



# HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

## NEWSLETTER

May 1992

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### MAY PROGRAM: LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

Date: May 29, 1992

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Richards Street YWCA, Room 203

Come and hear the chair of the Legislative Committee, Sara Lyn Smith, give a report on the recently-ended Legislative Session and the accomplishments of the Committee and others in getting the "Crimes Against Women" legislative package and other bills through the Legislature. The Committee testifies on numerous bills during the Session and welcomes new volunteers with the time and desire to participate in the process. Come and get involved!

### THANKS TO WOMEN'S CAUCUS

HWL would like to recognize the members of the Hawaii State Legislature's Women's Caucus for all their work and support in drafting, promoting and enacting the 'Crimes Against Women' legislative package. This package of bills, many of which were passed by the Legislature this session, range from creating penalties for 'stalking' women, often the precursor to actual violence, to stiffening various penalties for domestic violence. The bills, if passed into law, will have a tremendous impact on the quality of women's lives in Hawaii. We sincerely hope the members of the Women's Caucus keep up the good work next session and make the entire Crimes Against Women proposals a reality.

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## **HAWAII'S MAYORS TO APPEAR AGAIN AT HAWAII WOMEN'S LEGAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER**

Mark your calendars for Thursday evening, September 10, 1992. That is when Hawaii's three women mayors make a return appearance for a gala dinner, panel discussion and silent auction at the Hawaii Prince Hotel, a fundraiser hosted by the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation.

HWLF's 1991 fundraiser, "A Place in the Future: Three Mayors Predict" — attended by over 400 lawyers, businesspeople and community members and raising \$35,000 for 1992 grant awards — was a great success. The Foundation could think of no better way to top it than to have Mayor Lorraine Inouye, Linda Crockett Lingle and JoAnne Yukimura return to revisit their 1991 predictions and discuss other topics of critical interest in 1992. HWLF has also invited Mayor Fasi to join this rare gathering of Hawaii's mayors.

Letters inviting advance reservations will be sent out shortly, and invitations will be mailed during the summer. HWLF will again sell tables hosting the mayors, other donor tables and individual seats. For more information about advance reservations and donations, contact Fundraiser Committee Co-Chairs Carol Mon Lee (523-2144) or Rai Saint Chu (528-4000).

In 1992, HWLF has used moneys raised in 1991 to fund programs of the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline, the upcoming biography project of Hawaii's early women lawyers, a scholarship and most recently, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii's fascinating panel discussion "Abortion Politics and Its Impact on American Science." Funds are still available for grants to programs of Hawaii Women Lawyers and other groups.

HWLF, a non-profit corporation founded in 1982, serves to raise, manage and distribute funds for projects which improve the status of women in Hawaii, empower women in the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession and advance equal opportunities for all people. HWLF members and volunteers include lawyers, judges, other professionals and businesspeople.

## **BROWN BAG LUNCH ON BANKRUPTCY PRACTICE**

Mark your calendars for June 3, 1992, when the Young Lawyers Division of the Hawaii State Bar Association sponsors a brown bag luncheon on bankruptcy practice. Featured speakers include Judge Jon Chinen, Nicholas Dreher, Susan Tius and Mark Yee. The program is part of the Lawyers Kokua Program. It will be held at the Intermediate Court of Appeals, Third Floor, Old Federal Building, 335 Merchant Street, from noon until 1:15 p.m. Look for future programs on arbitration, appellate procedure, no-fault law and how to avoid disciplinary action. For more information, call 537-1868.

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## **REPORT FROM THE HAWAII STATE SUPREME COURT PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND OTHER FAIRNESS**

The work of Hawaii's Permanent Committee on Gender and Other Fairness began in 1987 when its predecessor, the Ad Hoc Committee on Gender Bias, surveyed attorneys to determine the extent of perceived gender bias in the court system. Two years later, the findings and recommendations of this Ad Hoc Committee were presented to Hawaii's Fifth Annual Judicial Conference in a report entitled "Achieving Gender Fairness: Designing a Plan to Address Gender Bias in Hawaii's Legal System" (the "Report"). Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Judicial Conference, the Chief Justice established a permanent committee and expanded its scope to include all bias within the judicial system. The 15-member Committee is now comprised of judges, attorneys, law school professors, state legislators, community activists and representatives from various ethnic organizations.

Several of the recommendations in the Report have already been implemented. During the 1991 session, the Hawaii State Legislature appropriated funds to hire a staff person; the Committee hired a project coordinator in January 1992; the Hawaii State Bar Association by-laws have been reviewed and revised to ensure gender neutrality; the Code of Judicial Conduct and Code of Professional Responsibility have been amended to prohibit membership in organizations that practice invidious discrimination based upon race, religion, sex or national origin; and family law and gender discrimination are now covered in the State bar examination.

Other recommendations contained in the Report are underway. The current activities of the Committee and the Project Coordinator include reviewing court forms, manuals and job description; drafting anti-discrimination policy statements; conducting sexual harassment training for Judiciary employees; producing a handbook alerting jurors to biases that may affect decision-making; studying the economic impact of divorce, and devising a confidential informal reporting system. The Committee has made education a priority and is developing programs on proper interviewing techniques, sexual harassment, and gender and other bias in law firms and the judicial system. By training other trainers, the Committee hopes to reach not only Judiciary employees but bar organizations, the UH Richardson School of Law, and law firm support staff and paraprofessional organizations.

The new Project Coordinator is Dew Kaneshiro. Look for further information in future newsletters about her work and how you can provide input.

### **JULY PROGRAM OPENING**

Hawaii Women Lawyers has an opening in July for its schedule of monthly programs. If you have a topic that you think would interest the HWL membership and that you are interested in presenting, please contact Trudy Burns at 531-6575. The program will take place on July 31, 1992.

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## **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 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    \$1000 (circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (night) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Please note any topics or projects in which you would be interested in assisting

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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.

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### **HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS**

P.O. Box 2072  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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