



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

March, 1990

1990 BOARD

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March Meeting: Taxes, Taxes, and More Taxes

Date: Friday, March 30, 1990

Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Cades Schutte Fleming and Wright
1000 Bishop Street, 10th Floor Conference Room

Topic: Preparing your personal income taxes

As the deadline draws ever nearer for filing your personal income tax forms, our luncheon speaker, Judith Sterling, C.P.A. and J.D., will provide us with some salient tax tips for busy attorneys and will answer any last minute tax questions that you may have in preparing your own tax returns. As both a certified public accountant and attorney, Judith Sterling can provide useful information on deductions, exemptions, and other tax tips that could save you money (\$\$\$)! Please join us for what promises to be a constructive session to help us deal with the annual tax blues. See you there!

Lawyer Kokua Program on Administrative Law

The Lawyer Kokua Program, co-sponsored by the HSBA/YLD and HWL, will host a brown-bag luncheon on April 4, 1990, on Administrative Law, with speakers Robert A. Alm and Rod Maile. The meeting is free and will be held at the Intermediate Court of Appeals, 3rd Floor, Old Federal Building, 335 Merchant Street, from noon to 1:15 p.m.

HWL Position Statements on Legislative Issues

The following Position Statements on Legislative Issues were adopted by the HWL Board at its February 10, 1990 Annual Retreat. These statements serve to guide our response on legislative and community issues occurring through the year.

GENDER BIAS - HWL supports the equal rights of women under the law, and seeks to eliminate all remaining vestiges of gender discrimination. HWL supports affirmative action programs as an appropriate means of remedying continuing effects of historic discrimination against women.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - HWL recognizes that one of the gravest dangers to the lives and safety of women and children is domestic abuse. HWL seeks effective legal and societal measures to stop the brutality and offer safe haven to the victims of this violence, including, but not limited to, funding of shelters for battered women and their children.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS - HWL supports the right of privacy and autonomy as recognized in Roe v. Wade and Griswold v. Connecticut, and opposes any efforts to intrude upon the right of safe and legal family planning and abortion services. HWL supports improved access, information, and low-cost availability of such services.

CHILD CARE - HWL recognizes the severe shortage of affordable quality child care, and supports expansion of child care funding and programs in the public and private sectors.

FAMILY LEAVE - HWL supports expanded rights of parenting leave and family leave in the public and private sector, including employees' paid time off and protection of jobs while on parenting leave, and/or while the needs of their young infants or ill family members require the employee's absence from the job.

CIVIL RIGHTS - HWL supports the vigorous enforcement of civil rights under state and federal law, and seeks to improve the protection of these civil rights, particularly for women and minorities historically subject to discrimination.

EDUCATION - HWL supports measures to improve the quality of education in Hawaii's schools. HWL opposes gender bias in education, and supports expanded educational programs addressing the special needs of those who are socio-economically disadvantaged or handicapped.

HEALTH & WELFARE - HWL supports welfare programs which assure adequate housing, health and nutrition for all Hawaii's residents, and which address the special needs of women and children. HWL supports legislation to ban discrimination in property transactions, based on the nature of health services to be provided.

FETAL ABUSE - HWL opposes efforts to impose civil or criminal penalties on "fetal abuse," and supports expanded prenatal services, and substance abuse treatment programs for pregnant women.

ADOPTION - HWL supports the right of adopted children and birth parents to obtain access to the identity of their respective birth parents or birth children, as well as the right of such persons to prevent disclosure of such identity, as long as prescribed means are followed to register opposition to such disclosure.

CONSUMER PROTECTION - HWL supports rights of consumers to protection from unfair and deceptive practices. In addition, HWL supports the rights of consumers of legal services to fair and accurate information about their rights, remedies, and attorney billing practices.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE - HWL supports increased rights of victims of violence and supports their increased involvement in the criminal prosecution process.

MINORS - HWL supports protection of individual rights of minors, and supports a bill of rights for minors.

HWL appreciates your comments, feedback, and participation in these issues. Please contact our new legislative committee co-chairs, Joan Englebart (595-2743) and Sara Lyn Smith (521-9699)

"Our Rights, Our Lives" Handbook

Hundreds of requests have come in for HWL's new Guide to Women's Legal Rights in Hawaii, entitled Our Rights, Our Lives, since publication of the book was announced in early March. Notices of the free publication have gone out to approximately 2,000 women's organizations, liaisons, libraries, schools, and service providers for women. Copies of the book may still be obtained at the offices of the Commission on Status of Women, 335 Merchant Street, Room 253, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Legal Speakers Needs

HWL's Speaker's Bureau is receiving increased requests for speakers on a wide variety of legal topics. If you can help be a legal speaker, please call Christine Kurashige (531-6241) of our HWL Speaker's Bureau; she's helping coordinate the requests and volunteer speakers. Identify specific substantive areas on which you feel qualified to speak, and geographic areas that are convenient for you.

Nominations Sought for Positions and Awards

The YWCA of Oahu seeks nominations for women who deserve public recognition for outstanding achievement in the areas of Business, Communications and Arts, Government, Education, Professions, Trailblazers, Community Service, and Youth Achievement. There is also an Outstanding Organization Award for which nominations are sought. (HWL was honored by the YWCA Community Enrichment Award in 1989). Please pick up nomination forms from the YWCA, 1040 Richards Street, and submit by March 23, 1990.

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations is seeking nominations for officers or directors to help serve the needs of women lawyers and women's bar associations in the United States. If you are interested in serving as an officer or director, please call Ellen Carson (524-1212) for further details.

The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), Hawaii Chapter, is looking for a volunteer legal adviser for consultation and/or membership on their board of directors. The time commitment is very flexible. If you are interested, please call Nora Feuerstein at 599-5488.

Announcements

Personals

Congratulations to Coralie Chun Matayoshi, former Executive Director of the Hawaii Institute for Continuing Legal Education, who was recently named as the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Bar Association.

June Russell, C.P.A., (Assistant Treasurer for THWLF) has begun her own business in business, real estate consulting, and tax planning. Her new office is located at 733 Bishop Street, phone 599-4100. She was formerly the tax manager at The Shidley Group.

JOB POSITIONS

The Hawaii Institute for Continuing Legal Education (HICLE) is conducting a search for a new Executive Director. The job requires a college degree (law degree preferable), writing and organizational skills. Applications are due ASAP. If you are interested, call Connie Lau at 543-7384.

INCREASED GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS
OF WOMEN TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN 1990

By Lorraine H. Akiba, President
The Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation

With support from the Women's Caucuses of the State House and Senate, THWLF and other women's groups successfully submitted names of qualified women leaders to Governor Waihee for appointment to boards and commissions. Many of the women on the list of gubernatorial appointments were HWL members, including:

Karen Ahn for Land Use Commission
Lorraine H. Akiba for Environmental Council
Sharon Himeno for Board of Land and Natural Resources
Janice Kim for Board of Directors, UH Research Corporation
Carol Mon Lee for Real Estate Commission
Crystal Rose for Board of Professional Engineers, Architects,
Surveyors and Landscape Architects
Donna Tanoue for Board of Directors, High Technology
Development Corporation.

THWLF thanks Governor Waihee for acting upon the submission of women candidates and making an excellent start towards increasing the number of women appointed to State Boards and Commissions. THWLF is especially grateful to Representatives Annelle Amaral and Carol Fukunaga, as well as Senator Ann Kobayashi for their assistance and support.

The House and Senate Women's Caucuses introduced HCR 82/SCR 209 "Urging the Governor to Appoint Women to At Least One-Half of All State Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Commissions This Year." During the legislative session, HWL submitted testimony in support of the resolution, and in support of various women candidates at confirmation hearings held on the appointments for boards and commissions.

THWLF will continue its joint efforts with other women's groups and the State House and Senate Women's Caucuses to increase equal representation of women on boards and commissions in 1991. In this regard, THWLF has compiled a list of board and commission vacancies still remaining to be filled in 1990, as well as those becoming available in 1991. Boards or commissions with vacancies include:

Employees' Retirement System, UH Research Corporation, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Housing Finance and Development Corp., Civil Defense Advisory Council, Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission, Public Employees Compensation Appeals Board, High Technology Development Corporation, Hawaii Public Employees Health Fund, Land Use Commission, Stadium Authority, Waikiki Convention Center Authority, Aloha Tower Development Corporation, Environmental Council, Contractors License Board, Credit Union Review Board, Hawaii Housing Authority, Tax Review Commission, Hawaii Paroling Authority, Public Utilities Commission, Real Estate Commission, UH Board of Regents, Hawaiian Homes Commission, Civil Services Commission, Board of Health, Board of Public Broadcasting, and Commission on Transportation.

If you are interested in serving on a State Board or Commission, please contact Ellen Godbey Carson, HML President (524-1212).

THWLF is encouraged by the positive results of our efforts in this area. We also hope to achieve similar success with increased judicial appointments for women in the State Judiciary this year. Such accomplishments would truly make 1990 stand out as "The Year of Hawaii's Women"!

MEDIATION AND MEDIATION TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

By Pat Billington, HWL member

Editor's comment: HWL encourages women to pursue training in mediation and arbitration as a means of broadening skills, developing judicial/leadership abilities, and contributing to dispute resolution needs in our community. This article focuses on mediation opportunities; another article in the Newsletter focuses on arbitration before the MCCP.

Mediation, a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), is a process by which a neutral third party assists two or more parties in conflict to resolve their dispute. A mediator does not have the power to decide the dispute, but helps parties who want to structure a mutually beneficial solution to their dispute. The functions of a mediator are to maintain a basic attitude of neutrality, to develop a climate in which trust and collaboration can take place, and to guide a problem solving process that allows people to free themselves from their conflict and to clarify their interests and goals, so as to find a solution which serves both parties' interests.

There are at least three opportunities in Hawaii to develop mediation skills. The Neighborhood Justice Center of Honolulu, Inc. (NJC), has trained more than five hundred mediators. Jean Fargo, NJC's Volunteer Development Director, states that "being a volunteer mediator for NJC is really a mind set." The apprentice mediator becomes immersed in a long-term volunteer commitment involving an apprenticeship with a minimum of 60 hours of training, followed by the mediation of ten cases during the apprenticeship year. After the apprenticeship year, the NJC volunteer handles at least six mediations and participates in at least two workshops each year. If you have the time and personal desire to make a community service commitment, and want to develop skills to enhance their personal and professional lives, call the NJC at 521- 6767. The next volunteer apprenticeship training will begin in Spring, 1991.

NJC also offers mediation training seminars which do not require a volunteer commitment. On June 28-29 a two-day workshop will be offered on interpersonal conflict prevention and resolution skills. A two-day workshop will be offered on July 19-20 on collaboration and consensus building in interpersonal and group settings. Call NJC at 521-6767 for further details.

The Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution mediates conflicts with public policy issues, and takes referrals from the Hawaii State Legislature, Courts, and State and County agencies. The Center's apprenticeship training is a minimum of 10 to 20 hours of instruction in mediation and negotiation techniques followed by being paired with an experienced mediator for one's first case. Trainees are recruited by the Center based on the legal and substantive skills it needs; bright, capable, good-humored, and creative persons are sought who have substantive and legal expertise in the subject fields. If you are interested in this mediation training, write to Dee Dee Letts, Assoc. Dir., Center for ADR, Judiciary, State of Hawaii, P.O. Box 2560, Honolulu 96804 (548-3080).

The American Arbitration Association (AAA) also offers mediation and mediation training. AAA typically mediates commercial disputes, contractual agreements, construction matters, surety and bonding disputes, insurance, condominium, and defective product issues, often as a result of standard ADR clauses in contracts. The AAA does both volunteer and paid mediations. AAA conducts two to three day training seminars, and will probably conduct one at the end of 1990. There is no charge for the training, but trainees are generally expected to accept cases referred to them. If you are interested in this training, write to Keith Hunter at AAA, 810 Richards St., Suite 641, Honolulu, HI 96813 (531-0541).

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 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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