



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

August, 1991

1991

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Wrap-up of July Meeting

July's program on Effective Voice and Speaking Skills drew a large turnout of about 25 people. Mary Dizon and Jan Hanley Taketa, speech pathologists and voice trainers, presented a two-part overview of skills to use when speaking.

Dizon focused on effective communication during public speaking. Among the useful reminders she offered concerned judging your audience, organizing your presentation, and visualizing your result. Visualization improves the final product, as well as reduces the stress of speaking publicly. Begin with a few moments of relaxation, then visualize how confident you look as you begin your presentation. Finally, visualize actually giving the talk and receiving positive reactions from the audience. By visualizing the event several times, the actual event will be more effective and enjoyable.

Taketa discussed a major cause of vocal abuse: speaking in your habitual voice rather than your natural voice. One way of finding your natural voice is to say "Umm-hmm" several times, as if responding to questions. Have someone listen to the pitch of your voice. Then compare the pitch with the pitch of your voice when you speak. Chances are they may not be the same. Your speaking ability will be enhanced if you use your natural voice.

Dizon and Taketa are available for consultation. Some people have expressed an interest in further training. A group workshop would include personalized training and video taping of exercises. A group of 10 people would cost approximately \$20 each. If interested, please contact Sharon Takeuchi at 541-1827.

August Program Cancelled

The HWL educational program for August will not take place. Enjoy the summer break and come back when the programs resume in September!

Coping with Sexism

We have all experienced the sexist remark. Yet so often we don't know whether or how to respond. Perhaps nothing should be said; perhaps a humorous reply; perhaps a strong statement. Unfortunately, we are often unprepared to do or say anything.

A proposed program for November is to plan a workshop/discussion on sharing ideas for appropriate responses. The discussion would center on real-life experiences of people and be led by a person with experience in dealing with sexism on the professional level. We are soliciting descriptions of incidents you have experienced, even if you're not sure the incident could be

labeled as sexist. (We often think we're overreacting to an incident.) You can provide your incident anonymously, but a name and phone number may be helpful if we have a question. Of course, please change any details that might identify specific people involved — this program is for discussion purposes only! Please submit your incident to Sharon Takeuchi, HWL, P. O. Box 2072, Honolulu, 96805, or call her at 541-1827 for more information.

REMINDER - THWLF Hosts Fundraiser on September 20

Be sure not to miss The Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation fundraiser dinner on Friday, September 20 at the Mauna Kea Ballroom of the Hawaii Prince Hotel. Kauai mayor JoAnn Yukimura, Maui mayor Linda Crockett Lingle and Big Island mayor Lorraine Inouye will speak at the event, entitled "A Place in the Future."

The reception begins at 5:30, with dinner at 6:30. Tickets cost \$100 each, and table sponsorships are available.

Louise K. Y. Ing and Susan Ekimoto Jaworowski are this year's co-chairs. Honorary co-chairs of the fundraiser are Dolly Ching and William S. Richardson. The event raises money to support THWLF's community projects.

For reservations, call Donna Ahuna (secretary to Louise Ing) at 524-1800. Don't miss this exciting and unusual program!

Dues Reminder - Please Support HWL

If you have not yet mailed in your dues, please do so as soon as possible! Keep your membership current and maintain your support for the many HWL projects, educational seminars and community activities. You may use the form on the back of the newsletter. DON'T DELAY! To those of you who have already mailed in your dues, many thanks for your continued support.

McManaman Becomes Family Court Judge

Congratulations to Patricia Ann McManaman, who was recently appointed to a four-year term as a part-time Family Court District Judge for Oahu. Pat previously worked at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, at the Office of the Public Defender, and at Na Loio No Na Kanaka, a non-profit group that provides legal assistance on immigration and civil rights issues for indigent clients. Pat was selected from a list of 48 applicants for the position.

New Commissioners for Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

As of July, the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women has six new commissioners:

Carol C. Cummings (Kauai)
Dr. S. J. Gelb
Miriam Aitogi Peters
Stephanie Rezens
Marie F. Smith (Maui)
Shirley Harue Sasaki Tani (Kauai)

They replace the six commissioners whose terms have expired: Teri M. McGraw, Sharon Chiba (Kauai), Janice Higashi (Hawaii), Marsha Joyner, Jeanette Kay Worthy and Sharon Yamada (Kauai).

Advocates for Immigrant Women Meeting

The next meeting of the Advocates For Immigrant Women Committee will be held on Thursday, August 29, 1991, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the offices of Na Loio No Na Kanaka, 810 N. Vineyard Blvd. The Na Loio office is located on the first floor of the building on the corner of Palama and Vineyard. Enter from the Palama Street side.

For further information, please call Susan Wong at 847-8828.

Agenda

1. Multi lingual poster aimed at abused immigrants "Don't Stand for Being Abused"
 - Final review
 - Distribution plan
2. Input to "Domestic Violence Task Force" -
Special problems in getting help for abused women immigrants?

Sexism Uncovered in Rulings on Right to Die

Courts' consideration of right to die claims differ for men and women. According to Dr. Steven Miles, a Minneapolis doctor who specializes in medical care for the elderly and also teaches medical ethics at the University of Minnesota, a pattern of sexism exists in rulings regarding discontinuing use of life support systems for comatose patients.

In final appeals court decisions involving male patients, 75 percent have been based on what judges believe the man himself would have decided. In rulings concerning female patients, 86 percent of the appeals court rulings left the decisions to doctors, institutions, families or guardians. For example, a court in Maine ruled a 14-year-old male had made a "solemn moral judgment about wanting to die in such a situation." On the other hand, a Delaware court left the decision to a woman's husband even though she had been a member of the state's Euthanasia Council.

Carol Tauer, a philosophy professor at the College of St. Catherine who also teaches medical ethics, attributes the legal bias to certain views held by male judges. They may not be as able to identify with women as they do with men, and therefore in the case of a woman patient are less likely to ask themselves, "What would the patient have wanted?" She indicates men may exhibit the same protective impulse to protect women from death as evidenced by statutes prohibiting women soldiers from combat. While paternalism in the courts is not a positive element in that a judge may determine he knows better than the woman what action is in her best interest, the rulings still generally leave the right to die decision to families and guardians of comatose women. In any event, the pattern of gender-biased decisions does seem to demonstrate a lack of "even-handed decision-making."

Source: St Petersburg Times, (FL), page 1A, November 25, 1990.

HWL MEMBERSHIP

HWL invites you to become a member, or to renew your membership dues, if you have not already done so. (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 524-4880, or send a copy to HWL by the end of every month.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

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