



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

January, 1990

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Come to Our January 25 Annual Installation & Awards Celebration

HWL's Annual Installation and Awards Celebration will be held on January 25, 1990, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the Plaza Club, 21st Floor, 900 Fort Street Mall. The event will be co-hosted by the Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation, who will also be announcing their new officers for 1990. We will present the 1990 Awards for Outstanding Woman Lawyer and Distinguished Service Award. The formal presentations will be much shorter so that we can all have more time to socialize. We hope you will come join us. Bring your friends, too. The cost is \$14.00. Checks should be made payable to Hawaii Women Lawyers, and sent to HWL Awards Celebration, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, 96805, with the name of each person who will be attending. Please send your R.S.V.P. by January 18, 1990. We look forward to seeing you!

HWL Annual Retreat - February 10

HWL's Annual Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 10, 1990, from 9am to 1pm, at Ellen Carson's home in Kaneohe. The retreat is a time for long-range planning, review of accomplishments, and planning for projects and programs in 1990. Please plan to join us. Call Ellen Carson at 524-1212 to R.S.V.P. and for details.

HWL 1989 Retrospective

By Ellen Godbey Carson, 1989 HWL President

As we conclude our 1989 activities, Hawaii Women Lawyers has enjoyed a year of increasing progress on gender bias and issues affecting women in Hawaii.

HWL was honored in 1989 with state and national awards for its continuing leadership in women's rights issues. In April, HWL received the YWCA Enrichment Award for our advocacy efforts towards improving the lives of women in Hawaii. At the ABA National Convention in August, HWL received First Place in the ABA/YLD Awards of Achievement Competition, for outstanding activities and accomplishments in a single project service to the public - our Domestic Violence Legal Hotline. At the HSBA annual meeting in November, HWL President Ellen Godbey Carson and Secretary Sheryl L. Nicholson were awarded, respectively, the HSBA Pro Bono Award and the HSBA/YLD Justice Award. HWL also celebrates the appointment of one of its prior presidents, Leslie Hayashi, as per diem judge in the District Court. We are pleased with these accomplishments, but know that much work remains to be done.

Major projects for HWL during 1989 included the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, which expanded into Korean language services; the HWL Legal Rights Handbook for Women in Hawaii, due to be off the presses in January 1990, and filled with almost 200 pages of legal rights information for women; the Early Women Lawyers of Hawaii biography project, combining over 20 historical essays on Hawaii's women attorneys prior to Statehood (still in progress); and efforts to eliminate sex discrimination in Hawaii's private clubs, which enjoy central roles in business, social, and convention activity in Hawaii.

In reviewing our 1989 activities and accomplishments, I wish to extend a very special thanks to each person who has helped participate in and support these projects, and especially to our 1989 officers and directors: Vice-President Corianne Lau, Secretary Susan Jaworowski, Treasurer Michelle Tucker, and Directors Sheryl Nicholson, Linnel Nishioka, Hisae Ishii-Chang, Cynthia Farias, and Lissa Andrews.

National Law Journal Gender Bias Survey Results

Many of the most successful women lawyers in the U.S. say that despite their achievements, sexual discrimination has hampered their careers, according to a National Law Journal/West Publishing Co. survey.

More than 900 women working in 56 of the nation's largest law firms responded to the survey. The participants, who work in Atlanta, Boston, New York and ten other large cities, are among the best-paid women lawyers in the country, earning from \$50,000 to more than \$250,000 a year. Nonetheless, most of the women surveyed reported that they still lag behind their male counterparts. According to the survey, 64% of the women reported that opportunities for entering management at their firms were better for men. More than 30% surveyed also said they were at a disadvantage in winning top job assignments and promotions, and in gaining litigation experience. Many women in the National Law Journal survey said that while their base salaries are the same as men's, they often receive less income because they fail to generate as much business. Many firms provide extra compensation for business generation. In addition, more than half the women said that male superiors at their firms were less willing, or not willing at all, to serve as mentors to women.

Fully 60% of the 918 female respondents said they have experienced unwanted sexual attention from male colleagues and clients, including "teasing, jokes, remarks or questions." And one quarter said they have experienced "deliberate touching, leaning over, cornering or pinching." Many of the women surveyed placed blame for the harassment on sexist attitudes promoted by such practices as firms holding memberships in male-only clubs.

It has been ten years since women began entering the legal work force in large numbers. In 1970, only 3% of lawyers were women; today, the total is up to 20%. Nationally, women comprise 6% of partners at law firms, the report found. In 1989, women accounted for 42% of law students at all levels, compared to 4% in 1966. More than 80% of women lawyers have entered the profession since 1970. Women now comprise only 7.4 percent of federal district, circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court judges. They represent 7.2 percent of state court judges but comprise only 6.8% of judges on state courts of last resort and 6.5 percent of intermediate appellate judges.

This article excerpted from the Wall Street Journal, Honolulu Advertiser, and California State Bar Report.

Why a Women's Movement?

Women make up 51 percent of the world's population, put in two-thirds of the world's work hours, receive one tenth of the world's wages, and own one hundredth of the world's real property. This, essentially, is what the women's movements are all about.

From Lou Boyd, Honolulu Advertiser, 12/30/89

Why Not Run For Public Office?

The Hawaii Women's Political Caucus (HWPC) urges women to consider the challenge of running for public office. There is a great need for more women to approach elective office and lend a feminist perspective to decision-making and allocation of funds. HWPC is ready to help you become involved, learn how to declare a candidacy, raise money, market yourself, and develop a strategy for your campaign. If you are interested or know someone else who is, please call HWPC members Angie King (635-2967) or Nanci Kreidman (737-8464), or send a letter to HWPC at P.O. Box 61659, Honolulu, 96822.

Announcements

Personals

Romano Hussey and Alan Burdick celebrate the birth of their daughter, Natalia, on December 2, 1989. Natalia was born at home, weighed 10.5 pounds, and plans to help out in Mom and Dad's law office soon!

Events of Interest

Powerful Communication Skills for Women Workshops will be held on February 15 and 16 at the Hawaiian Regent Hotel, by the National Businesswomen's Leadership Association. The purpose is to help you make a powerful impact in your speaking, deal effectively with difficult people and tough situations, and motivate others. The cost for the one-day workshop (9am-4pm) is \$59.00. Call 1-800-258-7246 for details and registration.

Sonia Johnson, a very dynamic feminist speaker, will speak on the "She/volution" (Breaking up with Patriarchy instead of Ourselves) at U.H. Campus Ballroom on January 11, 1990 at 7:30 p.m. (\$10), and at a women's workshop on January 13, 1990, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (\$25). Call 944-1040 or 944-3956 for details.

Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration will be held at Church of the Crossroads on Monday, January 15 at 7:30p.m., via presentation of music, liturgy, and guest speaker Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, Program Director of the Church Women United.

YWCA Quest for Partners -- The YWCA offers a new program, Quest for Partners, which seeks to match up women and/or single parent families with low to middle incomes, with housemates in affordable housing. If you know anyone who might be interested in being a participant or who can provide rentals, please call the Fernhurst YWCA at 941-2231 and ask for Sandi or Laure.

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

No _____

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

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

P.O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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