

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

Post Office Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

APRIL MEETING

Date: Friday, April 20, 1979
Time: 12:00 - 1:15 (brown bag lunch)
Place: Bishop Trust Bldg Penthouse, 1000 Bishop St.
Speaker: Kathleen Conahan, of Conahan & Conahan,
Attorneys at Law, a Law Corp.
Topic: Estate Planning for Women

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION RESULTS : Congratulations to James Koshiba and William Fleming, the two bar elected commission members. HWL has offered them our assistance in identifying qualified judicial candidates. Karen Radius, HWL's candidate for the Commission placed 7th in the field of 28 candidates. Although we were disappointed that Karen did not win, her showing was extremely good. HWL's first organized effort to support a candidate was most encouraging and showed the potential HWL has in future endeavors. Karen's good result in the election can be attributed in great part to the many HWL members and supporters who voted, wrote letters, made telephone calls, and donated money and time. Special help was received from Karen Radius, Ruth Hood, Jo Kim and Carol Lee.

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION FORUM: HWL sponsored a forum on March 13 at Pioneer Plaza and 18 of the 28 candidates for the Commission attended. All members of the bar were invited. Although the turnout was not large, it was a most informative and enjoyable event. This was organized through the efforts of Mary Hudson (who also acted as MC) and Nancy Stivers. Mickey Hummer from Boyd's provided the bar. Because of the success of this event and the need for such public service to the bar, HWL would like to sponsor a similar forum for the 9 member Judicial Selection Commission to meet the members of the bar. This matter will be discussed at the April meeting.

MARCH AD HOC MEETING ON LEGISLATION: Our regularly noticed March meeting did not take place because of the activities relating to the Judicial Selection Commission. However, a specially called meeting took place on March 20 (people were contacted by telephone) to discuss current legislation of interest to women. The urgency was brought about by the realization of the impending close of this legislative session. Several bills were brought to our attention by Rep. Carol Fukunaga including those concerning spousal abuse, consumer credit, divorce, discrimination, and homemakers. Another bill that would raise our annual license fees paid to the Supreme Court because of retirement and other benefits that would be given to the Disciplinary Counsel and his staff was also discussed. The Hawaii State Bar Association had decided to support that bill, but it is apparently dead for this legislative session. HWL would like to set up a Legislative Committee that will oversee legislation in future sessions. If you are interested in working on this committee for next session, please contact Sherry Broder, 259-8411.

JUDICIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: This new committee has been established in recognition of the need to get more qualified women on the judiciary and with the realization that HWL will be looked upon as an important support organization for women candidates. One task will be to review and send letters of support to judicial candidates who seek our support. This will be an important committee so please contact Karen Radius at 536-3687 or Carol Lee at 521-6547 to volunteer. A meeting will be held during the week of April 9 to discuss requests for support that have already been received so please call this week. Of course, only those who do not wish to be appointed to judgeships should apply.

MISCELLANEOUS: Interim treasurer's report: \$200. of the HWL treasury and \$75. in donations were spent for the Commission Campaign and Forum. We therefore can use your \$10.00 membership fees if you have not paid for 1979 yet. If you have read this far in our newsletter and do support HWL, please send your dues.

Tom Layton of the Gerbode Foundation will be in town on April 16 to talk with attorneys who wish to receive funding for special projects. This is an excellent opportunity to get outside funding. Call Jo Kim at 537-2780.

The Univ. YWCA publishes a monthly magazine, FERITY, that would like to have a legal column by HWL or interested women lawyers. Discussed at April meeting.

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Although we are not having a May meeting, our June meeting will be a special one with Lt. Gov. Jean King. It will be luncheon at the Richards St. YWCA, cost \$5.50. More information and registration will be in our June newsletter. See you then!

The Hawaii Women Lawyers has established a Judicial Selection Advisory Committee to recommend women attorneys who are qualified to be judges to the new Judicial Selection Commission. The Advisory Committee is developing criteria for its recommendations. The Judicial Selection Commission lists the following criteria that it will be utilizing: Judicial temperament, Integrity, Intelligence, Diligence.

The advisory committee of HWL is in the process of selecting nominees. The law requires that an attorney be admitted to practice law in Hawaii for a minimum of 5 years to be qualified as a district or family court judge, and at least 10 years for all other judicial appointments. The advisory committee will be accepting nominations until May 8, 1979. The Judicial Selection Commission will be forwarding their names to the Governor and the Chief Justice on June 13, 1979. If you wish to nominate a woman attorney, please send her name and a description of her qualifications. If you wish to be considered yourself, please send a resume. All responses and inquiries should be addressed to HWL, Post office Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96805. If you have any questions please contact Sherry Broder 537-2780 or 259-8411, Jo Kim 537-2780 or Karen Radius 536-3687.

Congratulations to the newest members of the Hawaii bar, the 1979 admittees. To give you a little background about Hawaii Women Lawyers, we are an organization about 2½ years old founded by Rai Saint Chu. We are the only women lawyers association in the state with about 60 dues paying members. There are now approximately 250 women lawyers in the state. Our newsletter comes out monthly (or so we try) and is sent to all women lawyers who still live in Hawaii or who pay dues. We have no officers except for a treasurer and are not incorporated at the moment. We meet monthly (usually Fridays) at a brown bag lunch in the Bishop Trust Bldg Penthouse. We invite guest speakers to speak on topics of interest to professional women lawyers. If you are interested in joining, please send your \$10.00 dues to Hawaii Women Lawyers at the above address. Questions, call Carol Mon Lee at 521-6547 (after June 1, 524-6543) or Jo Kim at 537-2780 or Rai Saint Chu at 524-8833. If you would like to actively participate in setting up meetings or working on our committees, please let us know. If you know of someone who is not getting this newsletter and would like to be on our mailing list contact Carol Lee.

Education Committee: The Women and the Law videotapes purchased by HWL have been reviewed by the Media Task Force. The Task Force was very interested in 4 of the 13 tapes and will work with us in methods of utilizing them. We are also working with the College of Continuing Education at UH for a possible course with the tapes supplemented by discussions led by local attorneys.

1979 Statewide Women's Conference, Saturday, June 30, 1979: This educational conference will be held at Kalani High School from 8:30 to 5:00. HWL will conduct a Law Workshop tentatively on the Family and utilizing the videotape on Marriage. We will have a panel to discuss the changing status of the family, the Marvin case, ante- and pre-nuptial agreements, living together, etc. If you would like to participate or just want more info contact Rai Chu at 524-8833.

Gerbode Foundation: Jo Kim and Sherry Broder met with Tom Layton of the Gerbode Foundation in April to discuss the possible funding of a project for HWL. The Foundation has funded projects for the Asian Law Caucus, La Raza en Accion Legal, Moanalua Gardens Foundation, Displaced Homemakers' Center and others. Before any foundation award could be made, certain steps would have to first be taken; including, HWL must incorporate preferably with 501(c)(3) status and members must be willing to donate pro bono time. Funding for litigation purposes would be more difficult to obtain. But other possible areas for funding could be (1) extra legal methods of dispute resolution, (2) providing legal assistance to juveniles, (3) studying the feasibility of child care opportunities in Hawaii and (4) proposing legislation affecting women in Hawaii. A future meeting is tentatively scheduled for September. Jo and Sherry will be studying the possible areas and considering others. If you would like to help, please call Jo at 537-2780 or Sherry at 259-8411 or 537-2780.