



HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

January 1999

In This Issue...

Profiles on Our Award Winners

What they have accomplished.
Why they were chosen.

Pictures of HWLF Mayors Show

Fundraiser was highlight of 1998.
A retrospective of the fun in photos.

1999 HWL Legislative Retreat

HWL members shape their lobbying
efforts for the new legislative session.

NAWL Celebrating 100 Years

NAWL Regional Director Nancye
Bethurem recalls "firsts" in history.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 23rd

UH Campus 9:30 a.m. to noon
HSBA Committee on Gender and
Other Fairness Committee Forum
(See page 5 for details.)

Friday, February 5th

Plaza Club 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
HWL Annual Awards Reception. (See
headline story on this page for details.)

Saturday, February 6th

10:00 a.m. Ocean View Center
1999 HWL Legislative Retreat
(See page 5 for details.)

Wednesday, February 24th

Plaza Club Noon luncheon featuring
U.S. District Court Judge Susan Oki
Mollway discussing her first months on
the federal bench. This program is a
joint venture of the Federal Bar
Association and Hawai'i Women
Lawyers. Details in next month's HWL
newsletter.

HWL Announces 1998 Awards Winners

Reception Set for Friday, February 5th

Each year Hawai'i Women Lawyers honors individuals who we feel
merit special recognition. This year's honorees are:

Woman Lawyer of the Year
Distinguished Service
Lifetime Achievement
President's Award

Hon. Margery S. Bronster
Dr. Jackie Eurn Hai Young
Hon. William S. Richardson
Sister Michele McQueeney

Awards will be presented at a reception at the Plaza Club on Friday
5th. The cost is \$20 per person for members in good standing, and \$25 for
non-members. We will be serving heavy pupus and offering script for bever-
ages. Discounted parking in the Pioneer Plaza building will be available after
5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 5, 1999
The Plaza Club, 20th Floor
900 Fort Street Mall
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To make a reservation, please call Kay Lorraine at 545-8055 or send
your check payable to Hawai'i Women Lawyers to HWL Organization Head-
quarters, 76 North King Street, Suite 206, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817.

HWL Directory to be Distributed Nationally

Listings are Free but Deadline is March 1st

If you are not yet an HWL member, now is the time to act. Call the
HWL office now. The HWL directory compilation is under way. But the only
way you can be in the directory is to be a member.

HWL members who have not returned the biographical data sheet
should do so immediately. If your membership renewal comes due in
January (you would have received an invoice) make sure your check accom-
panies the directory bio sheet.

The new directory will contain pertinent information on each member
of Hawai'i Women Lawyers. The directory will be cross-referenced by areas
of legal speciality, neighborhoods, states admitted to practice and affiliations.
The directory will be distributed free of charge to libraries, social organiza-
tions, community groups and non-legal professional associations across
Hawai'i and the U.S. through HWL's national network of sister organizations.

Plans are also underway to make the directory an integral part of the
HWL website, to allow perspective clients to go on-line to find potential
counsel.

Call the HWL office at 545-8055 today to request an application.

The National Association of Women Lawyers: Celebrating 100 YEARS as a Nationwide Voice for All Women

Editor's note: Accompanying this article on "firsts," Hawai'i Women Lawyers celebrates our own first, with HWL's Vice President/President Elect Nancye Bethurem, Hawai'i's first NAWL Regional Director.



By Nancye L. Bethurem

The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL), originally named the Women's Lawyers Club, was founded in 1899. While this voice for women was established even before women were allowed to vote in federal elections, a number of significant "firsts" had already occurred.

The first woman lawyer in America, Margaret Brent, had arrived in the Colonies (1648)(Maryland); the first woman had been admitted to law school, Lemma Barkaloo (1869)(Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.); the first woman judge had been elected, Esther McQuigg Morris, Justice of the Peace (1870)(South Pass City, Wyoming); the first woman had graduated from a U.S. law school, Ada H. Kepley (1870)(Union College of Law, now Northwestern University); the first African American woman had been admitted to the bar, Charlotte E. Ray (1872); and the first law school formed by

women specifically designed to give women the opportunity to earn a law degree was established by Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillett (1896)(Washington College of Law, District of Columbia).

In the 100 years since NAWL has been a voice for women, progress has continued. Women earned the right to vote, after over 60 years of tremendous struggle, sacrifice and adversity (1920)(.014% of lawyers were women at that time); the first Native American woman was admitted to the bar, Lyda Burton Conley (1910); the first woman was admitted to the American Bar Association (1918); the first woman president of the Federal Bar Association was elected, Marguerite Rawalt (1933); the first woman federal court judge was appointed, Florence Ellinwood Allen (6th Cir. Ct of Appeals, Cincinnati)(1934); one of the first latinas was licensed in the U.S., Estella Cota-Robas (1940); Harvard Law School admitted its first women law students (1950); the first Japanese American woman was elected to Congress, Patsy Takemoto Mink (Hawai'i)(1964); the first African American woman was appointed federal judge, Constance Baker Motley (1966); the first woman was sworn into the U.S. Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor (1981); the first African American woman was elected to the U.S. Senate, Carol Mosely Braun (1992); the first woman was appointed as Attorney General of the U.S., Janet Reno (1993); and the first woman was sworn in as U.S. Secretary of State, Madeline Albright (1997).

In 1999, NAWL celebrates 100 years of being a voice for women, as being an advocate for women attorneys, as being an organization which has supported the dreams and accomplishments of women throughout the nation, and today NAWL continues that work.

There is still a need for women lawyers to work together at the national level to ensure the fair and equal treatment of women. The most effective way to influence national and international issues affecting women in the legal profession and in society is by joining an organization dedicated to addressing these issues. NAWL fills a unique and necessary role as the nationwide voice by which women lawyers can make their viewpoints heard. Also, NAWL is an important voice on the international scene, with an observer at the United Nations and with liaisons to the International Bar Association and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers.

Each level of women's bars has a different function. The state women's bar is important as a voice in our own community, and is important for state policies. Hawai'i Women Lawyers serves that role well. The national organization, NAWL, is critical for purposes of being heard on issues which are national in scope. The more advances women make, the more we discover that there are attitudes that are very difficult to overcome. I invite you to join in being one of the active voices of NAWL working to better the lives and opportunities for women. Please join today. Call me, Nancye Bethurem, NAWL Regional Director, at 438-6720, and I will send you a membership application.

Divorce With Decency

The Complete How-To Handbook and Survivor's Guide

Hawai'i Women Lawyer member Bradley A. Coates is celebrating the first appearance of what he says will most certainly be his *last* book. In development for approximately six years, the University of Hawai'i Press has published *Divorce with Decency: The Complete How-To Handbook And Survivor's Guide To The Legal, Emotional, Economic, And Social Issues*.

Author Coates is the managing partner in Coates and Frey, the largest divorce law firm in Hawai'i. He founded a low-cost divorce mediation clinic, also called, "Divorce with Decency." He says he wrote the book because, after watching literally thousands of divorces over twenty years, "I've seen how wrong they can go."

Even with 50% of all marriages in the US ending in divorce, Coates says most people find the process confusing, frustrating and emotionally debilitating.

Written in lay terms, the book deals with the dynamics of divorce, and the complications surrounding each stage for couples and their children. Unlike many guides, Coates deals directly with the issue of spousal abuse. A "National Edition" handles legal questions in general terms. A special "Hawai'i Edition," on sale in the islands, is quite specific as to the law.

Coates says we are experiencing "divorce en masse," and decries the fact that there is so little public discourse on the subject. "Divorce," says the author, "is an exercise in self discipline and human relations." The book is designed to "enable people to send cases down the right track."

Divorce with Decency is available at major bookstores, or order from UH Press, 2840 Kolowalu St., Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 956-8697.

Nearly 100 Women Suited for Success at the Clothes Closet



Madeline Harcourt (left) of the YWCA Women's Resource Center accepts donations of clothing from Debbie Au Chick-Hopkins from Global Village Market

Hundreds of used business clothing of all styles, colors and sizes continue to pour into the five month old clothes closet jamming the already packed storage space at the YWCA of Oahu's Laniakea Center. The Clothes Closet project began serving women in need on July 13th, and to date has suited for success nearly 100 women seeking employment. The Clothes Closet Project is a partnership between Hawai'i Women Lawyers and the YWCA Women's Resource Center. It was specifically designed to help women prepare for the job market by providing appropriate clothing for job interviews. More than 300 people have donated clothing including Global Village Market who donated over 60 new outfits in October. Portabox Storage recently donated storage space, while Caesars Cleaners provided \$1000 in free cleaning. The Clothes Closet project currently needs volunteers to staff the project on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help women select clothing and coordinate their volunteer efforts. Please contact Madeline Harcourt at 532-5630 for more information.

Open Adoption Sought by Judge

Hawai'i Women Lawyers receives a good bit of mail on a number of subjects. One of the more intriguing letters, however, has come from San Francisco Judge Lita Krowech. She wants to adopt a baby.

Krowech believes strongly in the concept of open adoption. She wants the birth mother to have to comfort of knowing where the child is and how the child is faring. She is also open to continuing contact with the biological parents and grandparents.

She has written Hawai'i Women Lawyers as one woman lawyer to another. If you have a client or know of someone who may be interested, you can call her at (800) 979-4490, or if you prefer you can call her attorneys, Desmond Tuck or Kelly Beck, collect at (650) 341-1895.

If you would like to review Judge Krowech's letter yourself (complete with color photo), contact Kay at the HWL office (545-8055).



FUN COUPLES!



HWLF Fundraiser a 1998 Highlight

Since the HWL Newsletter does not publish in the month of December, this is our first opportunity to congratulate our sister organization, Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation, on their successful fundraiser. This event featured an elegant dinner in the Monarch Room following a champagne reception on the lanai, a silent auction with getaway weekends at private off-island hideaways, golf packages, designer clothing, spa treatments, even free gasoline for a year! But best of all was this year's show, "Save the Counties," a Jerry Lewis-like telethon featuring Hawai'i's mayors.

The audience was treated to skits featuring Janice Wolfe as Ally McBeale, Mayor Yamashiro doing the Tango, Peter Carlisle as Vanna White and of course, the Spice Girls (Louise Ing as Ginger Spice, Trudy Burns Stone as Sporty Spice, Rai Saint Chu as Scary Spice, John Barkai as Posh Spice, Rene Mansho as Baby Spice and Cori Lau as Extra Spicy).

And who could forget the evening's theme song, sung by the Mayors at the closing of the show, "Ain't Too Proud to Beg (for your money)"

If you didn't attend the dinner this year, here are a few photos to entice you to be sure to attend next year. Truly an event not to be missed!



ROOM WITH A VIEW



Positions Available on State and City Boards and Commissions

A large number of positions are currently available on boards and commissions within the State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu.

HWL encourages women to apply for these positions and make their voices heard. Making application is as easy as filling out a one-page form.

If you are interested in information or wish to receive an application form for the state boards and commissions, call Celia Suzuki at 586-0026.

For information on the City and County of Honolulu boards and commissions, call Paula Loomis at 527-5759.

Chop Sui Generis

Congratulations to **Cheryl Okuma-Sepe** on her new position as First Deputy Corporation Council for the City and County of Honolulu.

Friends of retired judge **Marium Connors Gormley** will want to note her new mainland address at 10622 Lorain Avenue in Silver Spring, MD 20901-1510.

Congratulations to HWL member **Nanci Kreidman** who will be presented with the 1999 Hawai'i Peace-maker award for her work at the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline. The Church of the Crossroads will present the award during their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at 7:30 p.m., Monday, January 18th in the church sanctuary.

Legislative Retreat Scheduled for February 6th HWL Membership to Create 1999 Legislative Agenda

All HWL members are invited to help create our 1999 legislative policy agenda by attending the 1999 Legislative Information Retreat on Saturday, February 6th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the conference room at Simons & Ichinose, Penthouse One, Ocean View Center, 707 Richards Street, downtown Honolulu.

Each year, the legislative committee surveys the hundreds of bills and resolutions expected to be introduced in the Legislature in order to decide which of them deserve HWL's support or opposition. The committee concentrates its attention on bills affecting:

- The social and educational welfare of women and children in Hawai'i
- The accessibility of courts to, and the advancement of, legal rights of women and children in Hawai'i
- The professional advancement and interests of women lawyers

The 1999 legislative session is expected to be a very active one. In addition to the gay marriage/domestic partnership issue, bills will be introduced involving economy-related issues, civil rights, sexual harassment, healthcare policy, hate crimes, domestic violence, civil justice reform, Native Hawaiian rights, judicial pay raises, and survival of women's programs at UH. Hawai'i Women Lawyers will track key bills through the legislative process, providing written testimony and otherwise actively lobbying for and against these targeted bills. But we want to make certain that the positions HWL takes accurately reflect the views and wishes of the membership. To assure this, HWL annually holds a Legislative Retreat to discuss and decide which bills to target.

We encourage all HWL members to attend this important event. Parking will be available in the building free of charge, from parking level 3 on up. If you have questions or would like to attend, please call Kay Lorraine at 545-8055 or Susan Ichinose at 536-3255.

HSBA Gender and Other Fairness Forum January 23rd at UH Law School

On Saturday, January 23rd, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the HSBA Committee on Gender and Other Fairness will hold a forum to present and analyze the results of their survey.

Panelists include:

Lorraine Akiba

Director of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations

Paul Alston, Partner,
Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing

Dr. Ronald Heck

University of Hawai'i, consultant for the 1997 HSBA survey.

Dr. Linda Johnsrud
University of Hawai'i,
demographic expert

The Honorable Marie Milks
Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Dr. Kim Peyton
organizational psychologist

Randall Roth
President, HSBA

This should be a fascinating exploration into the changing legal climate in our state. Please indicate your support and interest by RSVP to the HSBA (537-1868) by **Wed. January 20, 1999.**



President's Award

Michele McQueeney

A Franciscan nun who left a career in education to bring comfort, security and independence to the elderly and disabled of Hawai'i, is this year's recipient of the HWL President's Award. Sister Michele McQueeney, Executive Director of non profit CSI, Inc., is the guiding light for countless senior and incapacitated citizens who need help in maintaining their independence. She is frequently the bridge between traditional caregivers such as nurses or social workers, and professional advisors such as accountants and attorneys. And she is a warm smile and a loving heart that makes a difference in people's lives every day.

Born in Auburn, New York, Michele McQueeney took her baccalaureate from the University of Dayton before receiving a Master of Science degree from State University of New York and Master of Arts honors from the University of San Francisco.

Joining the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, she held teaching and school administration positions in Syracuse, then Long Beach and Santa Barbara, California, before moving to Hawai'i in 1979. Sister Michele's religious order operates St. Francis Medical Center and several schools in Hawai'i. She became principal of St. Francis High School, a position she held until 1991.

But she needed a new challenge, a new direction for her life of service. So, after a bit of a job hunt, she was named Director of Operations for CSI (Comfort, Security, Independence). In 1992, she became Executive Director.

Though fund raising occupies a great deal of her time, Sister Michele's heart is with the people. "So many of our elderly today have no family at all, or must rely on family on the mainland. They are easy targets for financial abuse because they have no one with whom to talk over their decisions."

CSI helps, handling routine tasks for the elderly and disabled such as checkbook reconciliation, bill payment, etc so they can remain independent.

And sometimes the agency works as a guardian, mostly on referrals from lawyers, who have come to embrace this quiet lady of faith, hope and charity, as a God-send for their elderly clients.



Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year

Margery S. Bronster

Margery Bronster has distinguished herself with a series of "firsts" within the past few years. She is the first woman to serve as Hawaii's Attorney General, and the first in recent years to take public stands against powerful institutions such as the tobacco industry, the Bishop Estate's Board of Trustees and even the Supreme Court of Hawai'i.

HWL recognizes Margery Bronster not so much for the stands that she has taken, as the fact that stands have been taken--stands that demonstrate that the Department of the Attorney General is a strong political and social force in and of itself. Under her leadership, the Department has shown the ability to muster political and social strength to handle numerous controversies. Irrespective of how one is aligned in regard to those controversies, the fact of the matter is that Margery Bronster and her Department are forces to be reckoned with, and not just apologists for the status quo.

She is now beginning of her second four-year term as Attorney General. She chairs the Governor's Committee on Crime, the Law Enforcement Coalition, and the Violence Against Women Planning Committee. She was the recent recipient of the Tommy Holmes Award by the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of the Kapi'olani Medical Center, for her work in combating sex abuse.

As Attorney General, Ms. Bronster is also an active member of the Conference of Western Attorney Generals. And she serves as the National Association of Attorneys General's Official Liaison to the Republic of China.

She has been steadfast in her pursuit of what beneficiaries of Bernice Pauahi Bishop consider to be breaches of fiduciary duty by various trustees of the Bishop Estate. In connection with this pursuit, she has moved for and received recusals of justices of the Supreme Court on questions of conflict of interest. Whatever the legal outcome of this dispute may be, it will have ramifications for Hawai'i's legal, political, and social landscape for decades to come.

Hawai'i Women Lawyers is proud to count Margery Bronster as a member



Distinguished Service Award

Jacqueline Eurn Hai Young

"The only thing you can control is your attitude and your ability to love. Live as though you have only six months to fulfill your destiny."

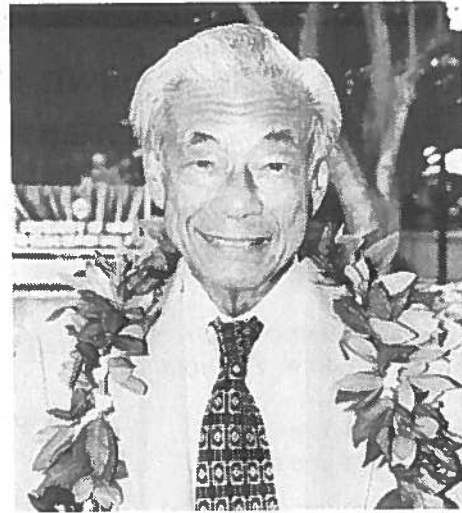
That's Jackie Young's stated philosophy, and if you need proof of her dedication to living it, you need only to look at the *Protect Our Constitution* campaign she waged in 1998. A former state legislator, she put together a coalition of community leaders and organizations (HWL among them), attempting to stop a constitutional amendment discriminating against gays and lesbians on the issue of same-gender marriage.

Well, the human mind is the hardest thing in the world to change. The ballot-issue passed. But adversaries can be assured they will still face Jackie Young in the battle. She has a lifetime record of being involved in political activities that empower individuals to participate fully in the democratic process, no matter how controversial. And no record of ever being a quitter.

With a Ph.D. in Communications and Women's Studies, Ms. Young served as Director of the Governor's Office of Affirmative Action, coordinating the efforts of the state's 60,000 employees. In the 80's she worked in the Department of Education, first as a state coordinator in special education, then as a sex equity specialist. Today, she holds a faculty position in this academic area at the University of Hawai'i, and is a Student Advocate on sexual harassment issues.

Elected Chair of the Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus in 1987, Jackie Young went on to become First Vice President of the Washington, DC based National Women's Political Caucus. While a State Representative, she organized and chaired the Asian Pacific Islander National Caucus of Legislators, giving them a more visible role and more powerful voice in US politics. Later, she was appointed to the Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

The HWL Distinguished Service Award is just the latest in a long series of honors bestowed on this deserving and dedicated woman of advocacy, who lives the philosophy she preaches.



Lifetime Achievement Award

William Shaw Richardson

Our recognition of William S. Richardson for Lifetime Achievement is, in a sense, a very personal award for Hawai'i Women Lawyers. So many of our members are graduates of the Law School which bears his name. His legal career has been an inspiration for many of us; his life of service, a model for us all.

It was 1983, shortly after his retirement as Chief Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, that the law school of the University of Hawai'i was named in his honor. The Board of Regents said that Richardson's "patient counsel, steady effort and unwavering commitment to the establishment and development (of the institution) buttressed all other efforts."

Today, the former Chief Justice remains a key supporter of the law school's mission and objectives, and was on hand for the recent celebration of the institution's 25th anniversary. He also continues to play an active role in community affairs.

Born in Honolulu, the future jurist graduated from Ali'iolani Elementary, Roosevelt High and University of Hawai'i, before earning his J.D. from the Cincinnati College of Law in 1943. Wartime military service followed, serving in the First Filipino Infantry Regiment and as Assistant Judge Advocate, Armed Forces Middle Pacific.

After the war, he entered the private practice of law in Honolulu, and was a member of the delegation to Washington that petitioned for statehood in 1954.

Active in political concerns, Justice Richardson was Chairman of the State Democratic Central Committee for five years, and was elected to a four-year term as Lieutenant Governor in 1962. In 1966, he was appointed Chief Justice of Hawai'i, a post he served for 16 years.

Chairman of the National Conference of Chief Justices for a two-year term, he served as a Director of the National Center for State Courts from 1971 through 1982, including a period as President.

William S. Richardson embodies the qualities we seek in a leader, and honors the trust Hawai'i has placed in him. Our Lifetime Achievement Award is a small, but heartfelt "mahalo."

**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.

President: Rosemary McShane
Vice Pres.: Nancye L. Bethurem
Secretary: Calleen J. Ching
Treasurer: Eri Kashiwabara
Directors: Hazel Beh
Hilary Benson Gangnes
Sara R. Harvey
Lea Hong
Susan M. Ichinose
Abelina Madrid Shaw
Suzanne Terada
Editor: Kay Lorraine

Judicial Vacancies Available

The Judicial Selection Commission, State of Hawai'i, is now accepting the submission of names of applicants for two judgeships.

A vacancy in the office of **Judge, District Court of the Fifth Circuit**, State of Hawai'i, has been created by the retirement of **The Honorable Gerald S. Matsunaga** on December 30th of last year. The Chief Justice will fill this vacancy by appointing a person from a list of not less than six nominees presented to him by the Judicial Selection Commission.

A vacancy in the office of **Associate Judge, Intermediate Court of Appeals**, State of Hawai'i, will be created by the resignation of **The Honorable Walter S. Kirimitsu** on January 28th. Governor Cayateno will fill the vacancy by appointing a person from a list of not less than three nominees presented to him by the Judicial Selection Commission.

The Constitution requires that all candidates be residents and citizens of the State of Hawaii and the United States, and have been licensed to practice law by the Hawai'i Supreme court for a period of five years for the Court of Appeals and ten years in the case of the District Court position.

Please deliver all applications by mail no later than **January 28th** to B. Martin Luna, Chair, Judicial Selection Commission, State of Hawai'i, P.O. Box 2560, Honolulu, HI 96804. HWL sits on the Judicial Selection Commission. We encourage women to actively seek these positions and want to be kept informed of the qualifications of all potential candidates. Talk to us at 545-8055 or fax us information regarding your application to 545-8636.

HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS
P.O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805

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