



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

June 1993

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WOMEN'S FORUM

Topic: Baehr vs. Lewin: The Same-Sex Marriage Decision and What it Means

Date: June 25, 1993

Time: 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Place: Plaza Club, 900 Fort Street Mall, 20th floor

Speakers: Sonia Faust, Deputy Attorney General and Carl Varady, Legal Director for ACLU, which filed an Amicus brief in Baehr vs. Lewin.

In conformance with HWL's position statement on civil rights, the Board of Directors of HWL has issued a statement supporting the Hawaii Supreme Court Decision in Baehr vs. Lewin, due to its express recognition that sex-based classifications are subject to strict scrutiny, a higher standard than that recognized by the federal court (see related article below). In order to provide our members with additional information concerning the underlying issue of same-sex marriage (on which, contrary to news reports, the organization has not taken a formal position), we have organized a forum to present a brief overview of both positions, and an opportunity to address questions and answers to both sides. Call Mary Houghton at 396-8506 for reservations. (Walk-ins' are \$17.00). Looking ahead, Insurance Commissioner Linda Takayama will be our guest speaker at the next Women's Forum on July 30, 1993.

HWL LAUDS HAWAII SUPREME COURT'S PRONOUNCEMENT THAT SEX-BASED CLASSIFICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO STRICT SCRUTINY

HWL's Board of Directors voted to publicly support the Hawaii Supreme Court decision challenging the state's prohibition against marriage between couples of the same sex (Baehr v. Lewin, No. 15689 (Haw. May 5, 1993)). The decision is especially significant for women, because it expressly states that discrimination by the government on the basis of sex will be subject to the same type of strict scrutiny applied to racial, ethnic and religious discrimination. The high court has required that the state show that its marriage statute (which bars same-sex marriages) is justified by a compelling state interest and that the least restrictive form of regulation has been employed to meet that interest. In a news release, HWL commended the Court for recognizing that the strictest standard of review should apply to gender-based classifications, and for viewing such discrimination with greater scrutiny than the federal courts.

Although HWL's Board recognizes the controversial nature of the decision, HWL's existing position statements clearly support the protection and enforcement of civil rights, particularly for women and minorities historically subject to discrimination. This important decision presents HWL and the people of Hawaii with an opportunity to take a stand to strengthen civil liberties for all individuals.

HWLF ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDS

The Family Peace Center, the Hawaii State Committee on Family Violence, the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children and the Hawaii Supreme Court's Committee on Gender and Other Fairness have been awarded grants by the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation (HWLF).

The Committee on Gender and Other Fairness will use its grant to conduct a study of the economic impact of divorce on women.

The grants to the Family Peace Center and the State Committee on Family Violence are for the purchase of computer equipment, and the grant to the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children is for the purpose of co-sponsoring a conference on early childhood education.

The purpose of HWLF is to raise, manage and distribute funds for various activities and projects that empower women in the legal profession; influence the future of the legal profession; improve the status of women, and advance equal opportunities for all women.

Through its grant distribution committee, HWLF awards grants to individuals and organizations whose activities are consistent with the HWLF mission. HWLF makes its grant distributions three times a year.

MORE DONORS RECOGNIZED

Our previous recognition of donors who responded to HWLF's 1992 annual solicitation omitted mention of these generous individuals:

Lorraine Akiba
Susan Jaworowski
Carol Mon Lee
Judith Weightman

Donations can be made to HWLF at the above address. This year's board of directors has made a 1993 pledge of at least \$125. Send in your donation today and help HWLF achieve its goal of being the pre-eminent funding organization in Hawaii for projects which assist women in Hawaii to overcome legal barriers and realize their personal and professional goals.

"A CONVERSATION WITH OUR MAYORS: TRIUMPHING OVER TOUGH TIMES"

It is not too early to make your reservations for the Foundation's third annual dinner with Hawaii's mayors, entitled "A Conversation With Our Mayors: Triumphant Over Tough Times".

WHEN: Friday, September 10, 1993
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Hawaii Prince Hotel

WHO: Guests of Honor: Mayors Fasi,
Lingle, Yamashiro and Yukimura

MODERATOR: Leslie Wilcox

We are holding prices this year to 1992 levels: \$3,500 for Honor Tables, hosting each of the mayors (Mayor Yukimura's table has already been sold to Alexander & Baldwin); \$2,000 for Patron Tables; \$1,000 for Sponsor Tables and \$100 per seat.

Better hurry! Last year's dinner and silent auction was a sell-out, with most tables having been sold before invitations were mailed in August.

Send your reservation request and check to:

HWLF
P.O. Box 2576
Honolulu, Hawaii 96803-0576

"MOMMY ESQ."

It's Saturday and you are in the office hoping to get some work done. The phones aren't ringing, no impending deadlines are stressing you out...but you have a preschooler in tow who has an attention span of about 30 seconds. Here are ten "fun-in-Mommy's-office" projects to keep the kid busy:

1. Challenge her to make the longest paper clip chain in the world;
2. Tear out a flip chart sized sheet of paper; have the little one lie down and outline his body with a felt pen. Tell him to color in the details of the life sized drawing; have him cut it out when finished and tape it up to the window;
3. Punch holes in colored paper with a paper hole puncher; glue the dots onto another paper in patterns;
4. Make post-it note drawings and stick them all over the walls;
5. Let him type on the typewriter (make sure you set up the margins so he won't type on the bare roller);
6. Give her some self-inking stamps to make stamp designs with ("FILE, First Class, URGENT!, COPY, etc.");
7. Turn him loose with a few sheets of stickers used for file folders or color coding, to paste on sheets of paper in designs; prepare to find red sticker dots weeks later stuck to your suit in court;
8. Let her make a fort with a blanket over some chairs in the conference room;
9. Write down the names of all the attorneys on the floor, give the tot some colored felt pens and ask her to make illustrated folded paper name plates for each, copying the letters for each name (fold the paper in threes length-wise and tape into a stand-up triangle);
10. Give up and put "The Little Mermaid" on the VCR for the 95th time.

LAWYER KOKUA PROGRAM BROWN BAG LUNCH

The Lawyer Kokua Program of the HSBA Young Lawyers Division is designed to assist new attorneys in making the transition from law school to practice, and to maintain a high standard of competence among Hawaii's attorneys. Scheduled speakers for the July brown bag luncheon meeting on Alternative Dispute Resolution are Keith Hunter and Michael Broderick, Esq. The meeting will be held from 12 to 1:15 p.m. at HSBA, 1136 Union Mall, Penthouse 1.

WOMEN'S PRISON TOUR

A fact finding tour to assess the legal needs of the women's prison is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 1993 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The tour is being conducted in anticipation of a women's prison project. Any interested members, must provide the following information for clearance: Full name, social security number, date of birth and attorney number. Send this information by close of business Thursday, June 10, 1993 to: Michele Chess, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 900, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

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