



## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

### Yap State Public Auditor Hires Chief Investigator

February 29, 2012



Ron Yow, Acting Public Auditor, is pleased to welcome Sophia Pretrick as Chief Investigator to lead a start-up Compliance and Investigation Division (CID) for this office. A Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) with more than 18 years of experience, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Park University in Missouri, USA, and has a graduate diploma in Fraud Investigation from Charles Sturtz University, Bathurst, Australia. Sophia was recruited from the Office of the

National Public Auditor, where she served as the Chief Investigator for the past 3 ½ years, and has worked for more than 10 years. Her previous experience includes conducting criminal investigations and assisting in prosecutions as a special investigator for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) national police. She also served as a member of the White Collar Crime Task Force. Ms. Pretrick has gained national recognition for her achievements in the field of compliance investigation through such initiatives as developing and implementing the first Fraud Awareness Prevention Program (FAP) in FSM and helping to establish a CID function in Kosrae. In 2006 she was named Employee of the Year in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the government of FSM.

Asked what she is most proud of, Sophia remarked "I'm proud that the Yap Public Auditor is taking this initiative to consider building this very important function." She added that her greatest challenge will be "to implement this program successfully by securing the collaboration of all agencies within the government," and "I will do my best to assist Yap in making this work."

The primary mission of CID is to carry out investigations of administrative and compliance reviews of allegations of financial mismanagement and misuse of government resources. The focus will also be to promote and educate ethical and lawful conduct within the Yap State Government. With her strong background in financial fraud investigation and enforcement of laws in government operations, we have the utmost trust and confidence in her ability to make a positive contribution and consider ourselves fortunate to have her join our organization.

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