



# HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1994

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## WOMEN'S FORUM

*Friday, April 29, 1994 Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind*

Dr. Chesney-Lind, a nationally recognized criminologist and professor at the University of Hawaii, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Chesney-Lind has spent decades studying, publishing and speaking about criminology with a focus on female delinquency, women's crime and youth. She has recently finished a study on Girls, Gangs and Violence: Anatomy of a Backlash. Please come listen to this dynamic woman and bring some questions for her.

*\*Friday, May 13, 1994 Ms. Sarah M. Buel, Esq.*

Ms. Buel is the Evelyn Green Davis Fellow in Law at the Bunting Institute at Radcliff College, where she is writing a book on Domestic Violence and travelling across the United States to speak on that issue.

Ms. Buel was the Director of the Domestic Violence unit at the Suffolk County District Attorney's office in Boston. She has spent

seventeen years working with battered women and abused children in five states. She is a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, President of the Board of Directors of the Victim Resource Center and co-founder of the Massachusetts Domestic Violence Council. Ms. Buel is a nationally renowned speaker on the topic of domestic violence. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and come to the Forum.

*\*Due to her scheduling and the cost of bringing Ms. Buel to Oahu, the May Forum will be held on the 13th at the Plaza Club from 11:45-1:00. This luncheon will be \$15.00 for HWL members, \$20.00 for non-members.*

*All other Women's Forums are regularly held at the Plaza Club on the last Friday of the month from 11:45-1:00. \$10.00 members, \$12.00 non-members and \$17.00 for walk-ins. Call Mary Houghton at 395-9743 for reservations.*

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*by Laura Thielen, HWL President*

Our February Women's Forum was a great success. Apologies to those that could not be accommodated, but we filled all reservations in record time. Apparently a good number wanted to hear what the four women judges had to say.

For those who missed the Forum, Judges Marie Milks, Virginia Crandall, Leslie Hayashi and Victoria Marks spoke at the February Forum. Judge Milks was very forthcoming in her review of the judicial selection process and how it has changed from her initial interview to her recent retention interview (Judge Milks was recently retained for another ten year term).

All the Judges agreed those motivated by thoughts of more family time should not apply for a judicial position. All four work late nights and weekends routinely. They also mentioned that the stress of maintaining judicial demeanor 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including the times when your two year old has a tantrum in Longs, is difficult.

The Judges pointed out that being a judge is lonely in some ways.

Given their schedules and separate offices, the judges have little or no time to talk among themselves during an ordinary day. There are also obvious constraints in socializing with lawyers who appear before them, leaving judges in some isolation on an average workday. Each Judge agreed that a person in need of socialization or confirmation of job performance should not apply for a judgeship. Apparently pats on the back are few and far between.

Interestingly, all four Judges became judges when they had young children. While we are often frustrated by the lack of equality for women, it is good to see women move into public positions such as these judges without being discounted due to their status as mothers.

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Our March Women's Forum hosted Sally Little, of the American Association of University Women. Ms. Little discussed the results of the numerous AAUW studies on girls, boys and schools. The AAUW is committed to continuing their studies of girls and schools, and is now concentrating on discovering what in the educational experience is positive for young women.

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Most members of the audience agreed that our educational system needs to focus on girls from a very young age. The concerns are not just whether girls are called on less than their male peers, but also whether the girls are being sexually harassed and assaulted.

The topic is timely as the National Congress is currently debating the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and there is some discussion of resurrecting and adding several provisions of the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) to the former.

Rep. Patsy Mink championed the need for the GEEA provisions, arguing that research shows a pattern of gender inequity persists in school practices, even where discriminatory practices have been abolished. The gender equity provisions appear to have wide support in the House, and will hopefully pass. However, amendments are expected to limit the use of funds for sex education purposes. These amendments may curtail important developments which would protect or help girls in school since sex education classes raise issues of sexual abuse and harassment for discussion.

Those who are active in federal affairs may want to write or call our national representatives and let them know you support Rep. Mink's position. Meanwhile, HWL is gearing up for our presentation with the AAUW and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center on Island Issues television. The show will be taped on April 26, and we will keep you posted on the air date. HWL, AAUW and SATC will be discussing gender issues and sexual harassment in Hawaii schools. We are also working with persons in the DOE and state government towards developing a program for our schools to discuss these issues.

#### **BOOK BRIEF**

*by Susan Jaworowski*

**Failing at Fairness: How America's Schools Cheat Girls**, by Myra and David Sadker

Have you ever been talking in a group of adults and had a male voice cut across yours, drowning you out and interrupting your thoughts with his own? You might have thought, hey, what a jerk, but did you realize that that man had been taught to behave like that—in school? This is just one

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of the provocative insights in *Failing at Fairness: How America's Schools Cheat Girls*, a book that examines the inhibiting effects of public and private school education on girls and women in elementary, middle school, high school, college and graduate schools.

The Sadkers have been studying schools in different parts of the nation for two decades and their conclusion is that daily discrimination toward girls in schools is real, and has a deleterious impact on them, their academic performance, and their self-confidence. Part of the book's utility is that it documents the more subtle forms of discrimination that help keep girls "in their place," such as rewarding them for neatness and keeping quiet, and allowing boys to shout out answers while reprimanding girls who do. These examples will "click" for many of us who waived our arms until we had to prop them up from fatigue, as we tried to attract the teacher's attention away from the boys.

This book is not sensationalistic in its presentation of the past and current state of America's classrooms. It is food for thought, especially for those of us who have children. One chapter, "The Miseducation of Boys," explores the impact of the subtle but

constant put-down of girls on boys. It was chilling to read that, when asked what life would be like if they woke up as a member of the opposite sex, girls generally thought it might be fun to be a boy, but almost all boys hated the idea of being a girl, to the point where a number bluntly declared that they would kill themselves.

This book's appeal is not limited to those who have children, however. I think that many women will see themselves reflected in the anecdotes discussed in the book. I would highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys a well-reasoned book on a thought-provoking topic.

### **MOMMY, ESQ.**

**Summer's Around the Corner!!!  
What Should I Do With the Kids?**

Now that my kids are in school, it's the first time I have to worry about what to do with them this summer. Since I am gathering a lot of good information, I thought I would share it to save some of you precious time.

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\* Holy Nativity School

Ages 4-8 (must be 4 by June 20th)  
June 20th through July 8th or July 29th  
Time: 7:30-2:30; extended care  
from 2:30-5:30  
Cost: 3 weeks: \$225 + \$75 or  
\$100 extended care;  
6 weeks: \$400 + \$135 or  
\$195 extended care

\* Hongwangi Mission School: Summer School

Grades K through 8th  
June 20th through August 12th  
Time: 8:30-11:45; 12:00-5:00  
Deadline: May 13th  
Cost: \$325 for morning;  
\$225 for afternoon  
Note: early morning care available  
for grades K-2 for \$40.

\* YMCA Summer Fun at Kaahumanu School

Grades Pre-K through 6th  
June 9th through August 12th  
Time: 8:00-5:00; pick-up until 5:30  
Cost: \$595 + \$5 membership fee  
Note: early morning supervision  
available at no cost; registration  
opened on February 27th

\* YMCA Summer Fun at Kaimuki-Waiālae

Grades K through 6th

June 9th through August 12th

Time: 6:30-6:00  
Cost: \$700 or \$100 weekly + \$5  
membership fee

Note: after summer school program  
available

\* YMCA Summer Fun at Nuuanu

Grades Pre-K through 4th; 5th & 6th have  
special program

June 9th through August 12th

Time: 8:00-5:00; pick-up until 5:30  
Cost: \$725 + \$5 membership fee

Note: early morning supervision (no  
cost); extended summer program  
August 15th through 19th;  
afternoon only summer school  
special pre-K through 6th; summer  
camps; teen program; registration  
opened February 27th

\* YWCA Summer Fun at Richards Street

Grades K through 6th  
3 sessions: I) June 20th through July 1st;  
II) July 5th through July 29th;  
III) August 1st through August 19th

Time: 7:00-5:30  
Cost: I) \$160; II) \$320; III) \$240

Note: half-day after summer school  
program; school year after school  
care; holiday care

**MORE  
NEXT MONTH!**

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## CHOP SUI GENERIS

### ***\*Judicial Appointment***

-Congratulations to Colleen Hirai on her confirmation to the First Circuit Court bench. Colleen was formerly with Libkuman, Ventura, Ayabe, Chong & Nishimoto.

### ***\*National Conference of Women's Bar Associations Positions***

The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations is soliciting recommendations for officers and directors for the upcoming year. HWL is a member of NCWBA, and is entitled to have a representative elected. There are 15 directors and 7 officers, each of whom must attend three meetings each year, be available for consultation by phone, and work on NCWBA projects throughout the year.

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If anyone is interested in running for a position, contact an HWL officer or director by June 1, 1994.

### ***\*Special Symposium Issue Available***

Judicature, the Journal of the American Judicature Society has

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<sup>1</sup> Hawaii was not included in this article due to the dearth of women on our highest court for 20 years.

published a special symposium issue *Women on the Bench: A Different Voice?* Articles include "The Voice of Sandra Day O'Connor", "Role Orientations and Women State Supreme Court Justices"<sup>1</sup> and "Voting Behavior and Gender on the U.S. Court of Appeals".

To place an order, send \$9.00 to American Judicature Society, 25 E. Washington Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, Ill 60602.

### ***\*April 28, 1994 Take Your Daughter to Work Day***

Ms Foundation's annual Take Your Daughter to Work day is Thursday, April 28. The Foundation began the program after studies published the role of gender discrimination in schools and how girls are given less attention than boys. The Foundation seeks to encourage parents to bring their daughters into all workplaces, expose girls to non-traditional and leadership roles, and to encourage equal focus on girls.

### ***\*Sovereignty Educational Luncheons***

The native Hawaiian Bar Association is presenting Sovereignty

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Educational Luncheons at the Oahu Country Club. Thursday, May 26 from 12:00 to 1:30 two speakers will discuss Land and Water. Thursday, July 21 from 12:00 to 1:30 speakers will discuss taxes and revenues under a sovereign Hawaiian Nation.

Lunches are \$15.00, and reservations should be made with the Native Hawaiian Bar Assn, 735 Bishop Street, Suite 308, Honolulu, HI 96813.

**\*HSBA Practice Management Workshop**

The HSBA Practice Management Workshop on "Selecting Technology and Equipment" will be held on April 29, 1994 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the HSBA conference room and is chaired by George E. Darby. Next month's workshop on "How to Motivate and Care for Employees" will be held on May 20, 1994. For more information, call Annette at 537-1868 at the HSBA office.

**\*New Businesses**

-Mary Beth Fentriss, formerly of Alcantara & Frame, has started her own business, Mary Beth Fentriss Design. She designs and makes all types and sizes of hand-pieced quilts:

from baby quilts to king sized creations. For more information, call her at 235-5785.

-Kathy Higham has opened a new practice at 810 Richards Street, 3rd Floor. You can reach her at 533-8821.

**\*Congratulations to new parents:**

-Joyce Uehara and Dan Ikehale are proud first time parents of baby Sean, born January 27.

-Family Court Judge Diana Warrington and Ali Sivert welcomed their new son, Che Warrington Sivert, to the world on January 20.

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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. Please send the following form to P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805. Dues are as follows:

Regular member \$40    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

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 Kathy Young at 537-4541, or send a copy to HWL by the end of the month.

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### HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

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