



HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1994

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WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

*President's Report
By Laura Thielen*

Newsweek recently published an article The Year of the Smear, which described the smear tactics the radical right has launched against women politicians and candidates in 1994 - sadly, only one election after "the Year of the Woman."

An ugly struggle is occurring across our nation today. The radical right has effectively organized itself to field popular candidates for large offices, to control enough votes, grass-roots offices, and organizations to seriously influence candidates or incumbents, and to seize control of some political parties.

This group's tactics include attacks and smears against women running for office. The popularization of insulting and demeaning women, such as one radio talk show's poll asking men if they'd rather sleep with Hillary Rodham Clinton or Senator Patricia Schroeder, has fanned embers of resentment against women and gathered additional members, or at least votes, for radical right platforms and campaigns.

The radical right platforms include outlawing or severely limiting abortion, rejecting rights of homosexuals, removing legislation protecting civil rights of women and other minority groups, and eroding the restrictions enforcing the separation of church and state.

Newsweek chronicled the fact that for this election the radical right is using homophobia as the wedge issue. The magazine reports that women candidates supporting gay rights are in real danger of whisper campaigns that they are gay. Women who support women's rights, even moderately so, are labeled "feminazis".

Because Hawaii's Supreme Court recently ruled that our state constitution prohibits discrimination based on

sexual preference, Hawaii has received unwelcome attention from the radical right. The Rutherford Institute, a conservative nation-wide organization with a local office, has interviewed local candidates, and presumably is providing its considerable support for the candidates who agree with its platform.

As Hawaii was the first state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, many people in Hawaii have the attitude that the radical right cannot take hold here, that we are too tolerant an environment for such groups to take root.

That attitude is wrong. Worse yet, it is dangerous, as it allows the well-organized right to field quiet candidates, who will only vocalize their anti-civil rights positions once elected.

These radical right candidates are running in local elections today. This election you must vote, and vote wisely, if you care to keep women's right to abortion, to keep legislative efforts and funding to fight domestic violence, to promote gender equity in our schools, to push for future legislation on equal pay for equal work, and to ensure women's health is funded and studied as seriously as men's health.

Don't be fooled into believing that a democratic candidate is safe. We have had democrats in our local offices who have been opposed to abortion. Take the time to educate yourself about the candidates you elect. Because we are facing the most open election in almost a decade - no incumbent running for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Mayor of Honolulu, or a large number of House and Senate seats - this election you will need to educate yourself more than ever.

Hawaii Women Lawyers, along with the League of Women Voters and the ACLU, has worked with Planned Parenthood to draft the 1994 Candidates Survey. The Survey/Guide lists questions regarding issues of abortion, sex education, women's health, domestic violence, and more. Every candidate, even the ones for the Board of Education, is listed along with her/his response in a very readable format. Those candidates who did not re-

spond are listed as not responding, which may indicate that they are so opposed to Planned Parenthood that they won't even respond to the Survey. You can call a non-responsive candidate and ask the questions that concern you most.

As a member of HWL you should receive a copy of the Survey results. If you do not receive one before the primary, call Judy at 524-4800, and we will get you one.

Take the time to educate yourself. Take the time to vote. Take the time to educate others and encourage them to vote. And for the sake of every right that women in the United States have spent the last 218 years fighting for, take this election seriously. ♦

HAWAII WOMEN'S LEGAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER:

THE MAYORS RIDE AGAIN!

On September 9, the fourth annual Foundation fundraiser will again bring the mayors from all four counties to Honolulu for a fun, thought-provoking evening, featuring a champagne reception, dinner, and mayors program moderated by Linda Coble. Mayor Steven Yamashiro, Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle, and Acting Mayor Jeremy Harris will be present for the evening, and Mayor JoAnn Yukimura will either be present or will send a taped message. The Foundation will again present a silent auction with exciting items that include a multitude of hotel getaways, dining experiences, and other special events.

The previous fundraisers have been sell-outs, and well over half the tables for this fundraiser have al-

ready been spoken for, so don't delay in responding to the invitations that will be mailed out to you in August. You may also call Mary Houghton at 396-8506 to reserve a seat or a table now. Tables of ten are \$1250 and individual seats are \$125. A large part of the Founda-

tion's annual grants go to HWL, including moneys for administrative expenses and for the republication of *Our Rights, Our Lives*. Come help the Foundation raise funds to help HWL - and have a great evening in the process! ♦

SANDRA FORD'S APPEAL FROM THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Several months ago this Newsletter reported that Hawaii Women Lawyers joined the State Commission on the Status of Women in the rehearing of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission's denial of Sandra Ford's application for daughter's funeral expenses.

The CICC has the authority to provide monetary compensation to victims or families of victims of vio-

lent crimes in Hawaii. Leigh Ford, a prostitute, was brutally murdered by a man who was later convicted for that crime. Mrs. Ford requested the CICC cover only her daughter's funeral expenses. The CICC denied the request on the grounds that Leigh Ford was responsible for her murder.

At the rehearing, a study by Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind, a professor of



Employment Opportunity

The UH William S. Richardson School of Law is seeking a non-tenure track faculty member to fill a federally-funded (for 3 years, renewable yearly) position. The faculty member will supervise students and teach classes in a general civil clinical program with an emphasis on family law. Qualifications: J.D. degree, distinguished academic record, prior experience that demonstrates or promises excellence in clinical teaching. Closing date: August 31. Send resume, a letter of application and the names of three references to Lawrence Foster, Associate Dean, University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, 2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, 96822.

criminology at UH, showed that the CICC had statistically favored applications by male victims over applications by female victims. In addition, the CICC had previously granted large amounts of money to several males who were injured while committing a felony, or injured in response to a crime they committed.

Despite our efforts, the CICC on reconsideration recently issued a decision which granted Mrs. Ford only partial benefits. The decision rejects the study of Dr. Chesney-Lind and claims to be gender-blind. However, despite its past practice of awarding benefits to male victims injured while committing a felony, the CICC found Leigh Ford's commission of a petty misdemeanor to override or at least equal her status as a victim of murder.

Jean Ireton has agreed to appeal the administrative ruling on a pro bono basis. The appeal will address the issue of gender discrimination in administrative contested case hearings. As many citizen's rights are decided at the administrative level, this appeal could provide important minimum standards and guidelines which protect gender equity at that level.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Ford is unable to fund the costs of the administrative appeal, including the filing fees and transcripts. If you care to contribute to this appeal, please contact Jean Ireton at 523-8688. HWL's newsletter will provide updates on the appeal as it is processed. ♦

WOMEN'S FORUMS

August 26 Gubernatorial Forum

Gubernatorial candidates Patricia Saiki (R), Frank Fasi (B), Ben Cayetano (D), Jack Lewin (D), William Woods (B), George

Peabody (L), and possibly one green candidate, will briefly speak and answer questions at a special August Forum

Due to high turnout, this Forum will be held at the ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS BALLROOM from 11:30 to 1:30. Please call Mary Houghton early for reservations.

September 30 Marion Higa

Marion Higa, the State Auditor, will be speaking on a topic of great interest to anyone who does business with the State or just wants an insider's view of how the State works. The Auditor's Office is known for its hard-hitting audits of state departments. Come and hear one of the most respected women in state government.

October 29 Judicial Selection Commission

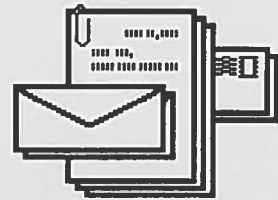
This forum will feature several members of the commission, providing our guests with a cross-section of the Commission's practices and policies. This is the seminar to attend for those who deal with judges on a daily basis, or who are interested in the possibilities of the bench.

Reserve Your Seat Today!

For any of the forums, reservations can be made by calling Mary Houghton at 396-8506. ♦



LETTER TO THE EDITOR



In light of the extensive media attention given to O.J. Simpson as a fallen American hero, I was deeply moved by several recent editorials which reminded the public of the true, and ignored victims in this media sensation. The tragedy of Nicole Brown Simpson has illuminated a dire societal problem that needs to be rectified by more responsible legislation, media coverage, and public support. As a member of the House of Representatives Women's Caucus, I have heard first hand accounts of abused spouses, and have seen how the legal and media systems ignore them. Neither the victims nor the perpetrators get the help they need in time to prevent tragedies.

Our House Women's Caucus promotes and introduces legislation which legally holds batterers accountable for their actions, and that supports those spouses whose fear often keeps them from speaking out. It is often difficult to get this legislation passed. Domestic abuse has been seen as a "women's issue," and not looked at as a high priority. While a number of groups and individuals help our efforts by actively supporting such bills, we all, as a concerned public, must demand that programs which prevent domestic violence be enacted and fully funded.

Without public participation, the Legislature and the media will continue to inadequately respond to a spouse's fear of further battery. In hindsight, it is a tragedy that O.J. Simpson received his slap-on-the-wrist \$500 fine for prior offenses and no serious anger management

counseling. Similarly, it was unconscionable for Hertz to continue its contract with Simpson and present him as a role model. Neither the legal system, corporate America, nor the media responded to the fear voiced earlier by Nicole Brown Simpson. This inaction only reiterates to others like Nicole that victims will remain ignored, disbelieved, and unsupported in the systems that are supposed to fend for them and prevent their deaths.

*Cynthia Thielen
Minority Floor Leader
49th District*

Send all letters to HWL, attention Susan Jaworowski. Letters may be edited to comply with space requirements. ♦

THE MULTICULTURAL WOMEN ATTORNEYS NETWORK (MWAN)

The Multicultural Women Attorneys Network (MWAN) is a supportive network for women lawyers of color. A joint effort of the ABA Commission on Minorities in the Profession and the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, the Network brings together women of color from nearly every practice area and the judiciary. The Network, formerly known as the Minority Women Lawyers Subcommittee, has conducted a series of national and regional meetings and forums to survey minority women lawyers on their experiences in the legal profession in recognition of the unique obstacles that may be encountered by these women. The results of these meetings will be presented in a report on multicultural women attorneys in the law, at the ABA's annual meeting this August in New Orleans. For more information on the Network and its activities, write to

Alpha Brady, at the ABA Commission on Minorities, 750 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611. ♦

WE THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK...: WORKING WOMEN COUNT!

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor has put together a questionnaire, "Working Women Count" to elicit women's views about their jobs, wages and benefits, scheduling, opportunity for advancement and training, and help for child and elder care. A spokeswoman for the Women's Bureau said, "we have a lot of people saying what working women want, but we need to go to the experts themselves. We want to hear it from them. What do they like? What do they want? What do they object to?" To make your views known, you can get a copy of the survey from the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (call Stephanie Cheng at 586-5757), the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (call Patti Cook at 523-4073), or the Office of the Governor, Office of Affirmative Action (call Andy Bonotan at 586-0073). ♦

CHOP SUI GENERIS

Karen McKinnie retired this spring from Westlaw in San Francisco, and has just returned from travels to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. In August, her itinerary will take her to Europe, and thereafter, to Africa. By January, she plans to return to settle in Hawaii and will be looking for work.

Congratulations to:

Ann Burns of the Attorney General's Office, who recently married and is now known as Ann Andreas.

Peggy Jenkins, Cissy Farm, Gail Ayabe and Carol Eblen, who were recently named partners at Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel; and Jan Amii, who became a partner at Watanabe Ing & Kawashima.

Ellen Carson of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, who was nominated by HSBA to run for the office of Vice-President/President Elect of the Bar Association for 1995.

Camille Chun-Hoon, who was named as the Business Advocate for the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, after a brief hiatus for the initial demands of motherhood. ♦

MOMMY, ESQ.

As a parent whose children are enrolled in the public school system, I really believe that parent involvement in school board and SCBM activities can make a big difference in their kids' education. I would like to network with other attorneys who have children enrolled in, who are considering enrolling kids in, or have pulled kids out of, the public schools here in Hawaii. Please call me, Cori Lau, at 956-6551 to let me know if you are interested in participating in an informal brown bag discussion of the ways to become involved in improving the public schools. ♦

Mary I. Houghton
6729 Hahaione Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

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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:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <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 Susan Jaworowski at 625-1386 (afternoons), or send a copy to HWL by the end of the month.
