

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1995

President: Pamela Berman
Vice President/ President Elect: Magali Richter
Treasurer: Rebecca Williams
Secretary: Daphne Barbee-Wooten

Directors: Lindley Chang
Sara Harvey
Rosemary McShane
Laura Thielen
Lynn Wasson
Lani Garcia
Susan Liu

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Our Annual Awards Ceremony will be held at the PLAZA CLUB on FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1995 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. We will honor the recipients of the 1994 HWL Awards, thank the outgoing Board, and introduce the newly elected members of the 1995 Board. Please join us in celebrating. The food is good and the company even better. Call Mary Houghton at 395-9743 for reservations. Tickets are \$15.00.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS 1994 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS: Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year

Pamela Ferguson-Brey has been elected the Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year for 1994. HWL grants this award to talented, dedicated, and diverse women attorneys in Hawaii who have distinguished themselves in their legal practices or other work.

As the Executive Director of the State Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Ferguson-Brey has elevated that office to new heights and provided tremendous service to the women in Hawaii.

Community Service Award

Judy Sobin and the Windward Spouse Abuse Coalition are the joint recipients of this award.

Ms. Sobin, the Executive Director of Hawaii Lawyers Care, has been an impassioned advocate for persons of low and gap-level incomes seeking legal assistance. Even closer to our hearts is the fact that she has implemented a new program for advocates against domestic violence.

The Windward Spouse Abuse Coalition is a group of windward Oahu residents who banded together and obtained funding, housing, and permit approval to open a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. It is efforts such as this that literally save many women's lives. This is a direct service that deserves to be honored.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Board elected this year to create a new award to recognize individuals who, over the course of years, have contributed significantly to the goals and ideals which HWL was founded to support. This award will be granted on a merit basis, not necessarily annually.

The first recipient of this award is Naomi Campbell. Ms. Campbell has been the Head of the Family Support Division of the Corporation Council since 1976. In fact, Ms. Campbell was essentially responsible for starting that division. Since that time she has been a dedicated and efficient advocate of women's interests in the family law area.

Neanderthal Award

The Neanderthal Award is given in recognition of neanderthal attitudes and/or actions towards women, in the hope that the award will cause the recipient to move into the 20th century, before the rest of us move into the 21st.

Representative Terrence Tom was selected to be the first recipient of this award. Representative Tom earned this blemish due to his irreconcilable support for three bills during the 1994 legislative session: two bills proposed to abolish the mandatory 48 hour jail time for some convicted offenders of spouse abuse, on the grounds that mandatory punishment would not necessarily stop domestic violence; and, one bill to increase mandatory jail time to six months for persons convicted of prostitution in Waikiki on the grounds that increased mandatory jail time would decrease prostitution.

We hope the Representative gets the point, and does not continue his irreconcilable positions.

Dear Editor:

As women attorneys, we should keep in mind that we can really affect business opportunities for other women as various opportunities arise. For example, it has come to my attention that Insurance Companies in Hawaii are selecting physicians for IMEs (Independent Medical Exams) and almost always, these physician's are males.

I have recently brought this to the attention of an insurance adjustor who simply said there were no qualified female physicians who do IMEs. I do not believe this is true and have written a formal request for a specific female orthopedic physician to be included on the Insurance Company's list for IMEs. Insurance Companies spend considerable amounts of monies on IMEs, and some doctors live on IME payments exclusively.

We do have influence in the corporate world as well as the judicial world, and we can help other women professionals by making sure they get a piece of the pie. Daphne E. Barbee, Esq.

HWL ELECTION RESULTS

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Na'unani Kamali'i was also elected. However, due to an overwhelming commitment to the Native Hawaiian Bar, she has withdrawn her name as a director, and will instead continue to work with HWL on specific projects.

Thank you all for voting, and thanks to all the women who ran for office.

Several members were disturbed by the request to place their names on the ballot. Our newsletter is sent to 136 people who are not members of HWL. We needed to verify that only the votes of members were tallied. Anyone who can think of a cheaper way than the duel envelope system (as used by HSBA) that would allow for private balloting, please drop us a line.

SATC FUNDRAISING DRIVE

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) is launching a fundraising drive, Project Heart to Heart. The many funding cuts which the SATC has undergone since its opening in 1976 have seriously jeopardized its programs. Unfortunately, sex abuse is on the rise and the demand for services is such that the SATC staff can barely keep up. Critical preventative programs have been cut.

SATC has assisted over 30,000 people since its inception, including over 9,500 children. There is clearly a need for these services as well as a dire need to continue the educational programs which serve to curtail the incidence of sexual assault.

If you would like to contribute to Project Heart to Heart, please send your donation to SATC, 1415 Kalakaua Ave, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96826, and state on the envelope: Attn Project Heart to Heart.

FAIR HOUSING LEGAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

On February 3 & 4 the John Marshall Fair Housing Legal Support Center in Chicago will conduct a skills training program for attorneys who litigate fair housing cases. For reservations, call the John Marshall School of Law at (312) 987-2397.

DISPARATE INSURANCE RATES?

HWL has been contacted by an insurance agent who claims that several large insurance companies will soon be instituting significant changes in Individual Disability Income Protection Insurance.

According to the agent, two of the top five insurers in the field will be charging women rates up to 40% higher than men for such insurance, on the grounds that women file more claims for disability insurance than men. (Conversely, as we tend to live longer, we get lower life insurance rates). Other insurers will likely follow suit.

Women should be aware that there is another trend of insurance companies departing from the practice of granting noncancellable insurance. You may want to check your disability insurance policy to see if it is noncancellable. If not, you might want to investigate whether there is a trend towards gender pricing, and take steps to cover yourself now.

Stan Jacobs of MassMutual is the agent, and he can be reached at 537-6696.

QUALITY MAMMOGRAMS

The National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research have published a pamphlet Things to Know About Quality Mammograms.

This is a consumer guide which includes simple steps to help women obtain high quality mammograms. The information is based on a multidisciplinary panel of health care experts and consumer representatives. Call (800) 358-9295 for **FREE COPIES**.

Chop Sui Generis

Congratulations to the following women lawyers who were recently appointed by Governor Ben Cayetano or Mayor Jeremy Harris to cabinet or other high-ranking posts:

Lorraine Akiba will head the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;

Margery Bronster will assume the post of Attorney General;

Kathy Matayoshi will head the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;

Kathleen Racuya-Markrich became the governor's Press Secretary;

Dona Hanaike was appointed Director of Parks and Recreation;

Darolyn Lendio is Honolulu's new Corporation Counsel;

Abby Shaw was appointed First Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Cheryl Akuma-Sepe is the deputy director of the department of wastewater management.

Public School Parents

The next meeting of the Advocates for Public Schools committee will be held on January 17, at noon at the HSBA offices at Union Mall. All are welcome to this ongoing discussion of issues surrounding public school education.

Baby Talk

(reprinted from ABA Journal, December, 1994)

The title, "Motion to exclude gurgling infant and motion for protection" was not intended to be funny, says its author, Houston lawyer Norman Riedmuller. It was only meant to be descriptive.

Riedmuller was objecting to the presence of 4 1/2-month-old Paula Brown, daughter of opposing lawyer Lisa Bagley Brown, during a deposition. The motion, which was ultimately denied by a Houston judge, complained that the baby "gurgled, cooed and made other sounds" during the questioning of Riedmuller's client, a bank executive.

Brown says she took her daughter to a deposition at Riedmuller's office on Aug. 24 after he asked to move the location from her office, where the child could have stayed in another room during the questioning. Brown, who works part-time, couldn't leave her breast-feeding baby for long periods of time.

Learning that the infant could be on hand for future depositions, Riedmuller filed the motion. "There have to be some standards of professionalism," he says.

Brown, on the other hand, thinks the motion was filed as a harassment tactic. "Some lawyers like to file motions and he files a lot of them," she says.

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