



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

MAY 1994

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WOMEN'S FORUM

Sarah Buel
May 13, 1994

Reminder!! The May Women's Forum will be held on Friday, May 13, when we host the national speaker Sarah Buel. For you regulars, we will be back in June on the regular day.

Gubernatorial Debate
August 26, 1994

HWL is proud to host a debate between the Gubernatorial candidates at our August Women's Forum. Pat Saiki, Ben Cayetano and Frank Fasi have all agreed to speak. Each candidate will speak for up to 15 minutes on the topic of their choice. They then will take questions from the audience.

MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY FOR THIS FORUM. We are anticipating a large non-member turnout. Due to organizational costs, the fee for this Forum will be \$20.00 for members and non-members.

HWL is committed to keeping our Forums affordable, and have had only two exceptions to the rule of charging members only the cost of the lunch. 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. ♦

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN BEING A FEMINIST AND THE MOTHER OF A GIRL

President's Report
By Laura Thielen

My daughter has turned two with a vengeance this month. She is stubborn, single-minded, outspoken and impatient. Lord, is she impatient. Especially when she tries, and fails, to do something beyond her abilities. When I hear her scream because she is physically unable to drag a chair over to the sink, my chest constricts and I want to yell "why are you so impatient!" (And then the obvious hits me. She gets it from her father.)

I find the hundreds of tests she puts me to every day, the dozens of cries, yells and whines, her determination and the mind of her own are trials for which I was unprepared. And because I am sometimes tired or impatient myself, I resort to the quick solution of physically removing her or her ammunition from the scene.

Then I go to the relative calm of my office, and find myself engrossed with feminist projects and compan-

ions during my term as President of this organization. I nod avidly as the AAUW representative tells us how schools neglect girls. I become angry when girls are complimented for neatness and quiet instead of energy and creativity, like boys. I applaud forceful women who not only stand up for their rights, but who are loud and outspoken on such important issues. Women like Representative Annelie Amaral, Reverend Pamela Vessels and Dr. Haunani Trask who are often unpopular for what they say, but who are necessary to remind the rest of us not to settle for less because there is always more to demand.

And in this calm, I begin to see my own parenting objectively. I like to think that I would compliment my son, if I had one, for being neat, obedient and quiet. But the fact remains that I am sending this message to my daughter, while at the same time discouraging her more vigorous traits, in order to retain some sanity and order in my home life. And so I find that many of the qualities I admire so much in adult women I tend to suppress in my daughter.

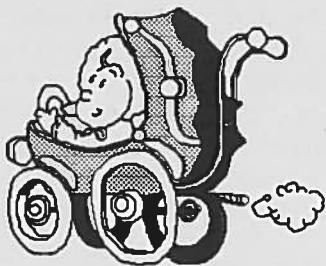
Oh, the rationalization is easy: children need to learn discipline; children need to learn respect for their parents; children test you to learn boundaries, and are more comfortable with set boundaries; I'm laying the foundation for her to listen to me both now and as a teenager.

But I am also laying the foundation for her behavior. And I wonder if I unconsciously would lay a different foundation if she were a boy. The fact is, if she were to turn out to be a neat, obedient and quiet woman, I would be disappointed.

In some ways, if I want to raise a feminist, I need to go against some of my instincts and some of the rules of parenting. While I don't like it when children deliberately misbehave, a part of me rejoices when my daughter refuses to do as I ask. She will grow to be a woman who questions things, and not one who just does what she is told. While I don't like it when children get physical or are bullies, a part of me laughs when my daughter tries to drag our dog out of the house. She will grow to be a woman who will not be pushed around. And while I don't like it when children are rude, I try not to be mad when my daughter yells at me to "go way" and "my do it." She will grow to be independent and unafraid.

I know if I don't set limits I will be deeply regretful when she is old enough to face the threats of AIDS, drinking and early pregnancy. But I want her to be able to make choices when she is that age with the confidence that she will chose well out of intelligence rather than obedience. So as an evolving mother who is deciding exactly where to set limits, because she is a daughter, I have decided to try and err on the side of encouraging her wildness, her youthful energy, her spirit.

In my house, I will, most of the time, gladly suffer the lack of peace in order to let the feminist win the conflict. ♦



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

With the recent tragedy of Angela Pakele's dramatic rundown and murder by her husband, the issue of domestic violence once again is headline news. The newspapers have reported that the husband had a history of violence and had a charge of family violence pending before the Family Court. However, as is common in such cases, many family members, friends and co-workers were unaware of marital problems or violence. Often, there may not even be a history of violence, only a single deadly and final eruption.

Hawaii Women Lawyers has always been active in the prevention of domestic violence and helping the most common victims—the women. The Domestic Violence Legal Hotline and Clearinghouse began as an HWL project. Several dedicated women attorneys set up an answering machine which took calls from women victims of domestic violence. The HWL lawyers then answered the calls during their lunch hours and provided legal advice regarding TRO's, divorces and information about safe shelters and assistance.

HWL ultimately set up the Hotline and Clearinghouse to be an independent organization, and it now operates under its own Board. However, we continue to be involved with issues regarding domestic violence, such as lobbying on behalf of the package of bills intended to prevent and punish crimes against women.

As you members have a history of trying to prevent family violence, you might be interested in five things you can do to help victims of domestic violence.

1. Donate Time

Organizations which provide advice and assistance to women need help. Offer to take a pro-bono di-

vorce from Hawaii Lawyers Care for a woman who might otherwise not be able to afford legal services; answer the phones at the Domestic Violence Hotline; Volunteer at one of the organizations which hold classes or provide shelter. Many of these organizations will train you, so you can volunteer even if you don't practice family law.

2. Donate Money

Given the tight budgetary times and the fact that these programs always have low priority, organizations that assist victims need financial help. If you can't give time, give money. Even if you can give time, give money.

3. Speak Up

Sometimes our peers may make some joke about violence against women. It is often unpopular to speak out against peers, but take the time to educate friends and others that violence against women is not funny under any circumstances. Just a simple reminder about the Pakele or Ganal case should get the point across.

4. Take Action

If you witness domestic violence, take action. Call police, make a report. Notice details to provide in the report and be willing to testify as a witness if needed.

5. Practice Peace

Domestic violence, like alcoholism, has no ethnic, religious or economic bounds. It affects all of us. And while not everyone crosses that line into violence, we can all benefit from consciously trying to bring more peace into our lives.

Some of the organizations which would welcome assistance are:

- Domestic Violence Hotline, Dorys Penton, 531-3771

- Hawaii Lawyers Care, Val Tavai, 521-7740
- Family Peace Center, Donna Hopkins, 596-0900
- Shelter for Abused Spouses and Children, Connie Hooks, 841-0822. ♦

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Career Opportunities Committee

We need a few experienced women attorneys to round out our Career Opportunities Committee. The Committee meets with women applicants to the Judiciary and City and State Boards and Commissions. We provide review and comment on applications and conduct mock interviews and/or confirmation hearings.

Committee members only meet when we receive a request from a potential applicant. The time commitment is minimal. However, the benefits are ensuring that women applying for these positions are as well prepared as possible. This is your opportunity to help appoint more women into positions in power.

Kids and Gender

HWL is currently working on developing a program where volunteer lawyers can address school children on gender stereotyping, sex discrimination and sexual harassment. We have received materials from the Department of Education, Sex Abuse Treatment Center and the American Association of University Women. We now need help developing a program for lawyers and children.

Anyone interested in working on this project, please call Laura Thielen at 524-4800.

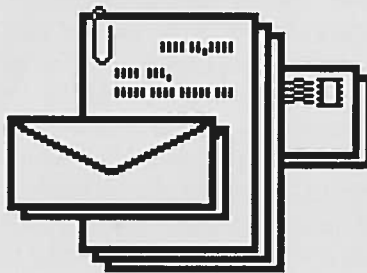
Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Breast Implant

Hawaii Women Lawyers receives a regular number of calls from women seeking referrals of female lawyers who handle plaintiffs' claims in actions regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment and breast implants.

If you work in this area of law and are interested in referrals, please send a letter giving your area of practice, years of experience, and other helpful information to HWL P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805.

Networking and rainmaking are the best ways to economically empower women. We have a two year old Directory of Hawaii's Women Lawyers which could use updating. Any volunteers? ♦

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



HWL Newsletter welcomes letters to the editor. If you have something to get off your chest, please write us at: Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805.

All letters are subject to established guidelines as published in the April 1993 HWL Newsletter. For a copy of those published guidelines, please call Kathy Young at 537-4541. Views of the authors are not necessarily shared by this organization. ♦

CHOP SUI GENERIS

Judicial Appointments

Judge Victoria Marks and Judge Sandra Simms were recently nominated by the Governor for judicial vacancies on the Circuit Court, First Circuit. Congratulations to both women on their elevation.

Given the fact that women have traditionally been limited in their appointments to lower courts, it is good to see these Judges elevated to a higher bench. If Judges Marks and Simms are confirmed, women will compose a little less than one-third of our executive appointed judges (10 out of 33). We still have a way to go before we reach gender-parity. HWL continues to work for the day when our state can follow our nation's example and have more than one woman at a time on the State Supreme Court and the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Notice of Anticipated Vacancy in Judicial Office

The Judicial Selection Commission is accepting applications for the anticipated vacancies due to the nominations of Judges Marks and Simms to the First Circuit Courts.

Persons interested in applying for a position as Judge, District of the First Circuit or District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit must submit their names no later than May 19, 1994. Names and applications must be sent to William Harrison, Chair, Judicial Selection Commission State of Hawaii P.O. Box 2560 Honolulu, HI 96804.

Women interested in assistance with the lengthy application or who wish to conduct a mock interview should contact Hawaii Women Lawyers at 524-4800. All requests will be kept confidential. HWL will assist all women applicants. We will not endorse any candidate, but will

continue to lobby for more qualified women to be appointed to the judiciary.

Michelle Tucker Receives CFE

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners awarded Michelle H. Tucker the designation of Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). The CFE designation is awarded to select professionals responsible for detecting, deterring and investigating fraud. Ms. Tucker fulfilled the demanding criteria set by the Association including a rigorous examination in which fewer than one person in five pass on the first attempt.

Gender Issues and Sexual Harrassment in the Schools to be Aired

Representatives of HWL, AAUW and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center will be discussing gender issues and sexual harassment in Hawaii schools on May 29, 1994 on the Island Issues program. We are also working with persons in the DOE and state government towards developing a program for our schools to discuss these issues.

ABA Client Relations Tape

The ABA has a new 23-minute videotape which explains what clients are looking for and demonstrates how lawyers can meet their expectations. Please call Annette at 537-1868 to borrow the tape. It's free!

Criminal Compensation Commission

HWL and the State Commission on the Status of Women joined forces this year to petition the Criminal Compensation Commission to reconsider their denial of funeral benefits to Leigh Ford's (a murdered prostitute) family. Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind of UH provided invaluable

assistance by conducting a study of the Commission's past rulings. The study showed a clear trend of bias with frequent denial of benefits to women victims and families of women victims, while granting similar or more favorable requests from male victims.

At the hearing one Commissioner "struggled" with the concept of the Commission granting benefits to someone who had committed a crime (prostitution). HWL pointed out that the Commission had previously granted benefits to several male applicants who were wounded while committing crimes. One example was a man wounded while committing burglary, a felony, when he was shot by the owner of the home he broke into. The Commission did not struggle with the concept of awarding this applicant compensation. Apparently the Commission viewed prostitution, a petty misdemeanor, as more egregious than burglary.

In addition, the prosecutor who tried the case against Ms. Ford's murderer noted that the murderer testified that Ms. Ford did not initiate any violence or cause the crime. The prosecutor argued that the analysis of the aggressor showed he may have been a serial killer who, fortunately, was caught before he could begin a career. Ms. Ford thus could not be blamed for causing her own murder.

As a result of the hearing and Ms. Chesney-Lind's study, the Commission on the Status of Women and HWL lobbied for a woman experienced in working with victims to be appointed to the Criminal Compensation Commission.

The Governor recently appointed, and the Senate approved, Paula Chun. Ms. Chun's resume shows she has been a very active advocate of women's rights and has assisted with numerous programs and studies intended to benefit and empower

women victims. She is also the founding director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Congratulations Ms. Chun. HWL hopes you are successful in reshaping the outlook of the Commission, and we offer our assistance if you should need it.

Leadership Summit: The Challenge of Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the leading cancer in Hawaii, with over 600 cases diagnosed each year. The Hawaii Breast Cancer Leadership Summit will raise awareness about: the importance of detecting breast cancer early; worksite breast cancer education programs that work; free and low cost breast cancer education resources; and, the economic, personal and family impact of breast cancer on business and the community.

The Summit will be held on June 3, 1994 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Waikiki. Call Katalina McGlone at 524-1235 for more information.

Employment Opportunity

Attorney Position - 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Schofield Barracks. U.S. Army equivalent of Legal Aid: family law, consumer protection, landlord-tenant, estate planning, basic tax, adoptions, civil rights, immigration law. Must be licensed in Hawaii or within 1 year of employment. Closing date: May 30, 1994. For information on position and/or on applying, call Coral Pietsch, Esq. at 438-9953.

Red Salty Fluids

Honolulu attorney Elaine M. Hazard will have her comic satire Red Salty Fluids on stage at Diamond Head Theatre Monday and Tuesday, May 23rd and 24th and Tuesday May 31st at 7 p.m. In Red Salty Fluids, a playwright group confronts

the possibility that its newest (and rather odd) member is a practicing cannibal. The Originals, the playwright group of Diamond Head Theatre, will present Red Salty Fluids as part of an evening of three original short plays in workshop on stage. Admission is \$5.

Neanderthal Award Reminder

Last year HWL considered adding a Neanderthal Award to the awards it makes at the annual meeting. We decided to keep our eyes open this year for potential candidates. The recipients must be known to have committed such a sexist act and/or comment as to be labeled a neanderthal.

Nominees may be provided to the Board throughout the year. We will accept anonymous tips. All acts or comments must be verifiable, however. Nominations for 1994 are open until the Board meeting in November.

Kids Day



Volunteers needed May 17, 1994 to sell papers from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to Parents and Children Together, which

operates Head Start programs, Family Visitation Center, Family Peace Center and Kuhio Park Terrace Family Center.

Immediate Openings

For people who drool, spit-up and wet their pants on Saturdays. Hawaii Kids At Work Downtown, a licensed day care provider, has openings on Saturdays for children between six weeks and three years.

Spaces are available in four hour blocks of time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for \$25.00. Call 531-7213 for more information. ♦

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:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular members \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-state members \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student members \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New admittees (within 1 year of Hawaii admission) \$20 | | |
| HWL President's Circle: | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 |

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone (day) _____ (night) _____

Please indicate if you are interested in information about serving on the HWL Board or Committees or note any topics or projects in which you would be interested in assisting.

If you have any announcements you wish to submit for the monthly newsletter, please call Rhonda Nishimura at 537-6119 or Kathy Young at 537-4541, or send a copy to HWL by the end of the month.

MARY HOUGHTON
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