



# HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

March 1999

## *In This Issue...*

### **Redefining Success**

Free workshop for women to be held at Women's Resource Center.

### **Law Students Win National Event**

UH teams advance to finals in two more national competitions this month.

### **EEOC's Daphne Barbee**

Senior Trial Attorney finds there's a lot to sink her teeth into in her new job.

### **Legislative Committee in Action**

Legislative Retreat targets bills for the 1999 Legislative Session.

### **Get a Massage for \$1 per Minute**

Proceeds to help the Clothes Closet Project and other women's programs.

## *Calendar of Events*

**Saturday, March 13th** 1:30 p.m.  
"Redefining Success" Free seminar.  
Women's Resource Center at YWCA.  
(See page 2 for details.)

**Friday, March 19th** 6:00 p.m. Luau  
held at the William S. Richardson  
School of Law Courtyard. Sponsored  
by Advocates for Public Interest Law.  
(See page 3 for details.)

**Wednesday, March 31st** 12:15 p.m.  
"Civil Motions in the First Circuit Court"  
HSBA Young Lawyers Division Kokua  
Brown Bag Seminar featuring Circuit  
Court Judge Gail Nakatani. To be held  
at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel,  
located at 1099 Alakea Street in  
downtown Honolulu. Call 537-1868 for  
reservations. Free.

## **Nominations Now Open for HWL Board and Officers**

The current term of office for HWL officers and directors is coming to a close at the end of June. Nominations for the 1999-2000 term are now being accepted. Any attorney whose HWL membership is in good standing is eligible to run. Call Kay Lorraine at the HWL office (545-8055) to check on your membership status, if you're in doubt.

Duties of the Board include attendance at a monthly board meeting. Board members also head up HWL committees and participate in various HWL-related projects and activities.

If you are interested in running for an HWL office or Board position, or in nominating another attorney for that purpose, please submit your nomination by fax to 545-8636 or mail it to HWL Organization Headquarters, 76 North King Street, Suite 206, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96817.

Nominations will close on April 30th. After review and consultation with all persons nominated to determine willingness to serve, the Board will draw up a ballot to be mailed to all HWL members with the May Newsletter.



## **HWLF Seeking Nominations for 1999 Rhoda Lewis Award**

Last year's Rhoda Lewis Award winner was Laurie Tochiki (center) of the *Kids First* Program, shown here with Alicia Leonhard (left) and Linda Martell (right), both of HWLF.

### *Looking for an "Unsung Heroine" in Public Interest Law*

The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation is soliciting nominations for the 1999 Rhoda Lewis Award. This cash award is given to an "unsung heroine" practicing public interest law. Please submit the name of your nominee by calling Mary Houghton at 396-8506. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 1999.

## *"Called from Within" Attorney Sau Ung Loo Chan, 92, to be Profiled in a New Book*

"Once upon a time -- when travel was measured in days rather than hours, when education for girls was widely thought to be unnecessary and female lawyers were a curiosity -- a young woman made her way from Hawaii to the Yale Law School and into history. The year was 1925, shortly after women were permitted to enroll, and Sau Ung Loo Chan (class of '28 went on to become the first Asian-American woman to graduate from Yale Law School. Even among the remarkable stories that are typical of (Yale) alumni, hers is extraordinary."

This quote opens an article in a recent copy of the Yale Law Report which profiles former HWL member Sau Ung Loo Chan. Although retired for the past 23 years, her legacy continues to this day.

### *Called from Within*

Sau Ung Loo Chan was one of the women profiled in HWL/HWLF joint publication "Called from Within," and will be honored in print once again in a soon-to-be-published book on extraordinary women that have gone through Yale Law School.

After law school graduation, Chan attempted to establish legal aid offices throughout China but was thwarted by the Communist takeover. She returned to Honolulu and began practicing immigration law. In 1944, she was recruited as the small estate and guardianship attorney for the First Circuit Court, where she created a furor by imposing a cap on funeral expenses.



Sau Ung Loo Chan at home

In 1948, she traveled to Washington, DC where her efforts were credited with getting the Immigration Act of 1924 amended to eliminate discrimination of immigrant merchants.

She twice declined a judgeship because she felt she couldn't sit in judgement on other human beings.

Since her retirement in 1986 at age 70, Chan has been honored by the Hawaii State Bar Association, the Girl Scouts of America and the Chinese Community. Local columnist Will Hoover featured her in a newspaper article as well.

### *Today in Manoa*

Chan continues to live alone in her home in the Manoa Valley. She keeps an active interest in real estate and the stock market. She will celebrate her 93rd birthday in August with her daughter, Janice, who also lives in Honolulu. A publication date for the new book has not yet been announced.

## **"Redefining Success"**

*Women's Resource Center  
Seminar March 13th*

What is your idea of success? Spring is a time for metamorphosis and new beginnings. Celebrate Women's History Month and the beginning of the Spring season by reaffirming your sense of self and creating your own definition of success.

On March 13th, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Women's Resource Center "Ke Kūlana Wāhine" will present a seminar for women experiencing transitions such as career change, relocating, divorce/separation, or children leaving home.

The uncertainty of change can bring about stress. At the same time, transition can also be an exciting time of new challenges and opportunities. Good or bad, transition is, indeed, "the first day of the rest of your life."

This special program is an opportunity to share your unique experiences and insights with others who are also going through similar experiences. The seminar will be led by Kalei In, Ph.D. from Stanford University, sociologist, teacher, mother, consultant, researcher, and WRC volunteer.

This seminar is free of charge, but is limited to only 25 participants, so be sure to call to guarantee yourself a place. Ke Kulana Wahine, the Women's Resource Center, is located in room 306 of the YWCA Laniakea Center, 1040 Richards Street in downtown Honolulu. Their phone number is 532-5630. Don't put it off; call today.

## Get a Massage & Help Clothes Closet Project

*Stressed out and tense?  
Here's a Great Deal That Will  
Make You Feel Great Two Ways.*

Every Wednesday in March, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., a licensed massage therapist at The Massage Table Store in the Manoa Marketplace will give you a chair massage for a contribution of only \$1 per minute. No appointment is necessary.

The contributions will benefit the Clothes Closet Project, a joint effort between Hawai'i Women Lawyers and the Women's Resource Center at the YWCA. For more info, call Rhonda Scott, owner of The Massage Table Store at 988-7033.

## Chop Sui Generis

Double congratulations to **Leslie E. Kobayashi**, of Fujiyama, Duffy & Fujiyama. Barring complications, Leslie will be taking the bench as Hawaii's newest Federal Magistrate Judge in early August. In the meantime, she and her husband, attorney Clarence Tacarro, are also anticipating the birth of their first child (it's a boy!) in May. No official date for her swearing-in has been set yet.



**UH law students** are enjoying an incredibly successful year in team competitions. The Environmental Law moot court team won the national competition in New York in February. Both the Jessup International Moot Court team and the Client Counseling team won regional events in February and are now advancing to national competitions in March. This level of success is unparalleled when you consider UH is one of the smallest law schools in the nation.

## EEOC Senior Trial Attorney Daphne Barbee New Job Provides Opportunity to Make a Difference

Former HWL Board member Daphne Barbee has never been afraid to tackle a problem head-on, no matter how daunting. Barbee is now with the EEOC as the first and only attorney working for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Hawai'i. She has her work cut out for her.

On April 6th, Barbee will go before Federal Judge Susan Mollway in a case that pits the EEOC against the UPW, charging violations of the Federal Disabilities Act stemming from the union's failure to comply with a request to provide a sign language interpreter at union meetings.



The Honolulu EEOC office covers the C.N.M.I. (Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands) including Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Johnson Island, Wake Island and the Marshall Islands. Barbee says that labor laws are routinely violated in C.N.M.I. sweatshops, where garment workers are imported from China and the Philippines to live and work in prison-like confinement with unhealthy living conditions, inadequate medical care and physical abuse. Women who become pregnant are forced to get abortions, and many workers must sign what are referred to as so-called "shadow" contracts restricting their freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom to seek alternative jobs.

Because these are US Territories, retailers contract with the sweatshops so that they can say *Made in the USA* on their goods. Among the 18 retailers currently named in federal class action lawsuits are the Gap, J. Crew, Tommy Hilfiger, The Limited, Sears, J.C. Penny Co., Wal-Mart, and others.

## Advocates for Public Interest Law to Hold Luau Celebration on Friday, March 19th

Advocates for Public Interest Law cordially invite all HWL members, their families, friends, and all other interested parties to a Luau Celebration. The Luau will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 19th at the Williams S. Richardson School of Law Courtyard. There will be ono food and beverages plus a special performance by Halau Kaleipaukupua 'enaikala (The Law School Halau).

Opening this celebration will be elections for four community member openings on the A.P.I.L. Community Board. Anyone dedicated to promoting public interest law is invited to be a candidate. Potential candidates should contact Christine Andrews, Community Board Chairperson at 946-5350 or you may E-mail her at [andrewsc@hawaii.edu](mailto:andrewsc@hawaii.edu) by Thursday, March 18th.

**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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## HWL Legislative Committee Update

On Saturday, February 6th, HWL's Legislative Committee met with interested members at the 1999 Legislative Retreat. The committee gave everyone present an idea of what would be coming up in this legislative session, and then created a strategy plan to deal with the anticipated bills as they pass through committee. It was decided that bills which would be of particular interest to HWL would be bills which deal with prevention of domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse & harrassment, and civil rights issues.

Legislative Committee members Hazel Beh, Susan M. Ichinose, Rosemary McShane, Calleen Ching, Magali Sunderland and Suzanne Terada were each delegated to present testimony on bills pertaining to their specific area of interest and expertise. Many thanks to them, and also HWL member Lora Liss, who have put in long hours researching and writing the testimony that has been presented.

We are pleased to report that, thus far, the reception that HWL has received in this year's legislature has been far better than that of previous years, largely due to new leadership in the House.

A more complete rundown of the bills that HWL has targeted for attention and their progress as they pass through crossover will appear in next month's newsletter.

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