

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

November/December 1997

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End-of-the-Year Calendar

- **Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.** Free public forum "Women, Drug Laws and Prison: The Hidden Costs" at William S. Richardson School of Law (See page 3 for details.)
- **Tuesday, November 25, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** "Family Law" Free. Speakers: The Honorable Michael A. Town, Circuit Court Judge presently serving as Senior Judge of the Family Court of the First Circuit. He currently sits on the Board of Trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. And William C. Darrah, Esq. editor of the Hawai'i Divorce Manual, past-Chair of the Family Law Section of HSBA (certified divorce mediator and divorce arbitrator). Lawyer Kokua Brown Bag Lunch Seminar presented by the HSBA Young Lawyers Division. (Call Lyn at 537-1868 for details.)
- **Tuesday, December 4, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** "Bankruptcy" Free. Lawyer Kokua Brown Bag Lunch Seminar presented by the HSBA Young Lawyers Division. Speaker: Honorable Lloyd King (U.S. Bankruptcy Court). Presently full, but a few openings may become available due to cancellations. Call 537-1868 to check availability.
- **Tuesday/ Wednesday, December 9 & 10, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Annual State Bar Convention at the Sheraton Waikiki. (Call 537-1868 for details.)
- **Wednesday, December 10th, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.** HSBA Annual Luncheon Meeting in the Molokai Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki. Keynote Speaker: Randall W. Wulff. Reservations a must; call 537-1868 to secure a place. (Call Kay at 545-8055 to arrange to sit with other HWL members attending the luncheon.)

HWL Supports LASH Efforts To Provide Legal Clinics

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (LASH) is interested in involving members of the HWL in providing clinical services to the poor. For years LASH has assisted persons who can not afford to pay for private attorneys. LASH attorney Laura Thielen (a former president of HWL) reports that those efforts have been seriously curtailed in recent years, due to the State's economic downturn. LASH has lost approximately 45% of its government funding over the past four years.

Thielen has proposed that HWL attorneys who are interested in assisting LASH could help in a new Clinic Project which LASH has developed. These clinics would cover three very specific areas which are needed by LASH clients on all Islands:

- Post-Decree Modification of Custody, Visitation, and/or Child Support
- Uncontested Divorce
- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

The clinics are contemplated to be limited in time (2-3 hours) and would be held 2-4 times a month in various sites. The exact frequency and length of the clinics would be directly dependent on whether or not LASH can obtain volunteer attorneys to staff the clinics. LASH has resolved that the only solution to its economic crisis lies in a long-range plan to centralize and deliver such clinics, which will focus on family law, housing and welfare.

HWL has indicated interest in supporting LASH in these efforts. The support that HWL can give, however, would be directly dependent on whether HWL can come up with bodies to deliver the services.

Any members interested in providing 2-4 hours of time each month in any of the three areas indicated, please contact HWL or Gabrielle Hammond at LASH, 527-8015.

Donna Tanoue Nominated as Chairwoman of FDIC

President Clinton has nominated Honolulu attorney and HWL member Donna Tanoue, partner in the law firm of Goodwill Anderson Quinn and Stifel, as his choice to head up the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, an independent government agency that insures the deposits in most U.S. banks and savings-and-loan institutions.

As Chairwoman, Ms. Tanoue would oversee a budget of over 1-billion dollars and a staff of approximately 8,000 employees. She would fill the remainder term of former FDIC Chairwoman Ricki Helfer, a term that expires October 1999.

The nomination must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, which has just adjourned for the year. Confirmation hearings are expected to begin in early 1998.

If confirmed, Donna and her family will move from Honolulu to Washington, D.C..

PRO (filé)

HWL Board Member Donna Mae Gray

Donna Mae Gray has worked as a federal public defender in the criminal defense division for 10 years. She sits on the boards of both HWL and the Federal Bar Association. She began this interview by assuring us that there is absolutely *nothing* interesting about her.

HWL: *When you were a young girl, did you dream of becoming a lawyer?*

Gray: "Actually, I dreamed of becoming a nun. I went to Catholic school and planned to enter a nunnery."

HWL: *What happened to change your mind?*

Gray: "Well, I met my husband right out of high school and he took me to the Beatles concert at Shea Stadium. So I married him. I mean, wouldn't you?"

HWL: *So then you became a lawyer?*

Gray: "No, then I became a secretary and a mommy. In fact, my very first job out of high school was secretary in the legal department at NBC in New York. Then we lived in the desert in the military. That was not my favorite time; don't ask. But in 1976 my attorney husband came to Hawai'i on foreclosure business for a California bank. Like a lot of people, we fell in love with Hawai'i and stayed."

HWL: *How old were you when you started college?*

Gray: "I didn't begin U.H. undergraduate school until I was 30. I was still raising a child, so law school began at age 37. I was 40 when I actually started practicing. I went directly from law school into the Federal Public Defender's Office and I've never left."

HWL: *I guess you must like it there.*

Gray: "It's a small office, just seven people, and I think we're a really good team. The work is exciting, never boring, sometimes overwhelming dealing with people in such bad situations. But it's very satisfying, too. I get to go to court virtually every day of my life."

HWL: *And prison?*

Gray: "Yes, I spend a lot of time in prison, too."

HWL: *What's your least favorite part of the job?*

Gray: "It's every lawyer's least favorite part -- paperwork."

HWL: *What's your favorite part of life?*

Gray: "Traveling. We've been to Africa, Asia, and all over Europe; my last trip was to Kenya and Tanzania in 1993. I have a sister currently residing in Belgium and I'm hoping to visit her soon."

HWL: *What's your greatest accomplishment?*

Gray: "My long-term accomplishment would have to be my daughter Christy. She's just finishing her first year of law school at University of San Diego. My most recent accomplishment, however, is the miracle of managing to actually lose five pounds! It took me three months of exercise."

(Colleague Pamela Byrne walking into the office): "Donna's best accomplishment is her inventive use of four letter words."

Gray: "Don't print that!"

HWL: *Would we do a thing like that?*

Mahalo To Hawai'i Women Lawyers

Dear Ms. Ichinose and Members of the Board of Directors:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$40 to help in the purple ribbon campaign for the month of October.

Purple ribbons commemorate victims of domestic violence. With your financial support, our agency was able to add Star Market as a distribution point for the purple ribbons and cards listing referrals for those with a domestic violence problem: at the month's close, we distributed more than 66,000 purple ribbons during (October) and heightened awareness about domestic violence in our community.

We appreciate your efforts to support domestic violence prevention activities.

Sincerely,

Calleen J. Ching, Esq.
Project Coordinator
Americorps National Service/SAVD
Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

Office on Equality and Access to the Courts Specialist Position Available

One Year Job to Begin December 1st.

The Office on Equality and Access to the Courts is currently recruiting for a temporary staff position to plan, implement and administer statewide programs to increase access to the courts.

The position falls under the direction of the Equality and Access to the Court Project Director and is effective for one year only, beginning December 1, 1997. The pay range is between \$33,276 and \$47,400, depending upon experience.

A brief highlight of duties and responsibilities includes conducting studies, research and analysis of programs to serve pro se litigants, drafting reports and legislation, coordinating written material on court procedures, developing material for court employee training programs and community outreach programs, coordinating and conducting Project Group meetings, and generally accessing existing operations and making recommendations to improve access to the courts.

Law Degree Not Required

The minimum qualification requirements for the position of Access to the Court Specialist are a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university *plus* specialized work experience and/or additional educational credits. Obviously, all applicants should have administrative skills in the areas of organizational management as well as excellent interpersonal abilities in the areas communication, mediation and confidentiality.

Fax Your Resume ASAP

Details regarding the position are available from Project Director L. Drew Kaneshiro at (808) 522-6475. Given the imminent effective date, potential applicants should mail or fax their resumes as soon as possible. The fax number is 522-6440.

Panel To Explore Hidden Costs of Incarcerating Women

Free Forum at UH Law School November 18th

On Tuesday, November 18th at the U.H. Law School, a distinguished panel will examine some of the hidden costs of incarcerating women in Hawai'i.

Thanks largely to the stepped up War on Drugs during the 80s and 90s, women are being imprisoned today at a rate almost twice that of men. From 1982-1991 drug arrests for women rose 89% while incarceration rates increased by 276%. But putting women in prison, and especially sending them to far-off Texas, has far-reaching and often unintended consequences for the inmates, for their children and families, and for communities as a whole. Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are over-represented in prison populations here as are minority women on the mainland.

The featured speaker at Tuesday's event is nationally known prisoners' rights advocate **Ellen Barry**, Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children in San Francisco. Joining Ms. Barry will be First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney **Iwalani White**; **Lorraine Robinson**, Director of Matlock House, a half-way house for women; and **Kalei Puha**, a former inmate. Moderating the panel discussion will be Ann Kobayashi, former State Senator and Executive Assistant to Mayor Harris. The audience will be encouraged to join in the discussion after the presentations.

The free public forum, entitled "Women, Drug Laws and Prison: The Hidden Costs" will be held in classroom 3 of the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 2515 Dole Street in Honolulu. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. Parking is available in the U.H. parking structure ("the quarry") for \$3.

The law school is a co-sponsor of the event as is the University's Social Science Research Institute. Ms. Barry, an attorney, is also Co-Chair of the National Network for Women in Prison. She has been lead or co-counsel on a number of lawsuits brought on behalf of incarcerated women, pregnant women prisoners, and parolees. She will be discussing some model programs on the mainland which provide alternatives to incarceration and which provide intensive treatment addressing not only substance abuse issues but also family counseling, child development and parenting skills training, and job training. The recovery rates for their "alumnae" have been impressive.

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFH) is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to foster informed discussion about current responses to licit and illicit drugs and to explore alternative approaches. DPFH publishes a quarterly newsletter, maintains a speaker's bureau, and presents public forums on drug-related issues. The November forum is the fourth in a series which have been presented throughout 1997 focusing on different aspects of drug policy and potential alternatives to current state and federal approaches.

For further information on this event of DPFH, call Don Topping at 988-6287 or Pam Lichty at 735-8001.

Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund Gets New Name, Seeks Summer Law Clerks

Now Known as Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund has officially changed its name to Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund. The mission of this nonprofit public interest environmental law firm to enforce and strengthen environmental laws through advocacy, education and conservation remains unchanged.

HWL recently asked David Henkin of the Mid-Pacific regional office about the significance of the name change. "There has been a lot of confusion over the years over whether we were actually part of the Sierra Club," said Henkin. The truth is that in 1971, the Legal Defense Fund was founded by a group of attorneys who were part of the Sierra Club; and in the beginning, the Sierra Club was our biggest client, so it just seemed like a good idea to associate the Sierra Club name with the Legal Defense Fund. Technically, however, the two have never been joined.

"By changing our name to Earthjustice, we eliminate the confusion and establish our independent identity. While we still represent the Sierra Club in legal actions, we have a large and diverse client base. We represent the environmental community as a whole."

The Mid-Pacific regional office in Honolulu litigates precedent-setting, high-profile cases involving federal environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, and state and county laws regarding native Hawaiian rights, water rights and resource management.

One of the goals of Earthjustice is getting young people excited about public interest law. To this end, the Mid-Pacific office is currently recruiting law students to fill volunteer law clerk positions for the summer of 1998. Summer law clerks are expected to work at least 10 weeks. Applications from first year law students will be considered. Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund offers equal opportunity to qualified applicants. Applications from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged.

HWL members who are mentoring a law student interested in the summer law clerk program should contact David Henkin in the Honolulu office at 599-2436 for details on the application procedure.

Nominations Open For HWL Awards

The annual HWL awards reception will be held this coming February. At that time we will be recognizing several distinguished women in Hawai'i.

If you have nominations for the HWL Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award or Hawai'i Women Lawyer of the Year, please fax them to board member Nancy Bethurem at 438-6719. Please include a brief (or not so brief) explanation of why you believe your nominee deserves to be recognized.

Winners will be announced in the February newsletter.

HWL Legislative Committee Gearing Up for 1998 Session

Hawai'i Women Lawyers is looking forward to the 1998 Legislative Session as an exciting opportunity for presenting lawmakers with initiatives for changes. In addition to the fact that 1998 will probably see a renewal of legislative efforts regarding the issue of same-sex marriage, the smoldering economic crisis in the State will continue to produce critical debate on issues of social welfare, such as domestic and child abuse.

HWL's Legislative Committee is gearing up now for the session. In order to present the Legislative with the concerns of HWL's membership, the Legislative Committee will begin now to focus on one or more initiatives going into the session and determine whether it will promote a bill or bills which would key in on HWL's mandate to advocate for the legal, social, and education rights of women and children throughout Hawai'i. In addition, HWL also monitors the progress of bills during the session and presents testimony for and/or against bills in keeping with its mandate.

You are important to the process!

HWL needs you in its legislative effort. The first brainstorming meeting of the HWL Legislative Committee took place in October, and the next meeting is scheduled for sometime in late November or early December 1997. **Interested members who would like to assist HWL in its lobbying efforts on behalf of women and children in Hawai'i are asked to contact HWL Executive Director Kay Lorraine at 545-8055.** Present members of the Committee (Susan Ichinose, Rosemary McShane, Magali Sunderland, Hazel Beh, and Suzanne Terada) need people.

HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS
P.O. Box 2072
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Chop Sui Generis

Laura Thielen is taking time out from the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i for 9 months to a year to spend more time with her kids. She is a former president of HWL.

Gail Robertson leaves the Executive Office on Aging on November 18th to take a position with the State Department in Washington, D.C. Gail is Immediate Past President of Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation and will be greatly missed by HWLF and its board.

Prof. Judy Weightman, award-winning filmmaker as well as attorney, was executive producer on a public service video that won a Mea No'eau Award at the final Oahu event of the Hawaii International Film Festival. Judy's son, Wayne Weightman, directed the winning PSA.

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