

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

May 1996

President: Magali V. Sunderland 528-3900
Vice President: Susan M. Ichinose 536-3255
Secretary: Pamela Berman Byrne 541-2521
Treasurer: Rebecca Williams 921-6530

Directors:
Susan Lynn Arnett 586-2200
Daphne Barbee-Wooten 533-0275
Donna Mae Gray 541-2521
Na'unanikina'u Kamali'i 522-7598
Susan Orlando Liu 545-3011
Rosemary McShane 523-4878
T. Lynne Wasson 545-2681

June 1st Is National Day Of Commitment To Children

How Can Lawyers Make a Difference in Hawaii?

On June 1, 1996, thousands of people concerned about the lives and future of children in America will "Stand for Children" at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Here in Hawaii, we must look for alternative ways to demonstrate our commitment and solidarity.

The brainchild of Marion Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund, "Stand for Children" is planned as a "day of family and community renewal, celebration and commitment to children," with speakers, activities and information.

Edelman envisions June 1, as "a day to dedicate ourselves to positive action, as families, citizens and communities and as a national community to do more to make sure that no child is left behind." The purpose is to encourage each of us to commit to taking specific positive, personal steps to improve the quality of life for children in our communities, from participating in Big Brothers/Big Sisters (521-3811), to casting votes with children in mind. According to Stand for Children, each day in America, three children die from abuse or neglect, 13 children are victims of homicide, 15 are killed by firearms, and 2,660 babies are born into poverty.

Although no formal activities have been planned for Hawaii, there are opportunities for each of us to make a difference right here at home.

Family Court needs volunteer guardians ad litem as well as attorney guardians ad litem for abused and neglected children. Call court management at 539-4496.

Or you may join the child and parent advocates section of the HSBA. Call Marguerite Simson at 591-0599.

The Domestic Violence Legal Hotline needs a volunteer attorney for many purposes. Call 531-3771 for information.

The Spina Bifida treatment center (known as Myelo Clinic) works out of Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, servicing clientele both locally and from the Pacific Basin. Norine Wong has started a Myelo support group, and has rejuvenated their board in the process. The board is comprised of clients and their families, along with professional people. The board currently includes a nurse, social worker, and a physician. They are hoping to add an accountant and an attorney.

Shriners Hospital often faces thorny legal questions surrounding immigration laws in the medical treatment of crippled immigrant children, and surgical authorization problems in joint custody circumstances. They could really use a contact person to call for guidance in emergency situations. Norine can be reached through her office at Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children (951-3613).

continued on back page

Attorney General Margery S. Bronster To Speak At May 31st HWL Speaker's Forum

HWL is delighted to announce that this month's Plaza Club lunch time Speaker's Forum will feature the lawyer who heads the largest lawfirm in the state, Attorney General Margery S. Bronster. Attorney General Bronster received her bachelor of arts degree in Chinese language, literature and history from Brown University in 1979, and a juris doctorate degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1982. In 1988, she relocated her law practice to Honolulu, where she continued specializing in litigation as a partner at Carlsmith Ball Wichman Murray Case & Ichiki. In December, 1994, she was appointed by Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano to be Attorney General.

Ms. Bronster will be speaking to us on an informal basis on subjects both personal and legal. If time allows, there will be a brief question and answer period. The Hawaii Women Lawyer's Speakers Forum is an opportunity for Hawaii women to learn, meet, question and communicate with the leaders of our community.

Lunch will be from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. at the Plaza Club, located on the 20th floor, 900 Fort Street Mall. Call Mary Houghton at 395-9743 for reservations. Lunch costs \$15. Attorney General Bronster's thoughts will be of interest to women both in and out of the law. Your guests are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you at this exciting event!

Short Term Overseas Legal Assignments Sought via NAWL

Compensation and Travel Expenses Available

NAWL has agreed to collaborate with the Chicago-based International Development Assistance Company (IDAC) on grants and select U.S. AID projects for governance and policy. IDAC is seeking legal expertise for potential short-term assignments overseas. The collaboration offers unique opportunities for NAWL members to participate, according to Mike Lofstrom, IDAC's director.

"Emerging economies in the developing world require appropriate specialized legal expertise from internationally-oriented and culturally aware attorneys," Mr. Lofstrom explains. "Short-term assignments, ranging from two to six weeks, might include national, municipal or community-based research and recommendations in such areas as governance, environmental law, contract dispute resolution, health care legislation, or development of small enterprises. There is an increasing effort to include more of the issues and concerns of women."

Foreign language skills are a plus, but not essential. Participating attorneys receive compensation as well as travel expenses. Current emphasis is on Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, including Bosnia, and the new independent states.

NAWL members who would like to know more about these opportunities and might be interested in participation in a future project should contact NAWL executive director, Peggy Golden, in Chicago at area code (312) 988-6186.

NOW 1996 Anniversary Conference To Be Held June 28-30 in Las Vegas

Room Reservation Deadline is May 28th

The National Organization for Women will celebrate its 30th anniversary at the 1996 National NOW Conference, on June 28-30 at Bally's hotel in Las Vegas.

Room reservations should be made by May 28th to guarantee the NOW special conference rate. Call (800) 634-3434. For more information on the Annual Conference contact Kristen Xanthippe, conference manager at the National Action Center (202) 331-0066, extension 729.

NOW is also on the Internet. The World Wide Web address is <http://now.org/now/> or you can e-mail NOW at now@now.org

"Freedom. Justice. Liberty. Without Lawyers, They're Only Words"

American Bar Association Annual Meeting Begins August 1st

The Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association will be held August 1-7 at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The theme for the meeting, "Freedom. Justice. Liberty. Without Lawyers, They're Only Words," was selected to remind each of us of the absolutely critical role we, as lawyers, play in our society.

With more than 2,500 meetings, seminars and special events occurring over a seven-day period, there is bound to be something that will enlighten and inspire everyone, in every sector of the law. The ABA will also have program tracks for lawyers in small firms and solo practice.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their families to this meeting.

A \$50 discount is available for registration by May 31st. The deadline for housing is July 1st.

If you have questions or need a registration form, please call the ABA Meetings and Travel Department at (312) 988-5870.

Reminder: DVCLH Fundraiser is May 25th

Take a Break From Cooking While Supporting The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse & Legal Hotline Education/Advocacy Program

Don't forget the Koala Moa Chicken Fundraiser on Saturday, May 25, 1996 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Alapai Bus Lot. All proceeds will directly benefit clients of The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse & Legal Hotline, a non-profit legal services and community education/advocacy program.

Tickets may be purchased in advance of the fundraiser by calling DVCLH at 534-0040, or on the day of the sale at the Alapai Bus Lot. For information on how you can help, please call DVCLH at 534-0040.

Congratulations!

Susan Ichinose successfully negotiated what is said to be a million-dollar settlement against Foot Locker Stores on behalf of four Honolulu employees who claimed they had been sexually harassed and assaulted by their store manager. The settlement was announced May 10th.

Searching For Identity Of Woman Lawyer

In 1992, a Caucasian woman lawyer in Honolulu, possibly with interest or activities in Buddhist pursuits, knew a newlywed couple. They were: **Giles Arnold Thompson**, then 28-years old, born and raised in Ireland, and his wife, **Marianne Evidsten Thompson**, then 32-years old, born and raised in Norway. That couple resided at 1294 Kalani Iki Street and later at 3370-A Emekona Place in Manoa. The daughter of Marianne Thompson, named **Ingrid** and then about 7 or 8-years old, was with the couple. Will that women lawyer be so kind as to contact Stu Hilt at 536-6597?

ACTIVE

BILL	TITLE	SUMMARY	NOTES	STATUS
SB 2247 HD 1 CD 1	RELATING TO MANSLAUGHTER	Raises Manslaughter from a Class B Felony to a Class A Felony.	Also increases maximum sentence to 20 years and authorizes probation. Does not solve the problem of extreme emotional distress defense.	Passed, awaiting signature
SB 2379 SD 1	RELATING TO FIREARMS	Eliminates TPO firearms surrender exemptions due to occupation		Signed 4/24/96 ACT 60
SB 2249 SD1 HD 1 CD1	RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTIVE ORDERS	Extension of TRO's with no new incidents	Controversial: sought 6-year RO, but passed with same 3 years from original RO.	Passed, awaiting signature
HB 2517	RELATING TO PROMOTION OF PROSTITUTION	Eliminates need for corroborating testimony to prostitute's testimony about the promotion of prostitution by pimps		Signed 4/22/96 ACT 14
SB 2326 SD 1 HD 1 CD 1	RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	Allows for seizure of firearms in plain view or found in consensual searches during DV investigations.	7-day return added. Also added essence of SB 2251 SD 1 "Clarifies that convictions for the offense of abuse of family or household members are not subject to deferred acceptance of guilt of no contest plea"	Passed, awaiting signature. Mixed results, adds problems.
HB 2526 SD 2	RELATING TO DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE	Relates to mission statement language for departments of Health and Human Services and Judiciary for the provision of treatment, protection and prevention services. Creates AD HOC Committee.	Adds "Establish and administer programs, and adopt rules as deemed necessary, for the prevention of domestic and sexual violence and the protection and treatment of victims of domestic and sexual violence."	Passed, awaiting signature.
SB 2381 SD 1 HD 1 CD 1	RELATING TO MISSING CHILDREN	Provides for removal of a child from lawful custodian to be a crime and the requirement for reporting to Clearinghouse for Missing Children when a child is removed for good cause.	Provides good cause defence to protect minor from immediate bodily injury.	Passed, awaiting signature
SB 2248 SD 1 HD 1	RELATING TO FAMILY VIOLENCE	Relates to family violence and custody and visitation issues passed out of Senate Judiciary. Language refining procedures and definitions for deciding custody as it relates to the well being of child also added.	Model Code language substituted for original language	Passed, awaiting signature
SB 2333 SD 1 HD 1 CF 1	RELATING TO PURCHASES OF SERVICES	"(1) Amends Chapter 42D, HRS, to apply only to grants and subsidies, to remove references to purchases of service, and to eliminate the executive coordinating council and the advisory council; and (2) Amends chapter 103D, HRS, to apply to purchase of service contracts."		Passed, awaiting signature
SB 2264 SD 2 HD 2 CF 1	RELATING TO THE SERVICES FOR THE INDIGENT	Filing fee bill		Passed, awaiting signature

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLEARINGHOUSE AND LEGAL HOTLINE

P.O. Box 3198, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3198

Administrative: 534-0040

Legal: 531-3771/Fax: 531-722

INACTIVE

BILL	TITLE	SUMMARY	NOTES	STATUS
HB 2527 SB 2151	RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE	To provide effective means to deal with the pervasive problems of physical and sexual violence.	Senate Ways and Means did not schedule a hearing.	Dead
HB 3931	RELATING TO ANGER MANAGEMENT	Mandatory anger management treatment for defendants when victim is a minor.		Dead
HB 3778	RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE	Provides mandatory DV Treatment/and Parenting as part of service plans		Dead
SB 2789 HB 3502	RELATING TO UNENFORCEABLE HEALTH STATUTES	Repeals unenforceable and obsolete health statutes due to lack of funds. Also, collection and distribution of license fees.	Fees will still be collected for marriage licenses, but not birth certificates. Distribution to DHS and Judiciary.	Dead
HB 2521 HD 1	RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTIVE ORDERS	Removes "recent" from TRO statute to avoid varying interpretation.	House Judiciary substituted "relevant," which is also subject to varying interpretation.	Dead
SB 2005 SD 1	RELATING TO HARASSMENT	Eliminates intent language and repetition of annoying behavior/contact. Also includes communications by telephone, facsimile and e-mail.		Portions lived on and passed in another bill regarding District Court TRO'S
HB 2529 SB 2448	RELATING TO MINORS IN SHELTERS	Allows minors to seek shelter in domestic abuse shelters and requires shelters to notify appropriate agencies.	We felt this bill would not fix the problem or provide the kind of support youth need.	Dead
SB 2101 SD 2	RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT	Suspension or revocation of professional licenses in cases of child support arrearages.		Dead
H 58	TOWARD ELIMINATION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT	Concurrent resolution banning corporal punishment		Dead
SB 2251 SD 1		Adds abuse of family and household members to section which lists crimes not subject to deferred treatment (DAG/DANC)		Bill died, but attached to SB 2326 SD 1 HD1 CD 1, which passed

Many of the bills included on this chart were developed through discussion by the Women's Coalition which has representatives from government and private agencies; churches as well as legislators. This chart was prepared for community circulation by the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline, which is a member of the Coalition. Should you have any questions about any of the bills listed, feel free to call Nanci Kreidman, Executive Director. Please consider working with the women's Coalition during interim to develop the Women's Package for the 1997 Session.

Membership Committee Report

Solicitation Lists Sought

The new HWL Membership Committee held its first meeting on April 23rd. This meeting established goals and discussed ways in which we can meet those goals. It was determined that the committee will need to acquire certain marketing information about the legal community, in order to do an effective membership solicitation. Among the lists that are needed are:

1. People who apply for the bar
2. Law school students
3. HSBA members
4. Other legal affiliations

Direct phone solicitation lists will be drafted, and phone trees may be established at a later date. Other committee projects will include the creation of informational and educational materials on Hawaii Women Lawyers.

At the June 5th HWL Board Meeting, board members will discuss proposals on the formation of additional membership categories, such as law student and non-practitioner memberships. If you have a strong opinion, either pro or con, on the inclusion of additional membership categories, please voice your concerns to HWL Membership Committee head, Susan Ichinose at 536-3255.

Additionally, if you would like to serve on this committee, or have access to any of the lists which HWL will be needing, please call Susan at the above number.

New Department of Justice Policy Statement Signed in Washington, D.C.

Action Complies with President's Executive Order

On March 6, 1996, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno signed the Department of Justice Policy Statement on Pro Bono Legal and Volunteer Services. This action was in compliance with President Clinton's Executive Order on civil justice reform, which provides that "All Federal agencies should develop appropriate programs to encourage and facilitate pro bono legal and other volunteer service by government employees to be performed on their own time, including attorneys, as permitted by statute, regulation, or other rule or guideline."

The policy recognizes that pro bono legal or volunteer activities sometimes may occur during work hours, and it urges supervisors to be flexible and to accommodate, where feasible, the efforts of their employees to do such work.

Ho`omaika`i`ana

HWL Treasurer Rebecca Williams gave birth to daughter Madeline Suzanne on February 21st.

Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation Sets New Record

Distributes Nearly \$34,000

The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation distributed more funds in 1995 to projects helping women than it ever had in the past. HWLF made nearly \$34,000 in grants to help reduce domestic violence, recognize Hawaii's early women lawyers, support education on reproductive freedom, and support research on the economic impact on women of divorce. HWLF also granted \$5,000 in 1995 to support its administrative, educational and outreach efforts.

"Welcome" HWL's Newest Member

Texas Activist Now in Hawaii

HWL is pleased to welcome Nancye L. Bethurem who has just moved to Hawaii from Texas. Nancye just completed her term as President of Texas Women Lawyers as well as serving in the capacity of President of Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

Ms. Bethurem is a litigation and environmental lawyer, representing the Army. Her goal is to "make sure the Army is a good neighbor in Hawaii, environmentally speaking."

A long-time activist for women and the law, she presently serves as a regional director for the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) and is looking forward to becoming involved in our community. She can be reached at 438-6720.

Upcoming Events!

June 31st.

Judges' Panel To Be Featured At June Speakers Forum

HWL has received several requests to repeat a program we had several years ago in which women judges, in a panel format, discussed their jobs. We are pleased to report that this special hana ho program is scheduled for Friday, June 31st. Details will appear on the front page of next month's HWL Newsletter.

September 7th

HWLF Annual Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for the 1996 Annual Mayors' Fundraising Dinner for Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. The silent auction and program will be held in the Monarch Room at the Royal Hawaiian in Waikiki.

To donate items for the auction, or to help with the event, call Mary Houghton 396-8506.

June 1st – National Day of Commitment To Children

(continued from page one)

*Even if we can't all go to Washington, D.C. on June 1st,
each of us here in Hawaii can do something
"to make sure that no child is left behind."*

Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii is seeking knowledgeable volunteers for their Speakers' Bureau. If you are interested, please contact Aileen Deese, Program Director at 951-0200.

Julie Murray, Executive Director of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation/Chapter of the Pacific, is in the process of setting up an Advocacy Program. If you are interested in serving on the Board of this new program, keeping them legally on target, call Julie at 536-1045.

Parents of children with disabilities receive support from a number of organizations. Among them are Easter Seal Society of Hawaii, Hawaii Down's Syndrome Congress, and the Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii. These groups help children with disabilities, through a number of programs such as early intervention, after-school care, and summer camp programs. They always welcome guest speakers who can talk to parent groups regarding the legal rights of the disabled. Additionally, they seek pro bono assistance to parents in establishing wills and trust plans for their special needs children to assure their long term care.

Children with disabilities in Hawaii are entitled to a free appropriate public education under state and federal law. These groups need legal assistance in ensuring the educational rights of special needs children.

You can help by contacting any of the following people:

- Jan Woitas, V.P. Programs, Easter Seal Society of Hawaii (536-1015);
- Connie Smith, President, Hawaii Down's Syndrome Congress (949-1999);
- and Jennifer Schember-Lang, Executive Director, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (536-9684).

Don't forget Hawaii Lawyers Care. HLC provides consultation to Community Legal Services Clinic as well as pro bono work on uncontested cases, mostly involving family law. Contact Judy Sobin at HLC (528-7046).

Lastly, there has been much recent media focus on 23-month-old Alana Dung, and her search for a bone marrow donor has produced 18,000 samples. Although there has still not been an acceptable match for Alana, hundreds of other children in the state of Hawaii suffer from 30 different life-threatening blood disorders, including leukemia and aplastic anemia. If you have not yet registered, you may do so by calling the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry at 524-6619.

Even if we can't all go to Washington, D.C. on June 1st, each of us can do something "to make sure that no child is left behind."

Please don't miss an opportunity to help.

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

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO.172**