

FILED

IN THE TRADITIONAL RIGHTS COURT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

AUG 21 2026

C/F
ASSISTANT CLERK OF COURTS
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

CANSEE JORKAN ALIK, Plaintiff, vs. ROBINSON ABNER, Defendant.	CIVIL CASE NO. 2017-00226 AMENDED TRANSLATION RE: OPINION & ANSWER TO THE HIGH COURT'S ORDER FURTHER RESUBMITTING QUESTIONS TO THE TRADITIONAL RIGHT COURT
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To: **Carl B. Ingram, Chief Justice of the High Court**
Roy Chikamoto and Jack Akeang, Counsel for Robinson Abner
Rosalie Konou, Counsel for Cansee Alik

I. Summary in Brief

On June 23, 2026, the Traditional Rights Court (TRC) received an Order further *resubmitting questions to the Traditional Right Court* from the High Court seeking further clarification on its answer to how the TRC opinion & answer acknowledge the Ralik Title Succession Act as to the title and interest of a Senior Dri Jerbal.

II. The Two Questions Resubmitted

This Court acknowledges the resubmission of the two questions from the High Court to the Traditional Rights Court to answer. The questions presented are as follows:

- (i) In the TRC opinion, does the Ralik Title Succession Act explain how Senior Dri-Jerbal rights may be inherited?
- (ii) If yes, do Rule 905(2) and 905(3) of the Ralik Title Succession Act affect the arrangements of a “*jolel*” (*inherit*) of a Senior Dri-Jerbal rights in this case?

III. Analysis and Reasons:

1. In the opinion of the court, Rule 905(2) of the Ralik Title Succession Act clarifies that a bwij becomes extinct when there are no remaining female successor and succession continues through the descendants of the male members of the bwij who are recognized as “*Jiblok*.” The TRC sees that the 905(2) does not specify which title. It does not specify whether it’s the Alap title or the Senior Drijerbal Title.
2. Subsection 905 (2), provides that a bwij becomes extinct when there is no existence of a female. With the extinction of the female line, “custom changes custom” and the customary title passes to the blood lineage, or to the descendants of a male within the bwij, who are considered “Jiblok”. This is consistent with Walur exercising the Alap rights today, as the lineage of the bwij of Lijileej has not become extinct. Subsection 905(3) provides that the first female offspring of a male member constitutes a new lineage, even if she is a “toor in botoktok” from the father, but she will now establish a new bwij. In this case, the TRC recognizes Cansee as “Toor in Botoktok” from her father, Lisos is an offspring of a female or an offspring of a bwij. In this regard, the TRC confirms that although Cansee is considered “Toor in *Botoktok*” however, the “toor in botoktok” commenced from Abner and not from Nebun, who is of the bwij. Therefore, it is proper that Robinson holds and exercises the right and title of Senior Dri-Jerbal because the “*toor in botoktok*” connection extends two generations back, whereas, Cansee’s “*toor in botoktok*” connection extends only one generation back.

Date: 7/21/26

_____/s/_____
Grace L. Leban, Presiding Judge

_____/s/_____
Nixon Davi, Associate Judge

_____/s/_____
Milton Zackios, Associate Pro-Temp Judge