



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

May, 1991

1991

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May Monthly Seminar: The 1991 Legislative Session — What Did It Accomplish?

Date: May 31, 1991

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Cades Schutte Fleming & Wright
1000 Bishop Street
15th Floor, Conference Room No. 1

The HWL Legislative Committee was very active at this year's Legislative Session. Many bills affecting women were monitored by the Committee, which also coordinated the presentation of testimony by HWL members at numerous hearings. This concerted effort resulted in a new high profile for HWL. Our voice was heard. This is intended as a beginning to our legislative effectiveness. The Committee will be working through the interim preparing for the 1992 session. Sara Lyn Smith, Chair of the Legislative Committee, will provide a legislative summary at a brown bag lunch open to all interested persons. Please come and let your voice be heard so that we may have more members contributing to the innovative work of the Committee next year. The summary will include information

on 20-30 bills, some of which passed. Mark your calendars and come out to hear what happened! For further information, please call Sara Lyn Smith at 523-7011.

The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse: A Service for "Everyone"

by Nanci Kreidman

The Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, a project of the Hawaii Women Lawyers, is now operating a new project which is designed to improve the delivery of legal and criminal justice system services. The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse will provide multi-lingual services to the Korean, Thai and Laotian communities, training to agencies, and legal representation to battered women who do not meet eligibility criteria for legal services.

The Clearinghouse will also be developing and distributing a newsletter focusing on domestic violence issues, as well as convening a community-wide work group of agencies who provide services. One other important service component the Clearinghouse intends to provide is an analysis of the practical, procedural and problematic elements of the Temporary Restraining Order process.

The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse is dedicated to helping reduce victimization and enhance the services currently being provided. For information about our services, or information about volunteering for the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline please call us at 531-3771.

Furniture Donations Needed

The Domestic Violence Legal Clearinghouse Project and Hawaii Women Lawyers are setting up offices in the Arcade Building downtown. Chairs, file cabinets and a conference table are desperately needed! If you or your firm have any of these items to donate, please contact the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline at 531-3771.

Openings For Per Diem Judges

Applications are now being accepted for appointments to per diem judgeships in the First Circuit Family Court. If you would like to apply, please call the office of Senior Judge Daniel G. Heely (548-6305) and ask for an application. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION IS JUNE 7, 1991.**

Personal interviews will be held for all applicants before the Committee to Evaluate Per Diem Judges for the First Circuit (Judge Daniel G. Heely, chair; Judge Tany Hong and Judge Bambi Weil).

If you have already submitted an application for a District Court per diem judgeship, all you need to do is send a letter to Judge Daniel G. Heely, c/o Family Court, 777 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, asking to be considered for the Family Court.

Apply To The Federal Judiciary

Hawaii has a dismal record of female applicants to the federal judiciary. Whether on the magistrate, District Court or Court of Appeals levels, women applicants have been woefully scarce. Women interested in applying to the federal judiciary are encouraged to contact Janine Harris, National Conference of Women Bar Association, 323 South Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone (703) 548-2406. Please send a resume and a cover letter.

HICLE Presents A Free Seminar On "Legal Concerns of the Homeless"

DATE: Thursday, June 6, 1991

TIME: 8:15 am - 4:15 pm

PLACE: Kapiolani Community College, Diamond Head Campus
Ohia Auditorium

Registration Fee: FREE, but registration required
(program funded by the Hawaii Bar Foundation)

Program: Attorneys and other members of the legal community are invited to attend this program designed to assist those concerned with the homeless and imminently homeless in Hawaii. Legal topics to be discussed include landlord-tenant law, children's protective issues, domestic violence remedies, adult guardianship, and more.

Employment Opportunities

Bank of Hawaii positions:

- 1) An attorney with three years legal experience in banking, thrift, real estate, bankruptcy, and/or consumer credit laws; and at least two years of experience in civil litigation, emphasis on collection cases, and/or commercial transactions a plus. Admission to the Hawaii State Bar required and the ability to work with people absolutely essential.
- 2) An attorney with two years legal experience in tax, estate planning and probate law; knowledge of banking law desirable; litigation and public speaking experience helpful. Admission to the Hawaii State Bar required and the ability to work with people absolutely essential.

Salaries commensurate with experience. Please apply in person with resume and writing samples Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm at: Human Resources Division/Staffing, 6th Floor, Bancorp Tower, 111 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

HWL Mailing List

Hawaii Women Lawyers has been approached to make its mailing list available to various commercial enterprises. So far we have declined to do so, although there is no formal policy in this area. If you have any preferences or comments, please contact Trudy Burns at 531-6575.

YWCA Honors Beadie Dawson

HWL member Beadie Kanahale Dawson, a deputy attorney general with the State of Hawaii, was honored as one of the "Women Who Make a Difference" by the YWCA at its fourteenth annual Leader Luncheon on May 8. The YWCA Leader Luncheon honors outstanding women in the community who have chosen to use their positions as leaders to benefit others. Other honorees were Doris Ching, Noel Irwin-Hentschel, Carole Kai and Lynne Waihe'e. Congratulations, Beadie!

A DISCUSSION WITH ONE OF HAWAII'S WOMEN JUDGES:
THE HONORABLE LESLIE A. HAYASHI
By Kathryn E. Young

An insightful and candid discussion was recently held with one of a Hawaii's newly appointed women judges, the Honorable Leslie A. Hayashi.

Judge Hayashi was born in Tokyo, Japan and raised in Wahiawa. Following graduation from Leilehua High School in 1972, she attended Stanford University where she graduated with distinction in communications (broadcasting) and a minor in the humanities honors program.

She attended Georgetown University Law Center and while there was a writer for the Georgetown Law School Weekly, member of the Georgetown Legal Aid Society, intern for the Institute for Public Representation and teacher for the Street Law Program. During her third year of law school, she was an instructor at Arlington Career Center where she taught gifted and talented high school students basic theories of law, legal analysis and various trial techniques.

After graduating from Georgetown in 1979, Judge Hayashi was a visiting fellow at the Educational Programs Department, American Judicature Society in Chicago and later became a staff attorney there. (Judge Hayashi is a member of the Hawaii and Illinois State Bars.)

In 1980, she returned to Hawaii and joined the law firm of Hamilton, Gibson, Nickelsen, Rush & Moore (presently Rush, Moore, Craven, Kim & Stricklin) where she later became a partner. In 1988, she became in-house counsel to ACRO, Inc. At the same time, Judge Hayashi was the executive director of Hawaii Lawyers Care.

On August 11, 1989, Judge Hayashi was appointed a per diem judge for the District and Family Courts of the First Circuit. She was appointed a full time District Court judge for the First Circuit on November 5, 1990.

She chose to become a judge over other career opportunities due to her long-standing involvement and commitment to legal education, especially to the public. Judge Hayashi presides over all courts within the district court system and rotates to circuit court. But it is in the arraignment and small claims courts that Judge Hayashi has thus far had the most opportunity to educate the public regarding the judicial system. She views small claims court much like certain calendars at family court; that is, as a "crisis situation" where emotions can run high, sometimes at the expense of reason. She lets the parties vent their feelings when the situation requires to aid in focusing the parties on the legal issues.

Judge Hayashi's focus on education and shared knowledge extends to the legal community and her colleagues as well. She has recently drafted a manual for associates through a project she initiated with the YLD. Her manual emphasizes orienting the new associate and clarifying expectations of law firms for associates. Susan Hafasburger is assisting in the editing of this manual. Judge Hayashi's penchant for organization has also led to the creation of her own bench books which she makes available to newer judges.

Judge Hayashi feels diversity (gender, race, cultural background, etc.) on the bench is important. Extending the required years of practice for judges would have an adverse impact, in general, on minorities and women who have entered law school relatively recently and do not have equal representation within the legal community. However, she agrees with extending the years of experience once minorities and women attain equal representation within the legal community.

HAYASHI, JUDITH

Further, Judge Hayashi feels that the nature of the judicial candidate's legal experience within the required five years of practice plus commitment to the community are the most important factors. Commitment to the community would include educating the public about the judicial process, and being aware of the decisions that may affect clients. Judge Hayashi does not believe litigation should be a necessary prerequisite to becoming a judge. She does feel, however, that knowing the litigators through her practice in construction and commercial litigation has been helpful in resolving disputes. Judge Hayashi also posed an interesting question if litigation experience were deemed a prerequisite: How would litigation experience be weighed? For example, in criminal litigation there tends to be more actual trial experience versus civil litigation where there is less trial and more pretrial work.

To women attorneys in litigation, Judge Hayashi makes three recommendations: 1) be courteous to every person who is a part of the judicial process, especially the court clerks and bailiffs; 2) be prepared; and 3) develop and be what is your own personal style.

To women attorneys in general, Judge Hayashi strongly recommends active participation in organizations such as HWL and HSBA/YLD and other community organizations to enhance career advancement. She also recommends finding a good mentor, deciding where you want to go career-wise and doing a good job at work. However, she does caution against neglecting one's family which she notes is an especially difficult problem for women.

To avoid being "pigeon-holed" in one area of practice, Judge Hayashi advises to "show you are a well rounded person." This can be demonstrated by pursuing leadership roles such as speakerships for HICLE/Pacific Law Institute or becoming an officer in the section of the bar you practice. Also, community service can be a source of diversification. Within a large firm, ask to do rotations through the various departments so there is some assessment of abilities later on if changing departments is desired. While smaller firms may require certain areas of practice, ask to do other legal matters as well.

Judge Hayashi's time in sharing her insights and career recommendations are appreciated. She invites anyone interested in being a district court judge or seeking advice concerning the application process to contact her for a confidential discussion.

The HWL newsletter committee will continue to publish discussions with the recently appointed women judges in hopes of sharing the judicial process with its readers, enhance career development and encourage more women applicants for judicial positions.

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. (Dues run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.) Please send the following form to HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Dues are as follows:

Regular members \$30 Out-of-state members \$20 Student members \$10
New admittees (within 1 year of Hawaii admission) \$20

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 would be 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 Susan Arinaga at 543-4791, Rhonda Nishimura at 537-6119, or Kathy Young at 523-0111, or send a copy to HWL by the end of every month.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

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