



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

March 1993

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WOMEN'S FORUM

DATE: March 26, 1993

TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Plaza Club (20th Floor), 900 Fort Street Mall

SPEAKER: Dr. Haunani Kay Trask, Director of the Center for Hawaiian Studies

Dr. Trask will be discussing the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy and the restitution and remediation efforts proposed by the various Hawaiian Sovereignty groups. Please come and listen to this dynamic, intelligent and controversial woman. Bring thought provoking questions for discussion. Non-members are welcome.

Call Mary Houghton at 395-9743 for reservations. \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members which includes a set lunch. \$14.00 for walk-ins which includes the lunch buffet. (Reservations are encouraged to allow for adequate seating.)

Planning ahead . . . the April Women's Forum speaker has not been set, but please note on your calendar that the April lunch will be on Monday, April 26th at the regular time. (The remainder of the lunches are on the last Friday of the month).

On May 28th, Linda Takayama, the State Insurance Commissioner, will speak about the current insurance crisis faced by state, businesses and homeowners. Proposed solutions will be discussed well. Bring your clients, insurance policies and questions and proposals to raise after her speech.

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION OPENINGS

There are three openings on the Judicial Selection Commission which will be filled in the near future. This is the Commission which selects the "short list" of proposed judicial nominees, which is sent to the governor, who then selects the final nominee.

The three openings will be appointed respectively by the governor, the president of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate. We would like to see more women on this very important Commission. If you are interested in applying, please contact one of our Board members. We will be happy to provide assistance to interested women.

RECOGNITION FOR HWLF DONORS

by Louise Ing, President HWLF

Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation wants to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of the generous people who responded so promptly to our 1992 annual solicitation drive. These funds will help build the Foundation's endowment and fund grants to projects of Hawaii Women Lawyers and others which further the Foundation's mission—to improve the status of women in Hawaii, empower women in the legal profession, and advance equal opportunities for all people in the State.

These generous donors were:

Leader (\$1000 & up)

Harriet Bouslog and
Gus Steve Sawyer

Supporter (\$250)

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In addition, these individuals responded to the Plaza Club's invitation to join the Club and donate a portion of their initiation fee to the Foundation: Cynthia Farias, Mary Houghton and Eileen Mortenson.

In addition to these donors, there were the numerous companies, firms and individuals who generously donated to our 1992 fundraiser dinner with Hawaii's mayors and whose contributions were recognized at the event.

Thank you one and all for your support!

"MOMMY, ESQ." Kids on Business Trips?!!!

About 9 per cent of the business trips taken in the U.S. in 1991 included children according to data compiled by the U.S. Travel Data Center. Before you say this is crazy, note some of the attempts being made to accommodate the business traveler with tots in tow:

- Each of the Embassy Suites 103 properties now offers at least one floor of childproof rooms: sharp corners are covered, electrical outlets are secured and glass objects have been removed. Many of these sites offers: emergency diaper delivery, free playpens, and child-friendly food such as peanut butter & jelly sandwiches and apple juice.
- The National Medical Association hired NannyCare USA to provide supervision and activities for 500 youngsters ages 3 to 17 at its big convention last summer in San Francisco. Parents attending the convention's business and social functions could make use of the in-house facility from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. for a 5-day fee of \$360. The older children were escorted on sightseeing and sports excursions throughout the city. Nanny Care

also can arrange for private nannies in many of the nation's major convention cities, at \$8.75 per hour for the 1st child and 50 cents for each additional child. For information call 1-800-448-2915.

- Stride Rite, the children's shoe manufacturer in Cambridge, Mass., provides its employees with a free referral service for nannies or day-care. An employee facing an out-of-town assignment who needs an in-house baby sitter can use the company's referral service which will make the search for an acceptable nanny and make all reference checks at no costs to the employee. The employee pays for the cost of the nanny or day-care.

[Information taken from "Kids & Business Trips" by James T. Yenckel, Travel Guide, (Honolulu Advertiser, 10/25/91)]

*"Mommy, Esq." will appear from time to time to address some of the concerns of women attorneys with children. We welcome your contributions to this new feature.

activist, environmentalist and public interest champion. I set aside my personal preferences however, because they belong in the nomination process, not the endorsement process. (When women have equal representation on the bench, I will allow my personal preferences to play a role in my endorsement as a Board member.) I just looked at whether she was qualified, not whether I agreed with her politics or her clients. Qualification to me means 10 years of practice and intelligence showing the capacity to be a reasoned judge. Based on her resume and our interview, I felt Ms. Himeno had both. Who knows, if she had been approved, she may have surprised people with her capacity.

My last concerns were the ethical considerations. There have been many allegations raised regarding the propriety of Ms. Himeno's past business dealings. I felt that this consideration was better dealt with in the forum of the Senate confirmation hearings, where they had the capacity to investigate this matter more thoroughly than we did.

Perhaps I was passing the buck, but to me, my vote boiled down to this: HWL has never publicly rejected a male judicial nominee on any grounds. Our procedure has only focused on women nominees. The Board has not yet adopted a final position on whether we will use the same procedure for all male nominees. Frankly, I don't want to spend my limited time interviewing the male nominees. However, if we only endorse women, we will also only be rejecting women. This is unfair. More importantly, this is where HWL has the dangerous potential of becoming a political beast itself, in only endorsing the women who agree with us. I joined this group to promote women's rights. I will not limit my promotion to a select few.

Although I may personally disagree with a woman, I will set that aside as a Board member, and I hope and expect our other members will do the same.

As a Board, we need member input on this matter. We want to get more women nominated to the bench. We would like to see the routine elevation of District and Circuit Court judges to the higher benches so that those positions, which are the ones usually given to women, are not seen as dead-end jobs. Please tell us how you think we should work towards these goals. Do you agree with our procedure, do you feel we should get out of the business of endorsement, or do you even think these are worthwhile goals. Please write a letter on your thoughts and mail it to our P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Do this over the next month, and then the Board can work out the kinks in our procedure.

In the meantime, we will follow our procedure for the next two nominations to the Supreme Court. I promise that I will make my decision on the endorsement of any other woman nominee (and hopefully there will be two) on the same merits that I made my decision for Ms. Himeno.

Free Forum

**Interspousal Tort Immunity:
*Should it be Abolished?***

March 24, 1993

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing
Conference Room

Please attend this program to hear some of the arguments for and against abolition of the Interspousal Tort Immunity Statute. HWL has not taken a position on the bill and the Board would like some dialogue on the issue before any position, if any, is reached. Call Cori Lau at 956-6551 for more information.

THE ENDORSEMENT OF SHARON HIMENO: ONE BOARD MEMBER'S VIEW

*by Laura Thielen
Vice President/President Elect*

I can't speak for the other Board members, except to say the endorsement of Sharon Himeno was not a decision made lightly. But first, some background. Last year the Board approved a new procedure for our endorsement of judicial nominees. Under that procedure, we would encourage women to apply for judicial openings and help any woman who asks for assistance with the application process. The decision to endorse a nominee would be made by the HWL Board after a meeting (when possible) with the nominee which was open to all our members.

Prior to Himeno's nomination, we were asked directly by the Senate Committee if we endorsed nominees. Based on our procedure, we said yes. Then Ms. Himeno was nominated. We had to quickly vote on whether to endorse Ms. Himeno because the Senate Committee only had to give 48 hour notice of their confirmation hearings. We arranged a meeting with Himeno and notified as many members as we could to come, review her resume and qualifications, ask her questions, and to discuss their opinion with the Board after her interview. The HWL Board then voted to endorse Ms. Himeno.

I understand some members' opposition to that endorsement, and I personally agree with some of the criticism of her nomination. But as a Board member of an organization which promotes women, I put aside my personal concerns and voted to endorse Ms. Himeno. Because I am elected by HWL members, I feel you deserve an explanation of my vote. If you disagree with me, you are free to hold that

against me in next year's election. Please understand, I only explain my vote — I do not speak for any other Board member.

I was bothered by the fact that Ms. Himeno clearly appeared to be a political appointment. Like many others, I wish politics would not play a role in the courts. But they do. To raise no opposition to the many male political appointments, but to object to Ms. Himeno is similar to saying men should have sex before marriage but women should remain pure. I will not endorse that double standard.

I was bothered by the fact that Himeno was minimally experienced. Personally, I want an overqualified woman on the bench, so I no longer have to listen to men say "I'd rather have a qualified man than an unqualified woman." By nominating wonder woman, we could point to her and remind men that the choice is between qualified women and qualified men. But again, that would be endorsing a double standard. I would be saying women have to be **more** qualified than men in order to be appointed. Whether that has been the ~~practice~~ practice or not, I'm not going to condone that position. Besides, it would be mighty peculiar for an organization which promotes women to hold women to a higher standard than men. Isn't that what we've been fighting with men about for all these years?

I was bothered by the focus of Ms. Himeno's law practice. I would personally prefer someone who has been more of a legal

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK OPEN HOUSE '93

The Professional Women's Network Open House '93 will be held at Coasters Restaurant located at the Hawaii Maritime Center, Pier 7, on Wednesday, March 24, 1993 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Join Network members and their guests, members of other women's organizations, and distinguished women leaders in the community for an evening of enlightened conversation and networking. Reservations are required.

OPEN HOUSE '93 RESERVATION FORM

Name _____ Daytime Phone: _____
_____ PWN Member _____ PWN Guest
_____ Other Organization _____
(please indicate)

Guest Names: _____
Amount Enclosed: _____ (PWN Members @\$12, Guests @\$14) Special guest prices for
PWN Members: First PWN guest @ \$14.00, second guest is only \$7.00. Invite two women you would like to introduce to the
Professional Women's Network!

RSVP by March 17, 1993 with your check made payable to Professional Women's Network. Mail to: Professional Women's
Network, P.O. Box 37052, Honolulu, HI 96837

Sorry, No Refunds

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS
P.O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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(6/91)

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