



# HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

November/December 1998

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### **HWL Committee Profiles**

Who are the movers and shakers behind the scenes at HWL, and how you can be a part of it.

### **IHS Shelter Child Care Program**

HWL concerned as valuable program for homeless youth is in danger.

### **HWL 1998 Awards Nominations**

Last call for nominations for annual HWL awards in three categories.

### **Earthjustice Legal Position**

Associate Attorney position available. Information on page 3.

## *Calendar of Events*

### **Friday, November 27th**

"A Women's Place" One hour legal program presented on PBS. Please check television guide for correct time. (See box to right for details.)

### **Tuesday, December 1st**

Final day that nominations will be accepted for the HWL 1998 Distinguished Service Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and 1998 Lawyer of the Year.

### **Friday, December 4th** noon

Final Lawyer Kokua Brown Bag Seminar of the year, presented by the Young Lawyers Division of the HSBA. "Bankruptcy Law" The Honorable Lloyd King of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court will repeat this popular workshop on Chapter XI bankruptcy law. There is no charge for the workshop, but seating is limited, so please call 537-1868 to make reservations.

## **Hawai'i Women Lawyers to Publish Directory**

*1999 Directory will cross-reference legal professionals by areas of specialty, state licenses, geographical location, etc.*

The HWL Board of Directors has authorized the production and publication of a new directory which will be distributed free of charge throughout the U.S. The directory will contain pertinent information on each member of Hawai'i Women Lawyers, regardless of sex or geographical residence. The most convenient feature of the directory will be the extensive cross-referencing section. This will allow a prospective client to locate an attorney who specializes in a particular area of the law, and also has an office close to his or her neighborhood. It will also allow legal professionals to quickly locate an attorney who is licensed to practice in states other than Hawai'i and/or is affiliated with a firm in another part of the country.

There will be no fee associated with the listings in the directory. The only requirement is that your membership in HWL be current as of March 1, 1999. Three-quarters of all HWL memberships renew in the month of January. Members receive dues notices approximately 30 days before they are due. Details regarding the directory will accompany your dues notice.

New members who wish to be included in the directory, can join now and will not come up for renewal until February 1, 2000. This is the equivalent of two bonus months free! You can request a membership application by calling the HWL office at 545-8055.

## **Too Good to Miss on November 27th**

*"A Woman's Place" Looks at Women in the Law*

For a positive and inspiring look at women in the law, be sure to watch for "A Woman's Place" which begins airing nationally on PBS November 27th. The one-hour television documentary produced by Maryland Public Television examines the question, "Can new laws change old ways?"

The program profiles three women in South Africa, India and the U.S. who have been successful in making tradition and justice see eye-to-eye. Tandawya Ndita is a South African judge who educates rural communities about the country's new Constitution which, for the first time, elevates women from household property to personhood. Flavia Agnes is a lawyer in Bombay who helps women use the law to end abusive marriages and live successful, independent lives, despite the powerful stigma of divorce. Duluth (MN) Chief Prosecutor Mary Asmus pioneers a new legal strategy for convicting domestic violence offenders without requiring their frightened victims to testify in court.

These women are balancing the scales of power so that "a man's world" is also "A Women's Place."

# HWL Committees Are Working Throughout the Year

*All year long, various committees within Hawai'i Women Lawyers are working to keep our organization active through membership benefits such as programs, workshops, publications, community outreach, special projects and legislative action. Committee membership is the most direct way you can support the goals and objectives of HWL. We thought that you might like to get a closer look at the various opportunities that are available to all HWL members. We invite you to join an activity that interests you. It's a great way to network with your peers while helping to shape the direction of the organization.*



## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is charged with the responsibility of recruiting new members, as well as follow-up on special membership enquires. The day-to-day invoicing and membership database is handled by the HWL office staff.

The Membership Committee, which meets monthly for one hour, is Co-Chaired by Melissa Teves Pavlicek and HWL Board member Hilary Benson Gangnes. The committee will also be working on the new HWL membership directory.

We will need help with information gathering and initial computer input. We will also require assistance in contacting lapsed members.

This is a good committee for women who enjoy networking with other lawyers, particularly by phone.

For more information, call Hilary at 543-1810.

## Program Committee

The Program Committee is headed by former Membership Chair Cheryl Okuma-Sepe and HWL Board member Lea Hong. They are presently meeting monthly; however, once the program schedule for 1999 is in place, it is likely that this committee will meet less often.

If you are good at helping to find interesting speakers or creating effective workshops, we need your talents on the Program Committee. For more information, call Lea at 524-1800

## Special Projects

The Special Projects Committee is responsible for handling individual projects that are, generally, not ongoing or annual. These are often done in partnership with another group. One special project that needs volunteers is the Clothes Closet Project. This joint venture between Hawai'i Women Lawyers and the Women's Resource Center at the YWCA, needs volunteers to help gather, sort, press and coordinate outfits suitable for low-income women making the transition into the working world. If you would like to work on the Clothes Closet Project, please call Madeline at the Women's Resource Center, 532-5630. If you have an idea for a special project that involves HWL, call Special Projects Committee Head, Calleen Ching at 522-0673.

## Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee is headed by Immediate Past President Susan Ichinose with HWL Board member Prof. Hazel Beh. This is probably our most important committee and it shoulders the bulk of HWL's social and political agenda. Although the Legislative Committee works behind the scenes year-round, most committee members tend to engage in six months of intense activity followed by six relatively quiet months.

HWL is presently gearing up for the 1999 Legislative Session, where we will be actively pursuing a judicial pay raise, and lobbying on various issues of social welfare, such as domestic and child abuse, as well as crucial areas of judicial reform, such as amendments to Rule 412.

Committee members monitor the progress of bills during the session, conferring with and advising legislators, writing and presenting testimony for and/or against bills in keeping with HWL's mandate to advocate for the legal, social and educational rights of women and children throughout Hawai'i.

HWL needs you in its legislative effort. Interested members who would like to assist in our lobbying efforts in the areas of education, health care, child abuse, civil rights, judicial rules, domestic violence, and equal opportunity should contact Susan at 536-3255.

## Kamehameha Schools Debate Tournament Needs Qualified Judges

The Speech and Debate Team of Kamehameha Schools will be hosting a two day Thanksgiving Tournament featuring mainland debate competition. They have asked HWL for assistance in supplying qualified judges who understand what proper debating entails. Please call Wendie Joy Burbridge at 842-8678 if you are willing to volunteer to be a judge.

## Chop Sui Generis

Happy Birthday (November 15th) and speedy recovery to **Dean Larry Foster**, who is recovering from a mild heart attack. Birthday and get well cards may be sent to the dean's office at University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law. They will forward them to his home.

**Carole Mon Lee** has been named Acting Dean of the law school until his return in December.

Congratulations to **Katherine (Kate) Lloyd** and her husband Hugh Jones on the October 21st birth of their 9 lb. 3 oz. baby boy, Nathaniel Lloyd Jones.

Congratulations also to HWL Past President **Magali V. Sunderland** and her husband Joe, who recently welcomed their new daughter, Bernie, into the growing Sunderland family. Bernie joins brothers Troy, Mikele and baby Brandon.

## Associate Attorney Position Available *Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund*

The Mid-Pacific office of the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund is current recruiting for an Associate Attorney position with a two-year term. The responsibilities would include legal research, drafting and fact investigation, new matter screening, case development, and active litigation (including briefing, discovery and argument). The attorney would assist two staff attorneys and also would develop an independent caseload.

Requirements for the position are one or more years of civil litigation experience and timely admittance to the Hawai'i bar. Also required are excellent research, writing and oral advocacy skills; a solid academic record; commitment to environmental justice; ability to be a team player; strong work ethic, sense of initiative, and sound judgment.

Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund is a national, non-profit public interest law firm devoted to litigation and advocacy to protect the environment on behalf of hundreds of grassroots citizen groups, non-profit environmental organizations and individuals. Its mission is to protect people and natural resources by enforcing and strengthening environmental laws.

The Mid-Pacific Office's work emphasizes protection of endangered species, ecosystems, and water rights; reduction of coastal pollution; adherence to land use/EIS requirements; and advocacy for environmental justice in actions before federal and state courts and agencies.

Applications for the position of Associate Attorney should consist of a cover letter, resume, legal writing sample, and the names and phone numbers of three legal references. Send application materials to Paul H. Achitoff, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, 223 South King Street, Suite 400, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813.

Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from underrepresented groups.

## Last Call for Nominations for Hawai'i Women Lawyers Annual Awards

Nominations for the 1998 HWL Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Hawai'i Woman Lawyer of the Year will close on Tuesday, December 1st. The HWL Board will reach a final decision at their December 2nd meeting.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was created to recognize a lawyer who, over the course of years, has contributed significantly to the goals and ideals which HWL was founded to support. This award is granted on a merit basis, not necessarily annually.

The Distinguished Award denotes outstanding results in the area of community service. The recipient of this award does not have to be a lawyer.

Hawai'i Woman Lawyer of the Year need not be an HWL member.

You may fax your suggestions to the HWL office at 545-8636. Please include a brief (or not so brief) explanation of why you believe your nominee deserves to be recognized.

Awards will be given during the annual HWL Awards Reception to be held in early 1999.

**HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS  
NEWSLETTER**

This newsletter is published ten times a year by Hawai'i Women Lawyers, P.O. Box 2072, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805. Subscriptions are available only to dues-paying members.

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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**Hawai'i Women Lawyers Encourages  
IHS Shelter Child Care Program**

HWL's mandate to advocate for the legal, social and educational rights of women and children throughout Hawai'i often has ramifications beyond the legal front. It has come to the attention of the HWL Board of Directors that the child care and after-school program at the IHS Kalihi homeless shelter is in danger of closing. The classroom provides a daily three-hour educational environment for approximately 60 homeless children who temporarily reside in the family dorm at the shelter.

Despite donations from Kapiolani Health Foundation, Ala Moana Rotary, and the Children's Miracle Network, the program is desperately in need of volunteers to read to preschoolers, supervise art and recreational activities, and assist older children with their homework. Lack of adequate volunteers and day-to-day supplies could endanger the project's future.

For this reason, the HWL Board is asking all members to consider putting the shelter on their Christmas lists. Consider a donation of books or art supplies in lieu of traditionally exchanged token gifts such as perfume or candy. Donate children's and large-sized adult clothing to the shelter. But most importantly, consider donating your time. Even a few hours would make a difference.

To find out how you can help with this worthwhile program, call Catherine Graham at 537-2724.

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