

HAWAII BAR NEWS



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Hawaii Women Lawyers 1988 Retrospective

By Lorraine H. Akiba
1988 HWL President

As we begin 1989, Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) has a new slate of officers and directors to continue its ongoing activities and projects. The 1989 HWL board includes Ellen Godbey Carson, President; Corianne W. Lau, Vice President; Susan Ekimoto Jaworowski, Secretary; Michelle H. Tucher, Treasurer; and Director Lissa H. Andrews, Cynthia A. Farias, G. Hisae Ishii-Chang, Sheryl L. Nicholson, and Linnell T. Nishioka.

Looking back at 1988, HWL members can be proud of the organization's many accomplishments and projects. HWL received a First Place Award in the ABA Young Lawyers Division's 1987-1988 Awards of Achievement Competition. The competition presents awards to ABA/YLD-affiliated organizations in several different divisions for projects and services to the public and the bar. HWL's First Place Award in the Comprehensive Category was based upon the broad range of noteworthy projects it was involved in during the last year.

HWL successfully co-sponsored two major fundraising receptions during 1988. On May 20, 1988, the HWL/THWLF reception and fundraiser "100th Anniversary Celebration of Women Lawyers in Hawaii" honored pioneering women attorneys of Hawaii and celebrated the centennial of Almeida Hitchcock's admission to the bar as the first woman attorney in Hawaii. The reception was a tremendous success. Food and chamber music complimented the festivities at the picturesque Richards St. YWCA courtyard. More than 200 people attended the reception. Numerous dignitaries from the federal and state Judiciary, city and state government, and the Hawaii State Bar Association were also in attendance. Proceeds from the reception went to the HWL/THWLF Biography Project *Early Women Lawyers of Hawaii*. The biography is anticipated to be ready for a fall 1989 publication date. On Friday, Nov. 18,

1988, HWL co-sponsored with other community organizations a Reproductive Rights fundraiser at the Richards St. YWCA. The event successfully raised needed funds to help support Hawaii Planned Parenthood's efforts in preserving women's rights of access to abortion and contraception.

THWLF, along with the Hawaii State Bar Association and its Family Law and Child Parent Advocate Section, sponsored a retirement party for Judge Betty M. Vitousek on July 29, 1988, at the Cannon Club. Over 400 people participated in honoring Judge Vitousek, who has a distinguished career of service to the community.

In addition, HWL undertook work on addressing the issue of discriminatory membership policies at country clubs on Oahu. In conjunction with HWL's efforts, the Hawaii State Bar Association unanimously passed a resolution on July 21, 1988, that prohibits the HSBA and its authorized entities from using private clubs that discriminate on the basis of gender. In every essential respect, the language of the HSBA resolution tracks that of the ABA's rule, which will apply to all ABA convention activities in Honolulu in 1989. HWL anticipates that more work will continue in this area to eliminate discriminatory practices at country clubs. HWL also made progress on the ongoing Legal Rights Handbook Project. Various authors have completed the final articles for publication of the handbook. It is hoped that the *Legal Rights Handbook for Women* will be published in the spring of this year.

1988 was an auspicious year for HWL. In addition to celebrating the 100th anniversary of the admission of Almeida Hitchcock as the state's first female attorney, HWL continued and completed many ambitious projects. As the outgoing HWL president, I would like to thank all of the members of HWL who supported and worked on HWL's committees and projects. I encourage all of you to continue to participate actively in HWL.

Gender Neutral Information Pamphlet

By Mel Masuda

At its Dec. 15 meeting, the HSBA board approved distribution of a pamphlet, "Do's and Don'ts for Non-Sexist Language," to all members of the HSBA. 1988 Bar President Bill McCorriston stressed that the pamphlet is for information purposes and is not endorsed by the HSBA.

At the same time, McCorriston stressed that the distribution of the pamphlet follows up on Resolution 88-34, approved in November by the Fourth Judicial Conference. The resolution asked that there be gender neutrality in the administration of Hawaii courts.

You will find the following suggestions, among others, regarding use of gender-neutral language in the pamphlet:

1. Because "esquire" was traditionally a masculine word, the pamphlet suggests the alternative use of "attorney at law" or "lawyer."

2. "Chair" is suggested to replace "chairman" or "chairwoman."

3. Changing singular references to "he" instead to the plural "they" is recommended.

4. "Councilmember" is used instead of "councilman" or "councilwoman."

5. "Founders" is used instead of "founding fathers."

BAR BOARD ACTIONS

(Continued from page 9)

the first annual HSBA planning session, held on Saturday, Dec. 3, was a success, and plans are to continue the session each year.

13. U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens will be the "Jurist in Residence" at U.H. Richardson School of Law in January 1990;

14. A resolution was passed honoring retiring executive director Elle Pierce for her 17 years of dedicated service.

15. Outgoing President McCorriston presented each of his committee chairs and regular attendees at board meetings with an elegant, personally inscribed paperweight for their service to the bar.