



# HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

June 1992

## 1992 BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Trudy M. Burns

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon Takeuchi

### SECRETARY

Ramona Hussey

### TREASURER

Judith Sterling

### DIRECTOR

Susan Li

### DIRECTOR

Rhonda Nishimura

### DIRECTOR

Jennifer Schember-Lang

### DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Sullivan

### DIRECTOR

Laura Thielen

## JUNE PROGRAM: HOW TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Date: Friday, June 26, 1992

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Place: Richards Street YWCA, Room 203

Speakers: Rep. Cynthia Thielen; Rep. Mazie Hirono;  
Amy Agbayani, Hawaii Women's  
Political Caucus

Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer—these are just two of the many women throughout the country who stand an excellent chance of winning their respective elections this fall. Women are making their voices heard again in the political arena. And never has there been a more important time for women to speak out and be counted—we are in imminent danger of losing the basic civil rights that women fought so hard for in the 1960's and 70's.

If you are interested in representing the voice of women in the political arena, please attend this month's HWL educational program, "Running for Public Office". The program will feature the real life advice and war stories of Representatives Cynthia Thielen and Mazie Hirono as well as Hawaii Women's Political

Caucus member Amy Agbayani. Our speakers will talk briefly about their own experiences, and then answer questions from the audience.

June's program will be inspirational, educational and enlightening. Please plan on attending.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLANS TELEPHONE PARTIES**

The HWL Board of Directors will be having two telephone parties (refreshments provided) on **Wednesday, June 24, 1992** and **Tuesday, June 30, 1992, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at the office of the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, 212 Merchant Street, Suite 330, Honolulu (tel. 531-3771). The members of the Board plan to contact each and every member of HWL by telephone on those two days. We want to learn more about YOUR ideas and suggestions for improving our organization: areas of concern to YOU as women lawyers, YOUR ideas for new HWL projects and committees to which YOU would be interested in contributing your time. All past board members are invited to participate in this effort to reach out to our membership in order to keep our organization vital, growing and strong.

Members: If for some reason you don't receive a call from someone on the board, please feel free to call Trudy Burns (tel. 531-6575) at any time with your ideas and comments about improving HWL and about growing our membership. We look forward to talking with all of you!

---

## REPORT FROM YOUR HWL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### JUDICIAL SELECTION

Since our last Board of Directors report in March, HWL has received quite a bit of media coverage for our position supporting the appointment of more qualified women to our courts. We commend the Judicial Selection Commission and the Governor for their nomination and appointment of five women to the Circuit Court and one woman to the ICA, and continue to urge the appointment of qualified women to Hawaii's Supreme Court.

Trudy Burns appeared along with Justice Frank Padgett, Senator Ann Kobayashi and HSBA president Larry Gilbert on the public television live one-hour talk program, "Dialogue", on Friday, May 1, 1992. Trudy reaffirmed HWL's position favoring gender equity on the bench of both the state and federal courts, as well as on the Judicial Selection Commission and other state boards and commissions.

The HWL Board was honored recently to welcome Momi Cazimero, a former member of the Judicial Selection Commission. Momi spoke to the HWL and HWLF boards about our efforts on behalf of women applicants to judicial positions. Momi shared some practical thoughts about our work, and urged us to continue to respond to a "higher calling" by remembering why we are all members of HWL in the first place: to make Hawaii a better place by promoting the equal status of women under the law.

### LEGISLATIVE

As lawyers, we usually focus on researching or helping our clients to comply with various existing laws. One of the most exciting and lasting contributions we can make as attorneys, however, lies in the area of creating and drafting new laws. HWL's efforts at the Legislature in helping to draft legislation and commenting on proposed bills has been very influential, according to Senator Annelie Amaral, who recently commended the "excellent...courageous...and invaluable" effort and commitment of Sara Lyn Smith, chair of the HWL Legislative Committee. She said that HWL's testimony was "always appreciated and well thought out." Congratulations and mahalo to chair Sara Lyn Smith and to her committee members.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Many of you will have seen the article in this month's Hawaii Lawyers Care newsletter Infoline thanking HWL for its participation in the recent workshops aimed at financially disadvantaged women in Waianae and Kalihi called "Women and the Law: A Simple Explanation of Your Rights", based on the HWL handbook OUR RIGHTS, OUR LIVES. Mahalo to Laura Thielen, who coordinated the HWL effort with HLC, and to Elizabeth Fujiwara, Jo Kim, Mervina Cash Kaeo, Susan Ichinose, Michelle Chess and Anne Anderson for their participation as panelists.

### BOARD MEETINGS

In an effort to economize, HWL has turned its office back over to the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline. From now on, all board meetings will be held in the conference room at Alston, Hunt, Floyd & Ing, 1001 Bishop Street, Pacific Tower, 18th Floor. All HWL members are invited to attend any board meeting.

---

---

**FROM THE HAWAII WOMEN'S  
LEGAL FOUNDATION:**

**BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR  
HAWAII'S WOMEN AND THE  
COMMUNITY**

At the Foundation's May board meeting, all of the directors pledged at least \$100 to the Foundation in order to further its mission of empowering women in Hawaii and in the legal profession and advancing equal opportunities for all people in the State.

Every year, the Foundation raises and grants funds to projects which help break down legal barriers to girls and women in Hawaii. This year, in addition to holding a fundraiser dinner showcasing Hawaii's mayors on September 10, 1992, the Foundation is seeking donations from all supporters who, like the all-volunteer board of directors, want to invest in building a better future for women in Hawaii.

The Foundation has made past grants to benefit victims of domestic violence (via the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline and emergency shelters), to educate women about their legal rights (via the publication of "Our Rights, Our Lives: A Guide to Women's Legal Rights in Hawaii", a brochure on negotiating parental leave in the workplace, and directories of Hawaii's women lawyers), to sponsor seminars featuring women's issues or prominent women speakers, to showcase Hawaii's pioneer women lawyers (via the upcoming biography, "Called From Within: Early Women Lawyers of Hawaii"), and to support the programs of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

One of the Foundation's goals is to increase its efforts to network with other Hawaii organizations which support the advancement of women. This spring, officers and directors of the Foundation met with Jane Renfro Smith, Janis Reischmann and Aileen Shin of The Women's Fund of Hawaii,

a foundation established in 1989 to support "projects that meet the basic needs of women and girls in Hawaii" and to "encourage women to be leaders in promoting change in the community to ensure justice and equity for women and girls in Hawaii." The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and The Women's Fund appear to be the only foundations in Hawaii which are led by women and which dedicate their financial resources to advancing the status of women and girls in Hawaii. We urge you to support such foundations, for empowering women to achieve their personal and professional goals strengthens our families and our entire community.

---

**HWL BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May was an important month for some HWL members: Linnel Nishioka, past president of HWL, gave birth to her first child, a beautiful baby boy named Matthew. Laura Thielen, a director of HWL, gave birth to her first child, a beautiful baby girl, Natalie. Congratulations and aloha from the HWL membership to Linnel and Laura and their families!

---

**MEMBERSHIP DUES TO INCREASE**

The HWL Board of Directors has announced the following membership dues for July 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993:

- Regular members: \$40 (increase from \$30)
- Out-of-state members and new admittees:  
\$20 (no change)
- Student members: \$10 (no change)

Many firms will cover the cost of HWL membership. Have you signed up all potential HWL members in YOUR office? Thanks for your help.

---

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

---

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 Li 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.

---

### **HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS**

P.O. Box 2072  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

<p><b>BULK RATE U.S. Postage PAID HONOLULU, HAWAII PERMIT NO. 172</b></p>
---

(6/92)

**Trudy M. Burnis  
700 Bishop Street, Suite 1408  
Honolulu, HI 96813**