



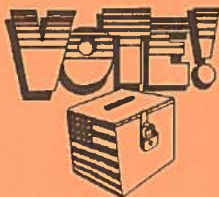
HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1994

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HSBA ELECTIONS



The HWL Board recently invited the two candidates for HSBA President-Elect to speak to our Board about their vision for the HSBA. The two candidates are Ellen Godbey Carson and Nick Garcia.

We also invited the two to write brief articles for this newsletter. We do not endorse candidates, and we do not necessarily endorse their opinions. This publication is made only to educate our readers about the candidates' platforms. As of the time of publication, we had not received an article from Mr. Garcia.

ELLEN GODBEY CARSON CANDIDATE, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF HSBA

Thank you for the opportunity to seek HWL members' support of my candidacy for President-Elect of the HSBA. I have enjoyed my work with HWL and I look forward to sharing many of HWL's concerns with the HSBA.

My goals for the Bar include:

- Improving attorneys' public image
- Serving the needs of all Bar members
- Encouraging voluntary pro bono
- Increasing alternative dispute resolution options
- Increasing gender and racial diversity in the Bar
- Providing effective input to judicial selection
- Limiting HSBA dues by increasing non-dues revenues

For those of you who do not know me, I am a partner with Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, doing civil commercial litigation and arbitration in real estate, employment, civil

rights, and professional malpractice areas. I enjoy community service work and have been President of Hawaii Women Lawyers (1989-1990), Hale Kipa Emergency Youth Shelters, and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Awards: Hawaii Women Lawyers' Outstanding Service Award, Woman Lawyer of the Year Award, HSBA's Pro Bono Award for Meritorious Community Service, and YWCA's Outstanding Woman in the Professions Award. Harvard Law School (1980, cum laude).

I would enjoy helping improve the bar, and appreciate your support. Please call me (524-1800) if you have questions or concerns you would like to see the HSBA address, or would like to help in any way.

AN OPEN LETTER TO HAWAII'S NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

*President's Report
By Laura Thielen*

President Clinton has promised to end welfare as we know it. Clinton's Welfare Reform Plan, along with the competing proposals in Congress and a plethora of state experiments, targets Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). AFDC appears to be the logical focus of welfare reform, as it is the largest welfare program. But keep in mind during this debate that AFDC comprises only 1% of the Federal Budget.

AFDC provides funds to single heads of households which contain children. The intent of such plan is to ensure our nation's children, at a minimum, can eat, and at best, be lifted out of poverty. AFDC provides both financial help and child care assistance, thus allowing single parents the opportunity to educate themselves or to work or look for work. Two-thirds of the beneficiaries of AFDC are children—9 million children.

The vast majority of the single parents receiving the AFDC checks are women. Recently, the welfare reformers and the media have been focussing on the number of teen-aged mothers who receive AFDC. There is no question that the language of all welfare reformers speak of cutting off payments to mothers, specifically teenaged mothers.

Clinton has won praise from Democrats and Republicans for his promise to cut off benefits to teen-aged mothers. A bi-partisan panel at the American Enterprise Institute in D.C. last spring applauded the following proposals:

"Much as we may sympathize with a young woman who finds herself [pregnant] . . . part of arranging society so that happens as seldom as possible is to impose terrible penalties on that act."

The terrible penalties listed included:

- Ending AFDC in all its forms (except Medicaid);
- Orphanages for children of single mothers unable to provide for their children without AFDC; and
- Denying AFDC to single teenaged mothers who move out of their parent's home.

Some states are now experimenting with cutting off AFDC to single mothers who have more than one child.

Clinton's proposal would give automatic approval to such experiments, would cut off AFDC payments and childcare after two years, and guarantee only part-time employment to beneficiaries after the cut-off. The Republican proposals would simply cut off the payments and provide no guaranteed work.

Proponents of these reforms seem to be operating on the assumption that severe financial and social penalties on a single mother can

either force her into marriage with the father (and presumably financial stability), or stop unwed motherhood.



Two very critical facts are overlooked by this assumption. First, it takes two people to make a child—a man and a woman. Where are the severe social and financial penalties for the fathers of these children? How can we convince a couple to get married or not to conceive when we only focus on one half of the couple? Why is our society, yet again, condoning the placement of the scarlet letter on the mother, denying the bread to the child, and completely ignoring the father's responsibilities?

Second, the National Center for Health Statistics shows that two-thirds of the fathers who impregnated teenaged mothers are over 20 years of age. This nation is not focussing on the fact that the problem is teen-adult sex. This makes it even more unforgivable that all welfare reform proposals let the responsible adult, the father, walk free of any penalty, and instead punishes only the children, the teenaged mother and the baby.

Forcing these teens back to their own parents will not help the situation. A 1992 study showed two-thirds of pregnant teens and teen-aged mothers were sexually abused by their families. Six in ten suffered severe physical abuse as children. Now the reformers want to force them and their child back into that situation.

Worse yet, we are talking about taking the child away from the mother who cannot support a family on her own without government

aid. Lest you think this a joke, remember the recent Michigan case where the judge awarded custody of a child to a father who had no interest in it other than as an instrument to hurt the mother. The judge's reason: the mother could not adequately care for the child while attending university.

What will happen to the vast numbers of young mothers and their children once assistance is cut off? A full-time job at \$6.75 per hour approximates \$14,000 per year income. Daycare for two young children can cost \$12,000. If welfare reform is passed without daycare, these mothers face the possibility of losing their children to orphanages, homelessness, and starvation.

As usual, it is a matter of money. Teens with brighter futures have dramatically lower pregnancy rates. Witness the differential in teenaged pregnancy in inner-cities and the suburbs.

In order to break the cycle of poverty and to limit teenaged pregnancy, we need to spend money on girls, not punish them. Please think about the actual problems these girls face, the logical consequences if AFDC is cut off without some form of guaranteed work and childcare, and the fact that all the proposals overlook one-half of the problem, the fathers.

WOMEN LEGISLATORS SEEK ASSISTANCE

We are beginning to organize the 1995 Hawaii Women Lawyers' Legislative Committee. Lorraine Akiba will be the Chair, and we could use additional committee members.

We will be reviewing the package of bills put together by the Women's Caucus prior to submis-

sion, and raising our concerns and suggesting necessary drafting changes. As lawyers, we are able to offer unique, valuable, and welcome suggestions to the Caucus.

Our Committee ideally should have lawyers from all areas of practice in order to provide the best review of all bills.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with this Committee, please call Laura Thielen at 524-4800 or Lorraine Akiba at 521-9200.

WRITE TO SAVE OUR RIGHTS



The United States Congress is still struggling over the terms of a national health care plan. Certain provisions of the proposed Clinton plan may be jettisoned in order to gain the necessary votes for passage, or an entirely new plan may be adopted.

The current Clinton plan provides for health care coverage for abortion and certain reproductive services. Because the abortion issue is so controversial, this may be one provision dropped in order to pass a national plan.

Please take a minute to drop a postcard to our national representatives, and let them know you want national health care to include all forms of reproductive services for women, including abortion. We are all busy, but not too busy to write a postcard to protect our fundamental rights.

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20510

PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

Cori Lau is organizing a group of parents interested in public school education for their children. Anyone interested can meet at the HSBA offices for a brown bag lunch on September 20 at 11:45 a.m.

CHOP SUI GENERIS

Daphne Barbee-Wooten and Andre Wooten returned from Egypt where they shot footage for their documentary series, "Reclaiming Our African Heritage." Their research took them up the Nile to Abusimbal, the Temple of Luxor, Karnak, and across the Valley of the Kings where King Tut's tomb – the smallest in the Valley – was found. Post-production work on the documentary should be done in about three months. Excerpts have already been shown at the University of Hawaii for Black History Month. Daphne invites you to give her a call at 533-0275 if you are interested in learning more about this project.



Amy M. Wasson announces the opening of her law practice in Pukalani, Maui. She will be concentrating in areas of business, commercial and real estate law. She can be contacted at 527-1200.



Mothers seeking childcare in the downtown area: Claudia Lo, a PATCH-certified provider with a GET license, has openings starting the month of September and October for children age 12 months through three years. You may contact her directly at 536-3070, or if you want to speak with a reference first, you may contact Susan Jaworowski at 625-1386.

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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.
