



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

April, 1990

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April Meeting: Current Reproductive Rights Issues

Date: Friday, April 27, 1990

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

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

Topic: Reproductive Rights - current issues and actions

Come join Cheryl Vasconcellos, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii's dynamic Executive Director, and Ellen Godbey Carson, attorney for Planned Parenthood, for a brown-bag luncheon focusing on current issues in reproductive rights. Topics include Idaho and Guam's attempts to re-criminalize abortion, criminal charges against ACLU attorney Janet Benshoof for merely informing Guam women where to obtain abortion services in Hawaii, and recent scientific studies supporting the safety of the RU-486 (French abortion "pill"). Here in Hawaii, Oahu remains one of the most underserved counties in the U.S. in terms of availability of affordable family planning services, yet dozens of choice opponents opposed even contraceptives and family planning counseling at a recent hearing for a new windward Planned Parenthood clinic.

Mock Trial on Acquaintance Rape

Date rape/acquaintance rape is an astoundingly frequent--and devastating--occurrence for women, and yet it is has one of the lowest arrest and conviction rates, due to substantial barriers to effective enforcement of rape laws for this crime. Join us for a very interesting Mock Courtroom Trial on the issues and difficulties in prosecuting acquaintance rape cases, followed by a panel discussion on sexual assault issues and the law. The Mock Trial will be held on April 19, 6-10 p.m., at the East-West Center, Jefferson Hall, Keoni Auditorium. HWL's Adrienne King stars as defense counsel; David Minkin as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and Judge Marilyn Lee will preside. The program is co-sponsored by HWL, UH and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Call 947-8337 to RSVP, ASAP; \$2 donation.

Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling

--THWLF's Challenge and Goal for the 1990's

By Lorraine H. Akiba, President, THWLF

In 1990, which has been designated the "Year of Hawaii's Women", The Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation ("THWLF") will begin its challenging effort to assist women in law and other professions to break through the "glass ceiling".

In the last decade, much progress was made in getting more women into professions and work areas previously reserved exclusively for men, in opening up private clubs to women and in raising awareness regarding issues such as gender bias in the legal profession and judicial system, the need for progressive child care and family leave policies in the work place, the need to address and prevent problems in the work place, and the need to address and prevent problems of domestic violence. However, the last few years have also demonstrated the need to organize to maintain basic hard fought rights for women which were won in the 1960's and 1970's. For example, THWLF and HWL have worked with other community groups to preserve women's reproductive rights in light of the Webster decision.

On an individual level, many women have also voiced their frustration in facing the "glass ceiling" in the business professions. While there are increased numbers of women in mid-level management positions and significantly increased numbers of qualified and experienced women due to their admissions to professional schools, the numbers of women who have been allowed to advance to positions of power and influence in government and business are significantly less.

To help women break through the "glass ceiling", THWLF's priorities this year are:

1. To increase judicial appointments of qualified women to the bench;
2. To increase appointments of qualified women to government boards, commissions, and committees; and
3. To increase funding sources for new and ongoing community service projects such as the domestic violence legal hotline; the publication of the legal rights handbook for women, "Our Rights, Our Lives"; the women's biography project; and a family leave negotiation brochure.

In conjunction with HWL, much work has already been initiated. On March 23, 1990, THWLF submitted to Governor Waihee for his consideration and action, a list of women candidates for appointments to government boards and commissions. THWLF and HWL have been working on taking affirmative steps to provide qualified women candidates for judicial appointments in the District and Circuit Courts of the State of Hawaii.

As the current President of THWLF, I have had the privilege of welcoming a new board and new members of the Foundation to work together on these tasks. The 1990 THWLF officers and directors include Angie King, Vice President; Louise K. Y. Ing, Secretary; Lelanda S. Lee, Treasurer; June Russell, Assistant Treasurer; Sherry P. Broder, Ellen Godbey Carson, Richard R. Clifton, Virginia Lea Crandall, Dona L. Hanaike, Susan Jaworowski, Corianne W. Lau, Bernice Littman, Joyce Neeley, and Charlene Norris, Directors.

Together we look forward to making great progress on our goals and welcome your support and participation.

Networking

By Trudy Burns, HWL Networking Chair

As more and more women attorneys become partners in their firms, there is an increasing awareness that women need to do more in the way of "rain making" from the time that we first join the firm. One of the best organizations in town for meeting potential clients, and for learning more about how to network, is the Professional Women's Network. The Professional Women's Network brings together over 260 dynamic women from all areas of the business community. But to date, the group includes only two attorneys!

Monthly luncheon meetings are held at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki (with free parking at Fort DeRussy), on the third Monday of each month. Timely keynote speakers and the opportunity to come into contact with hundreds of other successful women provide excellent reasons for participating in this outstanding organization, which began here in Hawaii in 1978. Dates for the monthly luncheons for the remainder of 1990 are as follows (reservations are required): April 23 ("The Family of the Future"), May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, and November 19. The Network also hosts an annual Trade Show, held on May 17 at the Ala Moana Hotel, from 4:30 to 8:00pm, which features exhibits of businesses owned or managed by network members, plus entertainment and refreshments.

The Network newsletter, directory of members, seminars, and other special events are all aimed at providing the mutual support necessary to bring about personal growth and business success. The exchange of ideas and experiences help women expand their business contacts in Hawaii. In particular, it can help women attorneys learn to network in a supportive and exciting environment, and increase the "rain making" capabilities we all need. For membership information or reservations for the next lunch program or annual Trade Show, contact the Professional Women's Network at 533-4800.

THE WOMEN'S FUND

Help us welcome the Women's Fund in Hawaii, a new tax-exempt charitable trust fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation, which is dedicated to expanding permanent financial resources in Hawaii to assist the needs of women and girls. The Fund seeks donor/members who want to contribute to the Fund to support programs and projects such as battered women's shelters, parenting classes for teen mothers, older women's networks, child care, and other essential programs. If you or your clients (especially trust or corporate clients) may be interested in this valuable philanthropic organization, please contact the Women's Fund at 537-6333 or at 212 Merchant Street, Suite 330, Honolulu, 96813.

Announcements

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Bankruptcy Seminar - A free brown-bag luncheon/seminar on bankruptcy law will be held at noon on May 2, 1990, featuring speakers Judge Chinen and Hisae Ishii-Chang. The meeting will be held at the Intermediate Court of Appeals, 3rd Floor, Old Federal Building, 335 Merchant Street, and is part of the Lawyer Kokua Program, a project of HSBA/YLD and HWL.

Women and Aging Seminars - The Governor's Office on Aging is sponsoring two seminars for women regarding retirement and age-related problems: a Money Matters Seminar on May 2 at 7pm at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel (\$11), and a Training Workshop on May 3 from 8am to 5pm at the State Capitol (\$40). Call Beth Byerly at 548-2593 for details.

JOB POSITIONS

Paul, Johnson, Alston and Hunt is seeking a new litigation associate with 1-3 years commercial litigation experience. Competitive salary and benefits. Please submit a resume and writing sample to Hiring Attorney, PJAH, P.O. Box 4438, Honolulu, 96812-4438.

Legal Aid Society, Hilo Office, is seeking a staff attorney with 0-5 years experience for litigation, negotiation, and client advising. Please submit a resume and writing sample by April 20 to Executive Director, Legal Aid, 1108 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu 96817, Attn: Hilo Attorney.

HWL MEMBER IIP

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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