



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

November, 1989

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November Meeting: Meet Soviet Attorney Larisa Rasskazova

Our November 27 membership meeting will host Larisa Rasskazova, a Russian attorney enjoying a six-month legal internship in Hawaii. She will discuss issues regarding the Russian legal system, civil and family court practice, and gender issues in the Soviet Union. Please join us for this "Brown Bag" luncheon on Monday, November 27, 1989, at noon at the 10th Floor conference room of Cades Schutte Fleming and Wright, 1000 Bishop Street.

Big Island Women's Ass'n Supports Pro-Choice

The Big Island Women's Legal Association recently announced its adoption of the following prochoice resolution:

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States in its July 3, 1989 decision in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, (#88-605, 57 U.S. Law Week 5023), has cut back sharply on women's constitutional right to abortion, established in the landmark Roe v. Wade decision of 1973 (410 U.S. 113); and
WHEREAS, there is imminent danger that Roe v. Wade may be

overturned in the October term of the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, by removing the debate from the judicial system to the fifty (50) state Legislatures, the Supreme Court has returned to the states significant authority to control women's right of choice concerning their own bodies, and

WHEREAS, national polls have shown that a majority of the American people favor legalized abortion, and

WHEREAS, the poor and disenfranchised are the persons most adversely affected by the decision in Webster; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we preserve Hawaii's law which protects a woman's right to make personal private decisions without governmental interference,

BE IT RESOVLED, that the Big Island Women Lawyers Association go on record supporting this resolution as an expression of our great concern and support of women's right to choice, and urge the members of the Hawaii State Legislature to preserve Hawaii's law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Hawaii members of the State Legislature.

HWL Enters as Amicus in Three Abortion Cases This Term

Hawaii Women Lawyers has again entered its appearance as amicus in the United States Supreme Court, supporting the right of choice in three cases pending this term pertaining to abortion. Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health, and Hodgson v. Minnesota, which concern parental notice statutes restricting minors' rights of access to abortion, will be heard on November 29, 1989. Turnock v. Ragsdale, concerning state licensing and certificate of need regulations imposed on abortion providers, will be heard on December 5, 1989.

Contributions Needed for HWL Women's Rights Handbook

HWL is soliciting donations for the first printing of its Legal Rights Handbook for Women in Hawaii, an approximately 200-page reference book detailing women's rights in a host of legal issues, including employment, education, social security and welfare benefits, military service, divorce and child custody, domestic violence, and reproductive rights. The book is the product of volunteer efforts by Hawaii's women lawyers, and is designed to be distributed free of charge to women's organizations, shelters, libraries, etc., to help inform women of their legal rights. Major funding has been provided by the Hawaii Bar Foundation, IOLTA funds, Nancy J. Stivers fund and others, but additional contributions are needed due to substantial increases in printing costs. Contributions to HWLF are tax-deductible, and contributors of \$200.00 or more will be acknowledged in the book. Please send your donation to HWLF, P.O. Box 2576, Honolulu, Hawaii 96803, by December 2, 1989, and designate the contribution for the HWL Legal Rights Handbook.

Calling All Volunteers

HWL's Domestic Violence Hotline needs volunteers to help answer calls from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., weekdays. A training program and reference tools are provided. This is a great way to use a few hours a month to help women in need. Please call Sheryl Nicholson at 524-1212 for details. HWL's Legislative Committee is in need of volunteers to help draft testimony in support of HWL's legislative agenda, and/or to present oral testimony at legislative hearings. This is where volunteer efforts for a small portion of the year can make big differences in our legislative goals for Hawaii. If you are able to help, please call Cynthia Farias at 536-6922.

HWL's Family Leave Committee is also in need of volunteers, to help on education, brochures, negotiations, and legislation related to developing better family leave policies in the private and public sectors (for parents or others with dependents). If you are able to help, please call Rhonda Griswold at 521-9200.

Date Rape: When Will It End?

The U.H. Women's Newsjournal, VOICES, reports that one in four women on the U.H. campus have been victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, based on a survey conducted by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC). Many of these women had trouble labeling their experience as sexual assault; many had never told anyone, and most did not report the incident to the police. The survey also found overwhelming student acceptance of "rape myths," such as beliefs that a woman cannot be raped by her boyfriend, or that a woman may be responsible for her rape because she asked for it by the way she was dressed. (A Fort Lauderdale, Florida, jury recently acquitted a man of rape based on the jury's belief the woman had "asked for it" by the way she dressed!)

Furthermore, the survey showed that male students believe that a woman has to say "no" an average of three times to be believed, and that one in three men continue with sexual advances even when a woman says no. In fact, one in six males surveyed admitted to committing acts which meet the Hawaii State definition of sexual assault.

Date/acquaintance rape is most prevalent among women between the ages of 18 and 24, and estimates show that at least 50% of all rapes are committed by someone the victim knows and trusts. Unfortunately, many women have never been told they can be raped by someone they know. Thus, many women never recognize their experience as rape and never get the medical, legal, and emotional support they may need. For more information on combatting sexual assault, call Barbara Granoff of C.O.R.E. (Creating Options for Rape-Free Environment) at 948-6129 or 973-0111, or the SATC at 524-7273.

Announcements

Faculty for ABA CLE courses needed

The ABA Standing Committee on Continuing Education to the Bar seeks women and minorities to serve as faculty for various ABA Continuing Legal Education seminars and courses. Any interested persons should send a current resume and cover letter stating their areas of interest and expertise to: Prof. David Williams II, Ohio State University, College of Law, 1569 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43210.

Personals

Congratulations to HWL Board member Linnel Nishioka, who was married on November 4 to Wayne Ogata, and who on November 16 began her new job at the State Attorney General's office, Land Transportation Division, 465 South King Street, Room 300, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Phone: 548-6018.

Be sure to tune in to the TV show Jeopardy on December 5, 1989 to match your wits against HWL Secretary Susan Jaworowski, who not only meets the challenge, but also puts in a great plug for HWL and our domestic violence legal hotline.

Events of Interest

"How to Advocate Successfully" is a training seminar provided by the Junior League of Honolulu on Saturday, December 2, 1989, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the State Capitol, Room 326. Topics include how a bill becomes law, what the Legislative Research Bureau can do for you, public access issues, and how to effectively advocate so that your position is heard. Free. Call 522-0303 for reservations and details.

Women in Film is a luncheon presentation by Sheila Benson, Film Critic, Los Angeles Times, concerning the continuing problem of negative stereotypes of women in film. The luncheon is on November 29, 1989, at noon, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. For reservations, send a check for \$25.00 to Women in Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 10214, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816, with your name, address, and phone number.

Hawaii State Ass'n of Counties Conference will be held on Dec. 7-8, 1989, at the Royal Waikoloan in South Kohala, Island of Hawaii. The Conference is entitled "Hawaii's Labor Market in the 90's: A Worker's Market?", and will address growth and labor trends in Hawaii, as well as public and private response to these issues. For fee and registration information, call Councilwoman Lorraine Inouye at 961-8267 or 959-6956.

HWL MEMBERSHIP

HWL invites you to become a member, or to renew your membership dues, if you have not already done so. (The date on your address label shows the last date your dues are current). Please send the following form to HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Dues are as follows:

Regular members \$25 Out-of-state members \$15 Student members \$5
New admittees (within 1 year of Hawaii admission) \$15

HWL President's Circle: \$100 \$500 \$1000 (circle one)

Name _____ Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

Mailing Address _____

Please indicate if you are interested in information about serving on the HWL Board or Committees

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. If you have any announcements you wish to submit for the monthly newsletter, please call Ellen Godbey Carson at 524-1212 or send a copy to HWL by the end of every month.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

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