



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

March 1992

1992 BOARD

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MARCH MONTHLY MEETING: USING GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE

Date: March 27, 1992

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

Place: Richards Street YWCA, Room 203

Learning to use and feel comfortable with gender-neutral language sometimes takes some thought. Some alternatives sound awkward ("waitperson"); some are merely "re-gendered" words ("chairwoman"). Are there better alternatives? Come discuss the latest suggestions for gender-neutral language at HWL's brown bag lunch. A handout of suggestions will be provided for discussion.

We will also be discussing the newest effort to revise the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Six years ago, the Hawaii Revised Statutes were revised to eliminate gender-specific pronouns. The Legislative Reference Bureau is now working on a statutory revision to eliminate gender-specific nouns, such as chairman. Some nouns, however, may have acquired independent legal significance. The Reference Bureau has asked for HWL's input regarding four terms in particular: kinsman, materialman, man-

slaughter and heir. Should substitute words be used? Is it feasible and/or advisable? If so, what are acceptable alternatives? Please come with your ideas for discussion.

REPORT FROM YOUR HWL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The HWL Board of Directors met on Wednesday, February 19, 1992 at noon in the HWL offices located at 212 Merchant Street, Suite 330. This was the first meeting of the 1992 Board and it's pretty clear that the new board members are active and enthusiastic about furthering the work of HWL.

The Legislative Committee gave a special report to the Board outlining its efforts in monitoring bills which impact upon Hawaii's

women. As many of you are aware, the HWL Legislative Committee was asked by the House and Senate Women's Caucus last summer to head a coalition of about 20 community groups. The resulting proposed legislation is this year's Crimes Against Women package, now making its way through the hearings process. HWL's Legislative Committee's continuing input and testimony is increasingly recognized and sought after by the Legislature because of its

thoughtfulness, which reflects the creative and analytical thinking of our committee about proposed legislation.

HWL's Judicial Selection Committee, which meets jointly with the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation's counterpart committee, has been busy working with qualified women attorneys applying for positions on the state judiciary at all levels. Interested women attorneys are urged to contact Beverly Wee at 541-2850 or Rhonda Nishimura at 537-6119 for further information.

The Board heard a report from the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline, which recently received a grant from the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation of \$10,800 for an additional part-time contract paralegal and \$6,050.00 for funding of "The Right To Know" program, a program for victims of domestic abuse which provides an alternative to court ordered counseling. HWL also recently received a \$1,500 grant from the ABA/YLD on behalf of DVCLH for a brochure to be used in conjunction with The Right To Know project.

DVCLH, which originated as a project of Hawaii Women Lawyers and Hawaii Lawyers Care, has just received its tax-exempt status determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service and is now an independently operating corporation. Attorney William A. Harrison, DVCLH's newly elected president, heads a committed board of directors comprised of a broad spectrum of community leaders.

Finally, your board authorized a membership drive, in an effort to increase awareness and participation by all of our members for our existing and upcoming HWL programs. All members of HWL are asked to sign up at least one new HWL member by April 15. See this month's insert for more details. For more information, contact Trudy Burns at 531-6575 or write HWL, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805.

Our Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month and are open to all HWL members. Space is limited, so please call ahead.

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HAWAII WOMEN'S LEGAL FOUNDATION MAKES 1992 GRANTS

The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation has made \$23,350 in grants this year and has \$11,650 in grant money remaining. All but \$1,500 of the grants have gone to fund projects sponsored by HWL, including \$16,850 to the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline. HWLF also granted an additional \$5,000 to HWL's biography project (featuring Hawaii's first women lawyers) to help defray publication costs. Finally, HWLF granted a scholarship to a Hawaiian student with limited means to assist her through high school. HWLF hopes to use the remaining funds to further other HWL women on their legal rights, improve the status of women, or advance women in the legal profession.

THIRD CIRCUIT APPOINTS FIRST FULL TIME WOMAN JUDGE

Congratulations! The Honorable Riki May Amano was recently appointed District Court judge for the Third Circuit. Judge Amano is the first woman appointed to a full time judgeship in the Third Circuit.

JUDICIAL OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

The Hawaii Women Lawyers continues to encourage all qualified women to apply for judicial vacancies.

According to a recently published statewide survey, women are unrepresented in the Supreme Court and Intermediate Court of Appeals; two women are full time Circuit Court judges; four women are full time District Court judges; six women are Family Court judges and thirteen women are per diem judges.

The Hawaii Women Lawyers encourages all applicants to contact its committee for confidential assistance in applying for judicial positions. HWL will provide assistance in all phases of the selection process, including the intensive written application and mock interviews. For additional information or assistance, contact Beverly Wee at 541-2850 or Rhonda Nishimura at 537-6119.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN & THE LAW

The 22nd Annual National Conference on Women and the Law will be held from March 26-29, 1992 in Chicago. The conference workshops provide invaluable information and practical pointers, as well as networking opportunities. Those who attend are practicing attorneys, law students and community activists. Conference topics are likely to include reproductive rights and other health issues, special needs of women of color, defending battered women, children's rights and rights of the disabled. A flyer is enclosed if you are interested in attending this conference. For further information, please contact Ramona Hussey at 537-5300.

QUALITY OF LIFE LINE

The Quality of Life Committee of the HSBA is looking for volunteers to contribute ideas and/or become members of the committee. The Quality of Life Committee is in the process of developing a "quality of life line" which will enable attorneys to access information through their computer about issues such as part-time lawyering, stress, substance abuse and child care, in an effort to help HSBA members balance work and family life. Any interested HWL member should contact Coralie Chun Matayoshi, Executive Director, HSBA, at 537-1868.



**HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS
MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE**



In an effort to increase awareness and generate greater participation on timely and important issues such as sexual harassment, reproductive rights, women in politics, women and judicial selection, and crimes against women, including domestic violence, HWL asks each of its members to sign up one new member by April 15, 1992.

The person who signs up the most new members by April 15, 1992 will win a

\$100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE

good toward the self-indulgent pampering of the winner's choice at Paul Brown, a full-service salon.

(See the back of this flyer and the last page of the HWL newsletter for new member sign-up forms. Make sure the new member notes on the form that you referred him/her to HWL.)



HWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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 member \$30 Out of state members \$20 Student members \$10
New admittees (*within 1 year of Hawaii admission*) \$20
HWL President's Circle \$100 \$500 \$1,000 (*circle one*)

Name _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

Mailing address _____

IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE LIST THE HWL MEMBER WHO REFERRED YOU:

Please indicate if you are interested in information about serving on the HWL Board or Committees _____

Please note any topics or project 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 the month.

**The National
Women and the Law Association**
is pleased to announce

**the 22nd National
Conference
on Women and the Law**

**Chicago, Illinois
March 26–29, 1992**

**For more information, please complete and return the tear-off
section below and send it to:**

22nd National Conference on Women and the Law
P.O. Box 0716
Chicago, IL 60690-0716



Please print or type.

YES, I want to attend the Conference. Please send me registration information.

I WANT TO HELP. Enclosed please find my contribution to the **22nd National
Conference on Women and the Law** in the amount of

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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P.O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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