



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

June, 1989

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June Monthly Meeting: Estate Planning

DATE: Friday, June 30, 1989 at 12:00 Noon

PLACE: Cades Schutte Fleming & Wright
1000 Bishop St., 10th Floor Conference Room

TOPIC: Estate Planning

HWL has invited attorneys Sandy Nitta and Carolyn Grayson to hold a mini-seminar on Estate Planning. Both attorneys are sole practitioners who specialize in this area. They will outline basic information in the area of wills and trusts, powers of attorney, probate and guardianship. Please join us for an informational session which no doubt will be of benefit the next time you are asked whether you can draft a will (this session may reinforce your practice of referring inquiries to those more experienced in this area!).

Recap of May Monthly Meeting

HWL extends its appreciation to Dan Foley, Jane Howell, Robert Thomas and Michael Hare, for their participation in HWL's forum on the issue of Zoning by Initiative and implications of the recent Hawaii Supreme Court decision.

It's Yearly Dues Time!

June is the month when we ask all HWL members to renew your dues to HWL. Your mailing label shows the date your dues are due for renewal. Some of our many current projects worthy of your financial support include: the Women's Biography Project (publication of a biography of early women pioneers in law in Hawaii); the Women's Rights Handbook (a consumer's guide to legal rights affecting women); the Domestic Violence Hotline (legal advice for battered women and other victims of family violence, now including bilingual services); Reproductive Rights Committee (educational forums, pro-choice rally, and amicus brief in support of legal access to contraception and abortion); Gender Bias Committee (to annihilate gender bias in the Hawaii bar and courts); and the Legislative Committee (to address current legislation of interest to women). So, please write out your check for dues renewal. While you are at it, tell us any projects or areas of interest you would like to be involved in!

Private Clubs: Discrimination Continues

Gender discrimination continues at many private clubs in Hawaii, despite Hawaii's Public Accommodations Act, H.R.S. § 489-1, and the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in **New York State Club Ass'n, Inc. v. City of New York** (1988). Following a request from HWL, Waialae Country Club has removed most of its discriminatory by-law provisions, but retains a discriminatory membership clause which permits members to pass their membership to sons or sons-in-law, but not to daughters or daughters-in-law. Oahu Country Club and Mid-Pacific Country Club have failed to inform us of any changes they have sought or made to their discriminatory by-law provisions, which bar women from equal membership rights. Pacific Club, which ostensibly removed its barriers to female membership, last month denied service to HWL members (female) in its "Card Room," due to "Gentlemen Only" rules, much to the embarrassment and anger of the HWL patrons. If you have further information of discriminatory practices in Hawaii clubs (based on gender or ethnicity), or are interested in responding to this problem, please call Ellen Carson at 524-1212. If you know members of these clubs, please urge them to stop these discriminatory practices. You can also help by writing letters of protest to these clubs and declining to hold functions at them until all discriminatory activities are stopped.

Gender Bias - A Continuing Problem

Task Forces in 27 states, including Hawaii, are studying gender bias in the Courts. A major focus in every state is family law — divorce, alimony, child custody and support — as well as discrimination against women professionals and judicial candidates. The task forces are finding evidence of sexual bias in the credence given to witnesses, in the sentencing and post-sentencing treatment of criminal defendants (juveniles and adults), in treatment of rape and domestic violence victims, and in women attorneys' income and professional advancement. Responsible officials have sometimes been slow to correct these problems due to their failure to see their own sexist stereotyping. Maryland Appeals Court Judge Roslyn Bell reports trying to discuss these problems with a rural male judge, who responded, "The *girls* that practice in my court don't have any problem." Ugh!

Abortion and Contraception: Awaiting A Decision

A decision on abortion rights is due this month from the Supreme Court in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*. Excerpts from the oral arguments before the Court included the Justice Dept's request that the Court reverse *Roe v. Wade* to protect "actual human life" from the point of fertilization, ostensibly without affecting the rights to contraception recognized in *Griswald v. Connecticut*. Counsel for the Women's Services responded that the Government's request would destroy the "whole cloth of procreational rights," as the most commonly used and effective "contraceptives" (low dosage birth control pill and I.U.D.'s), act as "abortifacients" after fertilization. Thus, reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, and recognition of "actual human life" as beginning at the point of fertilization, could criminalize the use of these contraceptives. As science and medicine have now extinguished any "bright line" between contraception and abortion, the Court was asked to "deal with one right, the right to procreate."

Announcements

Personals

Past-HWL President Lorraine Akiba and Robert Pennybacker were married on May 27, 1989. Best Wishes!

Shelby Anne Floyd and her husband Bob Bonar are the proud new parents of a baby girl, Lindsay Akiko Bonar, born on May 2, 1989.

Carolyn Stapleton is starting a new job as Counsel to the Ethics Commission of the City and County of Honolulu. New address is at the above office, Honolulu Hale, 530 South King Street, Honolulu 96813. Phone 527-5584.

We know there are more weddings, babies, new jobs, and other celebratory events happening out there—please call in your good news so we can share it with other HWL members.

Events of Interest

Lawyer Kokua Luncheon: Corporate Practice. The next HWL/Lawyer Kokua Program "brown bag" meeting is on corporate practice, by Michael Porter, Esq. and Kathryn Matayoshi, Esq. All are invited to the meeting, on July 5, 1989, at noon, at the Intermediate Court of Appeals, 3rd Floor, Old Federal Building, 335 Merchant Street. It's free.

Hawaii Women Lawyers' Foundation Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for July 20. THWLF members and HWL Board members should be receiving an invitation with details. For further information call Joyce Neeley at 523-7021.

Women in Business: Skills and Attitudes for Success. This conference, sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the SBA's Women in Business Committee, will be held on Friday, June 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Hilton Hawaiian Village South Pacific Ballroom. Cost is \$60, including lunch. Call the SBA at 521-2973 for details.

HWL MEMBERSHIP

If you have not done so already, please renew your membership. Dues are \$25, \$15 (Out of State Members), \$15 (New Admittees), \$5 (Students). Please remit with the following form to HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805:

Name _____ Business Address _____

Phone _____ Residence Address _____

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Please indicate the committees, if any, on which you would be willing to serve _____

Please note any topics or projects in which you are interested _____

Moved? Name change? Receiving duplicates? Please send old mailing label with corrections to HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805.

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