

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1994

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OUR NATIONAL PASTIME

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
by Laura Thielen

Happy Thanksgiving and Season's Greetings!

NOVEMBER MEETING

In lieu of a November Forum, Hawaii Women Lawyers, along with other members of the Women's Coalition, is co-hosting a **RECEPTION FOR NEW AND RETURNING WOMEN STATE LEGISLATORS** on **NOVEMBER 30, 1994** at the **PLAZA CLUB** from **5:00 TO 7:00 p.m.**

One of the most important functions we do is to lobby the state legislature for laws that benefit women. The women members of the legislature are a caucus that has instigated and forced changes, such as the Crimes Against Women package of bills in 1992.

Due to the elections, we have lost at least five women members at the legislature (the election has not been held at the time of this writing). It is critical that we send a strong message and physical show of support to the remaining Women's Caucus members in order to give them the courage to stand up in the upcoming, difficult session.

The function is free, you do not need to pay. However, it will be helpful if you make reservations by calling Christine at 586-5757. Please come and show your support for the Women's Caucus

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS' ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The HWL Annual Awards Ceremony will be held at the **PLAZA CLUB** on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1995** at **4:30 to 7:00 p.m.**

We will introduce the 1995 Board, and name the recipients of our 1994 Annual Awards, Woman Lawyer of the Year, Community Service Award and the President's Award.

Tickets are \$15, which may be paid at the door. Please call Mary Houghton at 395-9743. for reservations by January 13, 1994.

Although I am not a baseball fan, I watched all nine episodes of Ken Burns' public television series, "Baseball." The general history and the personalities surrounding the game made the series fascinating.

It was interesting that every commentator in the series was well versed with the history of the Negro League as well as the Major Leagues. In fact, every commentator was sympathetic to the fact that since no statistics were kept for the Negro League players, you really can't claim any white players in the segregated Major Leagues were truly the "best" at anything, as their statistics eliminated a large section of the baseball-playing population.

Time and again, persons interviewed on the series stated that baseball couldn't really be called our "National Pastime" until 1947, the year Branch Rickey hired Jackie Robinson and began the integration of the Major Leagues. Even Doris Kearns Goodwin stated that only from that time can baseball be considered an open sport.

Not one single commentator mentioned that baseball still excludes fifty percent of our nation's population from playing in the Major Leagues.

Out of over eighteen hours of uninterrupted documentary, women were mentioned for perhaps ten minutes. Once, in passing reference to the Women's League formed during World War Two, and again just to mention that since the 1950s women have been banned from playing in the Major Leagues.

The fact that no one, not even the very insightful Ms. Kearns Goodwin, even mentioned the exclusion of women is, to me, a prime example of the invidious discrimination that women still face in the United States today. There were no sexist statements made in the series. There was simply a total neglect to consider women as candidates for professional baseball.

To claim women cannot compete on a professional athletic level with men sounds like Al Campanis' statement that Blacks don't have the "necessities" to manage Major League sports teams. You need to give people, including women, a chance to compete in order to raise their level of competition.

Women have made tremendous strides in athletics over the past 50 years. We have seen the ability of women athletes soar. Already there are two women playing baseball with the Minor Leagues. With or without

encouragement, there will eventually be women capable of playing ball in the Major Leagues.

However, that day will come sooner if there is encouragement. And as happened with racial integration, the sport will benefit by the addition of the new talent from a heretofore untapped source.

In order to provide encouragement, our country needs to shake itself out of our traditional concepts and cease invidious discrimination. We need to stop steering young boys to "Pop" Warner football and young girls to cheerleading. We need to get to the point where it would be natural for the commentators in "Baseball" to address the discrimination against women when discussing the segregation of the Major Leagues.

Because change in traditional thought happens slowly, it is groups such as Hawaii Women Lawyers that must keep pushing people farther and faster than they are naturally inclined. I strongly encourage all our members to continue their membership to support our various programs. I also strongly encourage all women lawyers to join us and become active in this challenge to change the collective image of women.

I hope my efforts as President of this organization have made some difference and lived up to your expectations. I have enjoyed this year immensely, and write this last column with some sadness. Thank you all very much for this opportunity, it has been a wonderful and rewarding experience.

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.

WHO SAYS WOMEN DON'T NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STOCKS?

The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation is looking for some new members for its Budget and Finance Committee. One of the primary functions of the committee is to help HWLFF invest its funds in the stock market. The Committee is seeking to expand its portfolio and is interested in new members who will be willing to devote some time to researching viable options according to the investment criteria.

Women interested in assisting the committee can contact committee chair Janis Akuna at Cadinha & Co., 523-9488.

Choosing the Right Public School for You and Your Child

by Valerie Chang, Esq.

Advocates for Public Schools Committee, HWL*

There is no "one" right school for each child and family, only schools which are suitable for a child and family, and those which aren't. There are numerous institutions and individuals who are willing and waiting to receive your dollars in application fees and tuition, and who are happy to inform you about various private schools in Hawaii. An often overlooked treasure and resource in the search for your child's school is the public school system.

There are 180 schools in the public school system and generally, there is a public elementary school within a few miles of your home. The public school for the district in which you live must provide a public education for each Hawaii resident in its district at no cost. Under Hawaii's public school system, you also have the option of applying for a "Geographical Exception," better known as a "G.E.," so your child can attend a school (again at no charge), in another district. For kindergartners, apply to the school in your district by the deadline set by your district (usually some date in February). For G.E.'s, apply between January 1 and March 1 at the school you wish to attend the following August/September. Each school has its own particular G.E. rules, which you will need to learn. Remember also that often, it is much easier to get a G.E. for grades other than kindergarten (so you can re-apply the next year if you didn't get in the first year).

Each school has its own character, made up of many components. Areas to consider include the more visible features such as: (1) physical dimensions of school; (2) principal; (3) office staff; (4) students; and (5) parents and community.

An important, less-visible aspect of the school is its faculty and curriculum. You should investigate the following: (a) On the average, how

much teaching experience do the teachers have? (b) What is the average class size? (c) What is the curriculum based upon — traditional rote memorization and recitation or thematic units based upon students' developmental skills? (d) What assessment methods are used — traditional tests and grades or evaluations which encourage discussions and dialogue, and self-evaluations? (e) Are all children treated as "gifted and talented" or are some chosen for special treatment? and (f) What professional development opportunities does the school provide its teachers — substitute days, training seminar?

Of course, there are many other areas you can consider in evaluating a school. A great way to get a "feel" for a school is to arrange for a visit to a school by making an appointment with the office. While you are there, talk to whomever is available, and don't be afraid to ask questions of your guide(s). For the schools in which you are particularly interested, attend the next school event(s) where the public is invited: Parent/Teacher's meeting; SCBM meeting; fund-raiser; performance by the students or other event. You can often talk to lots of parents at these events, get a candid view of the current issues before the school, and find out what the parents think of the school — its strengths and weaknesses.

One thing to remember is that your satisfaction with a school is very important since your child(ren) look to you for guidance — if you are happy with a school, they will be too.

*Advocates for Public Schools is a new HWL Committee formed by women lawyers who are interested in improving public schooling for Hawaii's children. The Committee has been meeting monthly to explore issues such as voter education on candidates for the Board of Education and ballot measures re: education, parent involvement in the schools, School-Community Based Management, etc. For additional information or to find out when the next committee meeting is, call Cori Lau at 956-6551.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation, our sister organization that funds our non-legislative operations, has awarded grants to the following recipients:

Na Loio No Na Kanaka -

Advocates for Immigrant Women

The grant will be used to purchase a laptop computer and to travel to neighbor islands in an outreach program to assist in implementing recent changes in federal immigration law. Under the new law, residents who are not citizens of the United States and who are subject to domestic violence may apply for citizenship without relying on the citizenship of a batterer-spouse.

Hawaii Lawyers Care

The grant will be used for newsletters and brochures supporting and educating people about HLC's student advocacy program for victims of domestic violence.

HWL applauds the Foundations fundraising efforts and its support of such worthwhile programs in addition to our own.

University of Hawaii is accepting applications for the **Herman S. Doi Memorial Fellowship**, which provides financial assistance for a Master's Degree in the Public Administration Program. Applications are due **March 1, 1995**. Contact the College of Social Sciences, UH at Manoa, 956-8260.

The Honolulu Club has invited our members to be a VIP Guest for the Day. Anyone interested in a free day at the club in order to check out membership possibilities, call Carolyn Palank at 543-3951. Tell her you're a member of HWL.

HWL Newsletter

Have a craving to write? To help edit?
Our Newsletter editor could use some
help, particularly during the
January-May legislative session.
Anyone interested leave a message for
Susan Jaworowski at 625-1386.

ELECTIONS FOR 1995 HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Please fill out your ballot and mail it to:

Hawaii Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, HI 96805.
Ballots must be *signed and received* by December 23 in order to be counted.

Officers

1995 President is Pamela Berman

Vice-President/President-Elect

_____ Magali Richter
Trecker & Fritz

Treasurer

_____ Rebecca Williams, J.D., C.P.A.
Law Offices of Rebecca Williams

Secretary

_____ Daphne Barbee-Wooten
Law Offices of Daphne Barbee-Wooten

Directors

You may vote for up to seven (7) of the following candidates:

_____ Lindley Chang
Bank of Hawaii

_____ Lani Garcia
Garcia Garcia & Rosenberg

_____ Sara Harvey
Stirling & Kleintop

_____ Na'unanikinau Kamalii
Law Office of Bradley Coates

_____ Cynthia Kanoholani
Reinwald O'Connor Marrack
Hoskins & Playdon

_____ Susan Liu
Law Offices of Susan Liu

_____ Rosemary McShane
Department of Attorney General

_____ Anna Oshiro
Damon Key Bocken Leong &
Kupchak

_____ Laura Thielen
Gerson Grekin Wynhoff & Thielen

_____ Chiye Wenkam
Law Offices of Chiye Wenkam

_____ Lynn Wasson
Law Offices of Lynn Wasson

Member Name (please print)

*Please fold this ballot, add your stamp and
and address and mail.*

Member signature

VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE

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 and your check to: **HWL, P. O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805**. Dues are as follows:

- Regular members \$40 Out-of-state members \$20 Student members \$10
- New admittees (within 1 year of Hawaii admission) \$20
- HWL President's Circle: \$100 \$500 \$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.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS
P. O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

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