

AN ACT

To provide for the establishment of the Marshall Islands Legal Aid Office.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE NITIJELA OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS:

1           Section 1. Short title.

2                     This Act may be cited as the Marshall Islands Legal Aid Office  
3 Act 1984.

4           Section 2. Establishment of the Marshall Islands Legal Aid Office.

5                     There is hereby established Marshall Islands Legal Aid Office,  
6 which shall be placed for administrative purposes, under such departments  
7 or agency as the Cabinet may designate.

8           Section 3. Personnel.

9                     Such office shall consist of one or more lawyers and a secretary  
10 together with such number of Trial Assistants as may be selected, and  
11 which the money available for these purposes will support. The first  
12 lawyer appointed to this office shall be the Head Legal Aid Officer  
13 unless and until the Cabinet directs otherwise.

14           Section 4. Duties and Responsibilities.

15                     The duties of the Marshall Islands Legal Aid Office shall  
16 be as follows:

17                     (a) to furnish, to the extent of its ability, legal  
18 services to any Marshallese citizens who it finds  
19 unable to afford legal service, or unable to find  
20 a lawyer or other qualified counsel to represent  
21 him or her. Such legal services shall include legal  
22 advice and counseling, drafting of documents and

1 civil court actions or defense thereof, and other  
2 acts normally performed by legal aid offices.

3 (b) to represent persons accused of crime before the  
4 courts if so ordered by the court;

5 (c) to give special emphasis in aiding persons under  
6 the age of 18 in civil and criminal cases and to  
7 their parents in legal matters that substantially  
8 effect persons under 18 years of age.

9 (d) to perform such other legal duties as may be  
10 directed by the courts.

11 Section 5. Independence of the Legal Aid Office.

12 In the execution of its legal duties and responsibilities set  
13 out in Section 4 of this Act, neither the Chief Legal Officer nor his  
14 staff shall receive any direction from the Cabinet, the Chief Secretary  
15 or any other authority or person. The Legal Aid Office shall be independent.

16 Section 6. Definitions.

17 The term "lawyer" as used here means person who is a graduate  
18 of a law school recognized by the American Bar Association and who is  
19 admitted to the practice of law as an attorney in the Republic of the  
20 Marshall Islands. The term "Trial Assistant" means a Trial Assistant  
21 admitted to the practice of law as such in the Republic of the Marshall  
22 Islands.

23 Section 7. Effective date.

24 This Act shall take effect upon the date it becomes law.

25

Certificate

I hereby certify:

(1) that the above Nitijela Bill No. 33 N.D.-2 has been passed by the Nitijela of the Marshall Islands on the 6th day of March 1984;

and

(2) that I am satisfied that Nitijela Bill No. 33 N.D.-2 has been passed in accordance with the Constitution of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk of the Nitijela this 15th day of March 1984.

/s/ Atlan Anien  
Atlan Anien, Speaker  
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Attest:

/s/ Donald F. Capelle  
Donald F. Capelle, Clerk  
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Concurred: Janet McCoy  
High Commissioner  
4/10/84