

**HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS****NEWSLETTER****March 1995**

President: Pamela Berman Byrne  
 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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.* Eleanor Roosevelt

**Keep breathing.** Sophie Tucker

Welcome. I dedicate this first message to my sister, Shelley Smith. Shelley is 34 years old. She is homeless and lives on the mean streets somewhere between Santa Monica and downtown L.A.. Shelley is an alcoholic and she is mentally ill. She also has a raging spirit and a blinding intelligence.

Shelley and I have different fathers, but our mother, and our upbringing, are the same. We come from a background of sexual violation, physical assaults, and profound emotional and physical deprivation and neglect. I was thirteen when Shelley was born.

Our mother has been mentally ill her entire life. She is also addicted to drugs and alcohol. Our mother's illness is manifested by extreme rages and depressions. She has been in and out of mental hospitals all her life. She has attempted suicide dozens of times, three in the past six months. When I and my sister were young, our mother, in a series of drunken rages, tried to kill us. We survived physically, but unseen scars remain.

I was fortunate to escape into a life of books and reading. Somehow, I acquired an ineluctable will to survive and to prevail. And, most importantly, to paraphrase Sophie Tucker, I kept on breathing. When I came to Hawai'i more than twenty-five years ago, I was fragmented. I determined to become strong and healthy and then to help others overcome what I had gone through.

I went to a program called Adults Molested as Children. I attended Adult Children of Alcoholics and Alanon. I read. I listened. I learned the Twelve Steps, a spiritual program that still guides my life. I became a work in progress. Some days, just getting up was an achievement. But I did get up, every day I got up, and today I am the president of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

After I gave my acceptance speech discussing my background in January, many people thanked me and wrote to me. They spoke of my courage in sharing my background. Indeed, it was and is hard to reveal, because I am a private person. Sorrow is easy to express, and yet so hard to tell.

But I want to stress that I am not ashamed of my upbringing. I was a child; I could not control the adults in my world. And, in keeping with Mrs. Roosevelt's philosophy, I do not consent to feeling inferior. My hope is that in the telling of my life, and in your re-telling of it to others, we will together inspire a young person, or a not-so-young person, to keep breathing. One day the light will come.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At the HWL annual Board retreat, we decided to publish monthly profiles of members in our newsletter. The format will be Q and A. Our first member profile, in our April Newsletter, will be of Naomi S. Campbell, whom we all know to be a beautiful, talented and graceful woman and lawyer. Contact Pamela Berman Byrne, 541-2521, or Magali Richter, 528-3900, if you wish to be, or to nominate, an interviewer or interviewee. (In fact, we welcome profiles of any woman lawyer or judge, irrespective of her membership status.)

HWL is soliciting interest in forming a Hawaii Lawyers at Home group to benefit women who practice law out of their home and those members who want knowledge about home offices. Presumably, children would be welcome at such meetings. If you have interest in participating in the formation of such a group, please contact any Board member on the letterhead.

The HWL Board has decided to publish a column in the newsletter offering congratulations to women lawyers who have achieved successful trial, appellate or arbitration results. The Board is especially interested in highlighting cases or results of first impression or special significance. If you know of such a case, please contact Susan Jaworowski at 625-1386 with the case name and docket number, the issue resolved by the decision/verdict, and the name, address, and telephone number of the woman lawyer involved in the case.

The ABA Journal publishes an entertaining article on lawyers "off-duty." We would like to feature women lawyers and their interests and hobbies. Do you have a life outside of law? Do you play soccer or saxophone? Write poetry? Paint? Photograph? Contact Pamela Berman Byrne at 541-2571 if you have ideas for this column or if you would like to co-ordinate a women lawyer's art and/or music show.

HWL will be continuing with its Hawaii Women Lawyers' Speaker's Forums at noon at the Plaza Club on the last Friday of the month commencing in April 1995. One idea for a forum discussed at the HWL annual Board retreat was "Super Woman, Super Lawyer, Super Stressed," using our real life experiences combined with tactics from experts. Before the meeting, HWL members could FAX their primary personal and professional sources of stress to the "experts." The results would be compiled anonymously and addressed by a panel of professionals. What do you think? Other ideas include having a panel of women lawyers who "have their own names on top of the letterhead" discuss how they make the decision to enter solo practice; the costs and the benefits of sole practice; and techniques on how to run a successful small office. We are also considering a roundtable on rainmaking. Please contact Magali Richter at 528-3900 with your ideas and suggestions for the speakers' forums.

The speakers' forums will alternate monthly with general membership meetings in which all members can meet at lunch and talk informally without a highly structured agenda.

The International Year of the Woman 1995 is on the road to BEIJING. The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development, and Peace will be held in BEIJING, China, September 4 - 15, 1995. The parallel NGO Forum will be held August 30 - September 8, 1995, at the Beijing Workers' Sports Centre, near the site of the UN intergovernmental conference. (A UN world conference usually involves two related events, an official government conference and a forum for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These same two events are held sequentially in the same city.) Please contact HWL officer Daphne Barbee, 533-0275, for more details.

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LAW CLERKS

The Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia is seeking three law clerks for one year positions beginning in August of 1995. One law clerk will be located in each of the states of Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap.

The responsibilities of the law clerks will include assisting the justices in both trial and appellate proceedings, preparing bench memoranda, drafting orders and opinions, preparing headnotes for the FSM Reporter, and contacting attorneys practicing before the court regarding pending matters.

Preference will be given to candidates with either two or more years of litigation experience or prior judicial clerkship experience. Excellent writing skills are required.

Annual compensation is between \$23,000 and \$31,000, depending upon experience. Transportation, shipping, housing, utilities, and medical insurance are provided. Interested persons should mail or fax a cover letter,

resume, and a 7-4 page writing sample to the Court. The deadline for the receipt of resumes is April 15, 1995.

### Please write to:

FSM Supreme Court  
P. O. Box PS-J  
Palikir Station  
Pohnpei, FM 96941  
Fax: 011 (691) 320-2756

### ASSOCIATES SOUGHT

Alston, Hunt, Floyd & Ing is looking for attorneys with three to five years experience in litigation. Contact Ellen Godbey Carson at 524-1800 for further information

### UH LAW SCHOOL DEAN VACANCY

Applicants from private practitioners with administrative or managing experience call Paul Yuen, Dean of the College of Engineering and Chair of the Hiring Committee, 956-7727. Encourage experienced women lawyers to quickly apply. Hire by the end of Spring.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear HWL and HWLIF Members:

I am writing to seek your support for my election to a seat on the Judicial Selection Commission, to replace Michael Hare whose term expires on April 1, 1995. No woman lawyer has yet occupied the Commission seat elected by all members of the Hawaii State Bar. At present, only two of the Commission members are women. Neither of them are lawyers.

I share your concern that our state judiciary consist of a diversity of backgrounds, experiences and viewpoints as well as of highly qualified individuals. I would therefore feel honored to be elected to the Commission and have an opportunity to be of service. I will be fair, unbiased, and hard-working.

My 16 years of litigation experience and my leadership role in community and bar activities have given me a good perspective of the critical criteria for a good judge, the potential judicial candidates and the needs and concerns of our community. I am past president of Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and past chair of Child and Family Service, Hawaii's largest private human service agency. In 1993, I received the HSBA's award for Outstanding Contribution to Community Service.

I am a delegate to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and the Hawaii Judicial Conference and have served on various committees formed by the federal court. I serve or have served on numerous other non-profit and for-profit boards including the Young Lawyers Division of the Bar. The Hawaii Community Foundation, ASSETS School, Aloha Airlines, American Savings Bank, the Bankruptcy Section of the Bar, ACLU Litigation Committee and fundraising campaigns, and Hawaii Kids Count Advisory Council.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope I can count on your vote!

Sincerely,  
Louise K. Y. Ing