



HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

April 1998

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at 25th anniversary celebration of
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Evening of fun, food and families

Last Chance for Nominations

Nominations for new officers and
board members close on April 30th

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 18th 6:00 p.m.

William S. Richardson School of
Law holds their Silver Celebration
and Reunion Dinner. All alumni
and friends of the law school are
welcome. Aloha attire. Reception,
Program, Dinner and Dancing;
\$100. For additional information,
call Carol Mon Lee at 956-8636

Friday, April 24th 3:30 p.m. to

5:00 p.m. "Technology: PC Hard-
ware, Portable Devices & Network-
ing." Practice Management
Workshop presented by HBSA.
HSBA Conference Room. Free.
For reservations call 537-1868.

Friday, May 1st Law Day

Sunday, May 17th 11:00 a.m.

Brunch buffet celebrating 25th
anniversary of Roe v. Wade.
Waikiki Prince Hotel (See back
page for details)

Federal Judiciary Crisis Hurts Everyone

In December 1995, when HWL member Susan Oki Mollway was named by President Clinton to the Federal Bench, we thought that Hawaii would finally have four full-time Federal judges on the District Court level. Two years later, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary has still not acted on the Mollway appointment. At press time of this newsletter, the Committee has had two hearings on her nomination; but has always tabled the nomination without a vote.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist has noted that the Committee on the Judiciary is playing politics with the Judiciary, and creating a "crisis of confidence" in our system of justice as a result.

I therefore offer for your reading the following excerpts from an article in the Spring edition of Women Lawyers Journal, written by Janice L. Sperow, President of the National Association of Women Lawyers. It strikes home.

Susan M. Ichinose, President

There is a crisis of justice in the nation. Vacancies in the federal judiciary have created inequality and limited access. Because of the extraordinary number of vacant federal judicial positions and the problems associated with delayed judicial appointments, dangerously crowded dockets, suspended civil case dockets, burgeoning criminal caseloads, overburdened judges, and chronically understaffed court, justice in America is coming to a standstill.

Why? Because, since the 1994 elections, the Senate has slowed, delayed, and essentially halted the federal judicial confirmation process....

A record 29 of the vacancies are classified as judicial emergencies--positions vacant for more than 18 months [including Hawaii]. During the Bush years, only 3 out of 195 nominations took as long as nine months to confirm....

As lawyers, we are outraged and appalled at this challenge to judicial independence and equal access to justice. Yet, as women, we have even more cause for alarm....Whether intended or not, the Senate Judiciary Committee's delaying tactics are disproportionately impacting women candidates and nominees of color for the federal bench. Eight of the 14 Clinton nominees waiting the longest for Senate hearings or confirmation are women. Conversely, while women candidates languish, the confirmation of male candidates is swift by comparison. A full 12 of the 14 nominees with the shortest confirmation processes in 1997 were men; only 2 were women. (continued on page 3)



L to R: Beadie Dawson; Dolly Ching; Gladys Brandt; Evelyn Lance

**Lots More
Photos
from the
1998
Awards
Ceremony
Inside**

1998 Awards Reception

March 20, 1998

Plaza Club

Photos by Thomas H. Woolsey
Roads Photography 988-3261



L to R: Na'u Kamali'i, Gladys Brandt, and Kina'u Boyd Kamali'i



Carol Mon Lee and Evelyn Lance reading the U.S. Joint Resolution



Dolly Ching and Sherry Broder



Lawyer of the Year Beadie Dawson with her grandchildren Alana and Jessica Song



L to R: Dolly Ching, Hon. Evelyn Lance, HWL President-Elect Rosemary McShane, Gladys Brandt, Beadie Dawson and Honolulu Councilmember Rene Mansho



Beadie Dawson and Gladys Brandt



Gladys Brandt's award was presented by HWL Board member Na'uanikina'u Kamali'i

Maui Mayor
Linda Lingle



(L to R) HWL Board members Donna M. Gray and Calleen Ching with Attorney General Margery Bronster



Hon. Rhonda Nishimura with Dolly Ching



Lifetime Achievement Award winner Judge Evelyn Lance celebrates with her daughter-in-law Donna (L) and granddaughter Tina (R)



L to R, HWL member and former officer/director Carol Mon Lee, Associate Dean of Richardson School of Law; 1-L students and mentees Kaleen Hasegawa and Cindy Hironaka; HWL member Mahilani Kellett of Bays Deaver Hiatt Lung & Rose; and 1-L student Julia Worsham.

Law Students Meet Their Mentors at Reception

The HSBA's Attorney-To-Law-Student Mentor Program got off to a great start in 1998 with a reception at the Richardson Law School on March 19th. HWL was asked to participate at the invitation of the Program's Chair, Mahilani Kellett of Bays Deaver Hiatt Lung & Rose.

HWL President Susan Ichinose attended the inaugural event. Among others, HWL members who have volunteered to participate as 1998 Mentors to Richardson Law School students are HWL Membership Committee member Marjorie Au of Ashford & Wriston; HWL Director Donna Gray of the Federal Public Defender's Office; Michelle Sunahara Loudermilk of Cades Schutte Flemming & Wright; and HWL Director and private practitioner Suzanne Terada.

There are still openings in the Mentor Program. If you would like to participate, call Kay at the HWL office (545-8055) or Mahilani Kellett (528-8863).

HWLF Announces Three New Grant Approvals

The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation has issued three new grants from their latest round of grant applications. These grantees are:

Hawai'i State Foster Parents Association to purchase fax machines for communications with Windward, North Shore, and Kauai support groups.

Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center of East Hawai'i for video tape interviews of children 6 and under regarding allegations of sex abuse.

Sisters Offering Support (an organization to help women and children escape prostitution) for a photocopier.

HWLF Grant Committee Chairperson Bernice Littman has announced a deadline of July 14th for receipt of the next round of grant applications.

For further information, call Bernice at 521-9200.

Clothes Closet Project Seeking Volunteers

For three days, The Clothes Closet Project will be collecting clean and pressed business clothes curbside at the Richards Street YWCA in downtown Honolulu. HWL is seeking volunteers to assist at the drop-off point on the following days: Wednesday, May 27th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 30th, 10:00-noon; Tuesday, June 2nd, 6:30-8:30 a.m.

If you are able to help on any of those dates, please call Calleen at 522-0673 or Mary at 538-7061, ext. 250.

But, you don't have to wait till May to contribute your business clothes. Donations are being accepted at all times at the Women's Resource Center, room 306, Richards Street YWCA. In addition to clothing, they are also looking for usable clothing racks and skirt/pant hangers.

Please give your business clothes (and two hours of your time) to help women who are trying to make a new start in life.

Judicial Crisis

(continued from page one)

Lawyers committed to equality seem to be particularly targeted for derailment. California candidate Margaret Morrow's nomination, whose appointment has twice been recommended by the Senate Judiciary Committee, stalled once it reached the full Senate over objections to her membership in California Women Lawyers [HWL's counterpart in California]...Another female candidate has been criticized for working pro bono on a case which successfully challenged a ballot initiative to limit the rights of homosexuals.

Thus, in addition to the shocking discriminatory effect of its imbalanced practice, the Senate Judiciary Committee's actions could well have an enormous chilling effect. Qualified women and of-color candidates may no longer submit their names for federal judicial consideration in order to avoid the protracted and unjustified invasion of their privacy, thereby costing this country the value of their contributions. Or, the President may, as a politically expedient matter, simply choose not to nominate as many women and candidates of-color in the hopes of getting more nominations through the confirmation process. Or women and of-color candidates may decide not to join women and minority bar associations, take on controversial cases, defend our civil liberties, engage in pro bono service or otherwise do anything that might someday cause the Senate to screen them out, hold their nominations or simply ignore their confirmation through inaction.

Because we are lawyers, because we are women, we must ensure that the Senate satisfies (its) obligation to fulfill its constitutional mandate for equality. I urge each of you to fight this inequity personally. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or, if you do not have time, then merely send the newspaper a copy of this article. More importantly, call or write your Senators urging them to address the judicial backlog and its impact on women and minorities.

Only if our voice is used will it be heard.

**HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS
NEWSLETTER**

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Letters, articles and other contributions are always welcome. Fax your submissions to Kay Lorraine at (808) 545-8636. We reserve the right to edit for space and content.

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Sarah Weddington To Speak May 17th

Mazie Hirono Will Open

She made history 25 years ago. The youngest woman ever to argue before the United States Supreme Court, Sarah Weddington won *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark case guaranteeing a woman's constitutional right to continue or terminate her pregnancy.

Family Planning Centers of Hawaii, formerly known as Planned Parenthood of Hawaii, is honored to have Sarah Weddington speak at its 25th anniversary celebration of *Roe v. Wade*. The brunch buffet will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Waikiki Prince Hotel. Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono will deliver the opening remarks. Tickets are \$75 (\$45 tax deductible). Call Dani at 234-6888 for details and reservations.

Federal Sentencing Officer Positions Available

Applications are now being taken for positions as a career United States probation officer. Qualifications include age under 37, and a J.D., with some practice preferred. The job requires a strong academic background, analytical skills and writing ability.

The starting salary will range from \$38,300 to \$69,888 per year (includes 22.5% COLA) and is based on education, experience, and prior salary history. To apply, send a SF-171 Application, which is available at the U.S. Probation Office, and copies of all college transcripts to:
U.S. Probation Office at District Court
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room C-110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
Call 541-1283 for further information.

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