-373 and finds that Mr. Bruce L. Turcott has outstanding credentials, which qualify him for this appointment.

PUBLIC HEARING

On September 19, 2026, the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations held a public hearing on the nomination of Mr. Bruce L. Turcott to serve as an Associate Supreme Court Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia. Witnesses at the hearing included the nominee Bruce L. Turcott (appearing virtually); FSM Supreme

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Court, Director of Court Administration Emeliana Musrasrik-Carl; FSM Supreme Court, General Counsel, Alexander Weber; Department of Justice, Chief of Law, Josephine Joseph; and Office of the President, Special Assistant Belan Yoma.

It should be noted that the Acting Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court was listed as a witness and Director Musrasrik-Carl confirmed that she received the hearing notice but still chose not to attend the Congressional hearing. Director Musrasrik-Carl stated that the Acting Chief Justice will submit her comments in writing to the Committee.

Chairman Choor opened the hearing by thanking the witness and committee members for attending. He then asked the nominee, Mr. Turcott to give his opening remarks. Mr. Turcott also thanked all the attendees for being present. He then proceeded to give the Committee a summary of his professional career, explaining his interest in the Associate Justice position in the FSM Supreme Court.

Chairman Choor asked the witnesses to give opening remarks and to testify on behalf or against the nominee. Special Assistant to the President, Belan Yoma, testified that Mr. Turcott would be an excellent addition to the FSM Supreme Court, if confirmed. Director Musrasrik-Carl extended her respect to all in attendance and stated that the FSM Supreme Court supports the nomination of Mr. Turcott.

Chairman Choor asked Mr. Turcott to share his legal philosophy with the Committee. Mr. Turcott explained in order maintain integrity and trust in the legal system, people must have a meaningful opportunity to be heard. He went on to elaborate that when people feel that they are heard by the Court, then they are more inclined to accept the Court's decision, even if it's not in their favor. He stated that when interpreting statutes, he looks to the plain language of the statute and attempts to apply the intent of the legislature. He shared that he believes in

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thoroughly researching the law before coming to a decision. Finally, he mentioned that he has been a student of the Micronesian culture and will continue to learn.

Senator Sigrah stated that his curriculum vitae evidences work as a prosecutor for the Department of Justice and the Attorney General and inquired if he had any background in defense. Mr. Turcott stated that he was on the civil side of the Attorney General's office so he has experience defending the state in that respect. He stated that he has not practiced criminal law, so he does have experience as a criminal defense attorney.

Senator Sigrah explained that the FSM has many indigent parties and asked Mr. Turcott what his position is on access to justice and due process rights. Mr. Turcott stated that access to justice is very important and he has done extensive volunteer work in that area. He stated that judges need to have patience and educate pro bono parties.

Senator Sigrah read Article 11, Section 11 of the FSM Constitution:

Court decisions shall be consistent with this Constitution, Micronesian customs and traditions, and the social and geographical configuration of Micronesia. In rendering a decision, a court shall consult and apply sources of the Federated States of Micronesia.

She asked Mr. Turcott to explain his position on this Article and explain how he will comply with the mandate of the Constitution.

Mr. Turcott stated that he will look at the case law, which as he noted, has grown considerably since he first helped compile the very first FSM Reporter. He also stated that he will consult with other judges in the nation and throughout

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the Pacific region as needed. He stated that he is a member of the Pacific Judicial Council.

Chairman Choor asked Mr. Turcott if he had any disciplinary actions or bar complaints lodged against him. Mr. Turcott stated that there was a bar complain that he had to address approximately 15 years ago after contentious litigation with an aggrieved party. He stated the complaint was not found to have merit and was dismissed. He has had no other instances in his career.

Chairman Choor asked Mr. Turcott if confirmed if he would live in the FSM and if he had a preference for a particular state. Mr. Turcott explained that his wife is from Pohnpei and he is looking forward to the opportunity to move back. He stated that he is excited to be able to spend more time with his Pohnpeian family and to be around the younger generation for an indefinite time.

Chairman Choor asked Mr. Turcott what his timetable in moving to the FSM if he is confirmed. Mr. Turcott stated that he would like to move to the FSM at the end of December this year.

Chairman Choor pointed out that one of the issues that constituents often contact members of Congress about is the backlog of cases and the delay in resolving them. He asked the nominee what steps he would recommend to address this issue. Mr. Turcott noted that the FSM is not alone in having a problem with delays in cases. He stated that he likes to work efficiently and handle matters efficiently. He likes to stay current in his work and not let things linger for long. He would find ways to help streamline the handling of cases.

Senator Sigrah noted that his curriculum vitae does not indicate any work on the Appellate level and asked if had any experience in that area. Mr. Turcott stated that he did just as much work in the appellate courts as he did in trial

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court. He informed your Committee that the appellate cases consist of drafting and filing of a brief, a reply, and oral arguments. He explained that the preparation for an appeal was stressful as he was required to go through many moot sessions with his co-workers, but ultimately, he learned to enjoy the presentation process. He mentioned that besides appearing in front of state appellate courts, he also had one successful argument in front of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Chairman Choor asked why should the FSM have confidence in him to understand and administer justice in today's FSM and not to just apply U.S. standards. Mr. Turcott stated that he has experience in Micronesia and comes back often. He believes he'd be an asset to the region as he plans to help develop Micronesian judges and lawyers. He wants to engage with the younger generation and encourage the study of law. He stated that he hopes to develop a network of Micronesian lawyers abroad and encourage them to return to practice in the FSM.

CONCLUSION

Upon review of the nominee, his qualifications, and the testimony at the public hearing, your Committee is satisfied that the nominee is fit for service as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Therefore, your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends Mr. Bruce L. Turcott be confirmed to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Federated States of Micronesia. Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 24-165 and recommends its adoption.

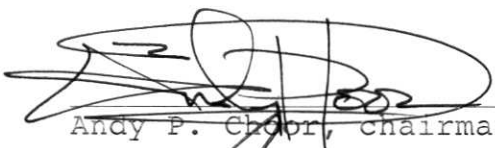
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Respectfully submitted,



Andy P. Choor, chairman



Julio M. Marar, member



Yoslyn G. Sigrah, member



Esmond B. Moses, member



Jerry W. Mudong, vice chairman



Robson U. Romolow, member



Perpetua S. Konnan, member