

HAWAII BAR NEWS



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HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
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Hawaii Women Lawyers

By Corianne W. Lau
Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation

Did you know that one out of every five women attorneys consumes six or more alcoholic drinks each day? This disturbing statistic was revealed in the results of a survey released at the American Bar Association's annual convention in Chicago this year (and reported in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, August 7, 1990). The survey also claimed 13 percent of attorneys overall consume six or more alcoholic beverages per day, up from less than one-half of one percent in 1984.

Only a third of all lawyers surveyed this year indicated they were "very satisfied with their jobs," a decrease from 41 percent in 1984. Women reported a greater level of dissatisfaction, disclosing that they are less optimistic about career advancement and concerned about office politics and sexual harassment. Ronald Hirsch, author of the survey, stated, "Increases in hours worked and the resulting decrease in personal time have become a major problem. The legal profession has in recent years become a less pleasant place to work."

The December 11, 1989 issue of Time magazine reported experts estimate that nearly 40,000 lawyers a year are leaving the profession, almost as many people as are entering law school annually. It was reported a major increase in working hours, coupled with a corresponding rise in stress, has led to an erosion in the quality of life for many lawyers.

The recognition of this unsettling trend and out of concern for Hawaii attorneys, organizations such as the Hawaii State Bar Association, HSBA Young Lawyers Division, the Hawaii Women Lawyers, and the Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation have established committees and have undertaken projects to study sources of lawyer dissatisfaction and possible solutions. The underlying aim is to address "quality of life" issues which tend to enhance or undermine our effectiveness as attorneys, and contribute to or detract from our willingness to stay in the profession. Those wishing more in-

(Continued on page 20)

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Hawaii Shorthand Reporters' Association

Know Your 1-2-3s

Q. When did the accident happen?

A. One twenty. (A.M.? P.M.? January 20?)

Q. What were the damages?

A. One twenty. (\$1.20? \$120? \$120,000?)

Numbers are no less subject to confusion than names or letters. For example, when you say forty-one-o-six, you mean \$41.06, 4,106, or 40,106 — all with or without a dollar sign. Likewise, two-twenty could refer to an amount, a street number, cubic centimeters, two-

point-twenty, or 20 minutes past two o'clock. October-nineteen-eighty-six means October 1986 — except when someone intends it to be October 19, '86.

Let everyone know what you mean by stating figures in full, followed by the subject they represent. For example, forty-one-dollars-six-cents; two-point-twenty-percent; six-o-five-p.m.; or October-nineteenth-nineteen-eighty-six.

(Permission to print granted to HSBA by the National Shorthand Reporters Association.)

Intellectual Property & Technology Section

Bar members interested in proposing an Intellectual Property & Technology Section to the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association should contact Seth Reiss, Esq., at 526-9744, no later than December 15, 1990. If there is sufficient interest, this section would meet periodically to discuss practice-oriented topics in some or all of the following substantive areas: copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, unfair competition, information, computer and telecommunications law.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS *(Continued from page 19)*

formation or to volunteer for any of the projects should contact the committee chairs listed below.

Quality of Life

HSBA Quality of Life Committee: Created by new HSBA President Paul Alston, observing that as professional and competitive pressures have increased, quality of life such as family leave, job sharing, career options, burnout and the like have become more important to lawyers and their families. The Committee was created to address these issues in a meaningful and systematic manner. Chair: Rick Clifton, 521-9200.

Family Leave

Hawaii Women Lawyers Family Leave Committee: With funding from the Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation and the HSBA Young Lawyers Division, the Committee has just published a brochure "Family Leave Nego-

tiations: How to Negotiate Family Leave for You and Your Company." The Committee seeks assistance with publicizing and distributing the brochure, and also with its goal of passing family leave legislation in Hawaii. Co-chairs: Rhonda Griswold, 521-9200 and Beverly Wee, 541-2850.

Drug and Alcohol Problems

The Attorneys and Judges Assistance Program is a confidential program to assist attorneys and judges with substance abuse and chemical dependency problems. Director: Judith Hanson, 595-8398 or 946-6741.

Gender Bias

1989 Judicial Conference's Ad Hoc Committee on Gender Bias. Co-chairs: Judge Dan Heely, 548-6305 and Dolly Ching.

HSBA Task Force on Gender Bias

Chair: Ramona Hussey, 537-5330.