



## NEWSLETTER

# Hawaii WOMEN LAWYERS

OCTOBER 1994

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Laura Thielen

A few months ago I wrote a report about a Firm of One's Own. That report included a quote by Ursula K. LeGuin, which in effect said what a woman needs to write is not a supportive partner, although such is nice, but simply a pen a paper.

This month my husband, Tom Helper, and I celebrate our fourth anniversary of marriage, our sixth anniversary of living together, and our eight anniversary of friendship (these were concurrent terms). I would like to dedicate this report to him, because he has elevated the status of supportive partner from "nice" to the highest form.

Although Tom and I first became friends because of our similarities, over the years we have discovered basic personality differences between ourselves. When we met, Tom was a midwesterner, never strayed far from the midwest, and his values of family and friends could be placed on a needlepoint in the background of a Norman Rockwell picture. I was from Hawaii, moved ten times over 12 years, and suffered from a severe Peter Pan syndrome.

Superficially, it would appear that I changed him. He moved to Hawaii, which was very hard as a midwesterner, and worked on my mother's campaign, which was even harder as a democrat. But in reality, it

is he who has had the greater impact. His quiet values have

set a constant and unwitting example which have helped center me. (continued on page 6)

### Hawaii Women Lawyers' Women's Forum Judicial Selection Commission - October 28, 1994

We sold out our Forum with the four women judges. Those of you who came to that Forum know that many of the questions centered around what makes a person qualified to be a judge and how is the selection process conducted. Due to the confidentiality of the process, the judges were prohibited from responding, but the Commission members may be able to answer those questions. You do not have to

have judicial aspirations to find this forum interesting, thought-provoking, and stimulating.

We will be hosting several members of the Commission, which will provide our guests with a good cross-section of the entire Commission's practice and policies.

#### RESERVATIONS

For reservations for any of the forums, contact Mary Houghton at 395-9743.

### HWL 1995 Board Elections

Anyone interested in running for a position on the HWL 1995 Board, or nominating someone for the Board, please submit your names and positions sought no later than October 25, 1994. You can send the information to our P.O. Box or call Laura Thielen at 524-4800.

Positions up for election are:

- Vice President/President Elect (two year term)
- Secretary
- Treasurer (must be attorney/CPA)
- Directors (Bylaws provide for up to 6 Directors)

Names of candidates will be published in the November newsletter, votes mailed in and counted in December. The new Board will be inaugurated in January, at our annual awards ceremony.

## 1994 HWL AWARDS

We are now accepting nominations for the two traditional awards made by HWL:

**Woman Lawyer of the Year  
Community Services Award**  
(may be a non-lawyer)

Awards in the past have been made to Esther Arinaga, for her work in Kauai after Iniki; Sara Smith and Representative Annelle Amaral for their work on the Women's Coalition and Caucus; Mervina Cash-Kaeo for her years of community legal work, and many other such deserving recipients.

### Neanderthal Awards

HWL also is interested in announcing Neanderthal Awards. Feel free to nominate a person or persons who have made statements or actions regarding women which requires them to be classified as a neanderthal. Because we work with people who have litigious tendencies, we will require some objective evidence of the neclithic behavior.

All award nominations must be received by December 1, 1994. Winners will be announced in January, at our annual awards ceremony.

### **WANTED: PRO BONO ATTORNEYS FOR THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER**

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) needs a few hours a month of your time to help protect the privacy rights of children and adults who have suffered sexual assault. SATC needs three or four volunteer attorneys to help oppose subpoenas for medical and counselling records for sexual assault survivors. This is a great opportunity for motions practice in civil, criminal, and family court, while helping real people in need. No experience is necessary: training, forms, and memoranda are available. Ability to practice in Hawaii courts is required. If you can help, please call Ellen Godbey Carson at 524-1800.

## **MEMBERSHIP CLARIFICATION**

We recently sent a letter to all women attorneys in the state, inviting them to become members of HWL for the remainder of 1994 at a discounted rate. Because the HSBA labels were for all women attorneys, our current members also received the letter.

Up to last year, your one year membership term began when you paid your dues. This led to massive confusion within HWL as to who was current with their dues.

Last year we announced that we were changing our membership to a calendar year, to coincide with our sister organization, Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. The Foundation provides HWL with our operating expenses, so it made sense to match our systems.

As a result, every HWL member, new or old, will be asked to pay a \$40.00 membership fee in January 1995. You may pay HWL directly by sending a check to our P.O. Box, or you may pay when you pay your HSBA Bar dues.

Many people currently receiving our newsletter are not current with their dues, but since we were in the process of computerizing our lists, we let it slide. However, if you are feeling guilty for possibly accepting the benefits of membership for which you are unsure you paid, we are happy to offer our guilt-relieving services. Please send us \$15.00, and we will absolve you from all guilty feelings regarding your past sins pertaining to HWL (Abolition for unrelated sins may be slightly more expensive).

Because our newsletter is costly to print and mail, we will begin to drop non-paying persons from our membership list and mailing list in February of next year. Thank you for bearing with us during this confusing transition. We hope the changes, which are now computerized, will allow us to be more efficient in the future.

# Fundraiser for Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline

The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline will sponsor its annual fundraiser on November 1, 1994.

Date & Time: Tuesday, November 1, 1994, 7:30 pm

Place: Diamond Head Theatre, 420 Makapuu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii

The event: an exclusive, one-time only showing of Defending Our Lives, winner of 1994 Academy Award for Best Short Documentary. The film is about battered women who were imprisoned for killing their abusers.

Speakers: Sarah Buel, nationally known expert on domestic violence and former prosecutor who spoke here in May to a capacity crowd; and Lisa Grimshaw, who appears in the film and who has been released after eight years of imprisonment.

Includes: a reception following the showing which includes pupus furnished by Sunset Grill, and musical entertainment by Henry Kapon and Patricia Anderson Murray.

Proceeds from the event will support programs and services of the DVCLH.

Reservations: Advance reservations preferred by October 27, 1994: \$15 per person; at the door: \$20 per person. Call 531-3771 for advance reservations or information, or send a check with your name to DVCLH, P.O. Box 3198, Honolulu, HI 96801-3198

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## Legislative Advocacy Workshop on Domestic Violence

The Soroptimists International of Waikiki, Inc. (a service organization which sponsors projects to benefit women) and other community organizations are offering a legislative workshop on domestic violence, to be held on November 19, 1994, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at Kuakini Medical Auditorium, Hale Pulama Mau Auditorium. The focus of the workshop will be

to educate individuals on the topics of spouse abuse, child abuse, and elder abuse. Agencies involved in services for victims of domestic violence will be staffing informational tables. A minimal fee will be charged. To pre-register and to receive a brochure with additional information, call Mia at 545-5744.

Student Advocacy for Victims of Domestic Violence (SAVD) Seeks Full-time and Part-time Attorneys and Law Students and Undergraduates

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Hawaii Lawyers Care has received funds from Americorps, a national public service project similar to VISTA or the Peace Corps, to start courthouse clinics in family courts throughout the state, which will provide advocacy for domestic violence victims seeking restraining orders. Participants will be trained to be advocates in court, and to perform outreach services to clients at shelters, family crisis centers, churches, hospitals, and other places where victims may be found, to offer legal assistance and education. Opportunities are available on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island. Participants will receive hands-on courtroom experience in the handling of domestic violence legal issues including restraining orders, divorces, child custody, and support. A training program will cover domestic violence legal issues, psychological factors and other information related to the victims' needs.

### Requirements:

- One year commitment to the program beginning in mid-October
- If an attorney, licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii (can apply if waiting results of July 1994 bar exam, but no commitment until favorable result received)
- Committed to providing quality legal services
- Committed to a team concept of delivering legal services

### Benefits:

- Living allowance
- Educational stipend for past, present, or future educational expenses
- High-profile work
- Courtroom experience

If interested, call Brenda Hino at Hawaii Lawyers Care, phone 528-7047; neighbor islanders can call 1-800-839-5200.

## ONGOING PROJECTS

Any member interested in becoming involved with one or more of the following projects, please call the identified people:

### Hospital Flyers

Based on a suggestion by Sara Buel, the Board has initiated an investigation into whether area hospitals would allow us to post a flyer in the women's bathroom in the emergency rooms. The flyer would follow the card provided by HPD and give information on domestic violence assistance.

We have an initial response from the hospitals, and we now need to work on developing the flyer and a holder, and take them back to the hospitals. The location is a perfect way to get information to the women who need it most, as domestic violence is the leading cause of women's emergency room visits. Moreover, the bathroom provides privacy from the possible abuser, thereby allowing the woman the opportunity to take advantage of the information.

If interested, please call Laura Thielen at 524-4800.

### Legislative Committee

We have reorganized our Legislative Committee and hired a legislative service in order to improve our lobbying efforts at the State Legislature this year. We are looking for lawyers in all areas of practice to join this Committee, so that we will have a more effective insight into a wider variety of bills.

If interested, please call Lorraine Akiba at 521-9200. The Committee will gear up before the session begins in January, so call now.

### Republication of Our Rights, Our Lives

HWL published a national award-winning legal rights handbook for women in 1990. We are now raising funds to republish the third edition, as many changes in the law over the past few years have affected the areas covered in the handbook.

Our grant-writing person could use a hand, and our editors in charge of updating the material would also welcome assistance.

For grant information, call Chiye Wenkam at 536-8557; for editorial information, call Liz Fujiwara at 526-9886 or Robin Wurtzel at 847-8828.

### Sandra Ford Appeal

Jean Ireton, the attorney who agreed to file the administrative appeal from the Victims Compensation Commission's decision to deny partial benefits to the mother of Leigh Ford, the prostitute murdered by a customer, is doing the appeal pro bono. She could use some assistance on the briefs by persons familiar with administrative or constitutional law, or persons willing to do some legal research on distinct issues.

The Opening Brief is due in January, and there will also be an opportunity to file a Reply Brief and for oral argument. Interested persons please call Jean at 523-8688.

### Neighborhood Legal Clinics

Hawaii Women Lawyers worked with Hawaii Lawyers Care two years ago on developing Neighborhood Legal Clinics. Our members staffed the first two clinics, held in Kalihi and Waianae. Hawaii Lawyers Care has since held clinics staffed by our members and other volunteers.

The clinics are a one time commitment, for only a few hours on one day (or more, if you enjoy it). Basically, they are an outreach program, to provide legal advice to people who might otherwise not be able to obtain such advice. Attorneys with experience in family law, landlord-tenant and general practice are especially welcome.

Interested persons, please contact Val Tavai, Hawaii Lawyers Care, at 528-7046.

# WOMEN FELLOWS

## Chop Sui Generis

**Cindy John** has recently filed a case where one issue is whether the recent law which abolished interspousal tort immunity is retroactive. Family law or tort practitioners who are interested in this issue should contact Cindy 533-2930.

**Sherry Broder** was one of nine nominees nationwide for the 1994 Trial Lawyer of the Year award given by Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. Her nomination was based on her role in the first successful class action suit for human rights damages against the estate of Ferdinand Marcos.

The grass is always etc., etc.: **Linda Martell** left Char Hamilton recently to join the Attorney General's office for lifestyle reasons, while **Kelly Salling** went the other way, from the AG's to join Alston, Hunt, Floyd & Ing.

**Louise Ing** was elected a director of the American Savings Bank Board this past May. Louise attributes her election to her involvement in volunteer boards, especially her stints with the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and Child & Family Service, where she worked her way up the ladder and ultimately served as president of both organizations. On the way, she had the opportunity to meet and work with other active board members in the business and volunteer communities. Louise encourages other women attorneys to become involved on volunteer boards.

The Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program is now accepting applications for Fellows. A Fellow is placed in an organization in Washington D.C. that works in the area of women's civil rights, sex discrimination, issues affecting poor women, or issues affecting women with disabilities.

Fellows are supervised by attorneys in the hosting organization. The program is run out of Georgetown University, is highly respected, and is a wonderful opportunity for any woman lawyer looking to make a career working on women's issues.

Applications are due in November. For more information, call or write: Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program 600 New Jersey Ave, N.W., Suite 334 Washington D.C. 20001(202) 662-9650FAX (202) 662-9539E-mail: wlppfp@law.georgetown.edu

## PLANNED PARENTHOOD NEEDS YOUR HELP

Last year Planned Parenthood of Hawaii was forced to forego state funding, due to the funding requirement that no patients be turned away (which would have bankrupted the Kaneohe, Maui, Kauai, and Kona clinics).

Since last July, PP has been operating independent of public funds. However, the strain is taking its toll. Unless it raises \$178,000 by December 31, 1994, PP will have to close two of its five clinics (the fifth is in Honolulu). It has already had to reduce services to two days a week in Kona, Maui, and Kauai.

Planned Parenthood is asking people to contribute funds to them directly, or to simply become a patient at one of their clinics or bring other clients to them. The PP clinics offer a full range of services to women in all age groups.

Contributions are tax deductible, and may be made to Planned Parenthood of Hawaii 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1001 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-9382

Donations may be unrestricted, or (neighbor island attorneys especially, take note) a donor can specify the clinic she or he wishes to support.

Please help keep the clinics open.

(continued from page 1)

(Although I have willingly moved away from being like Peter Pan, I refuse to become Wendy). Without Tom's constant and unquestioned support, interest and love, I could not do the things I do, nor could I do any of them as well. He is my touchstone, my companion, at times my inspiration and at other times my

reality check, my sounding-board, my masseuse, my cook, and a wonderful father to our child. While I complain that he's a failure as a maid, he would be too annoying if he were perfect, so it's a fault I tolerate occasionally.

Because he would never question the time I spend on matters for Hawaii Women Law-

yers, and the resulting time he needs to spend taking care of our family's daily chores, Tom has been one of the reasons I have been able to serve as President of HWL this year. As President, I thank him for his indirect but important work on behalf of HWL. As his wife, I thank him for the wonderful years we have had together and look forward to many more.

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