



HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS NEWSLETTER

August 1999

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Tips and Tidbits from HWL's July Brown Bag Lunch Program

HWLF Fundraiser Heating Up

Early tickets for HWLF's Annual Dinner featuring Hawaii's Mayors now on sale

Judicial Equity Issue Won't Rest

HWL Judicial Committee meets with Governor, Judicial Selection Commission members & others

New Brochure Now Available

HWL participates in development and distribution of brochure about voluntary establishment of paternity to explain the VEP program and its ramifications to new mothers.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, August 17th 8:30 am
HWL "get acquainted" morning coffee hour for incoming law students. William S. Richardson School of Law.

Wednesday, August 18th noon
"Opportunities in Teaching" HSBA Lawyers in Transition Series Seminar featuring Professor Randall Roth from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The program will be held in the HSBA Conference Room located at 1136 Union Mall, PH-1 in downtown Honolulu. Call 537-1868 for reservations. Free of charge.

Friday, August 27th 5:00 pm
"HWL Annual Meeting and 20-Something Anniversary Party" First Hawaiian Bank Banker's Club. (See headline story for details.)

Come Celebrate Our Birthday!

Food, Fun & Festivities on Friday, August 27th

The exclusive Banker's Club, on the top of the First Hawaiian Tower, will be the setting for the Hawai'i Women Lawyers 20-something Anniversary Celebration. Scheduled for Friday, August 27th, from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM, the party will serve as our annual general membership meeting, and feature appearances by founding members Rai Saint Chu, Carol Mon Lee, Sherry Broder and other women who have served the organization as directors and officers. Past HWL award recipients will also be present.



Margery S. Bronster

Keynote speaker for the event will be former Attorney General Margery Bronster, winner of the 1999 HWL "Hawai'i Woman Lawyer of the Year," honor. What a year she's had!

Margery's comments may prove to be particularly timely in light of the challenges of seeming double standards for women in politics and in the judiciary. A gutsy and popular Attorney General, when Bronster's second term failed to be confirmed, many of the demonstrators rallying at the Capitol accused the state Senate of blatant sexism and cronyism. She currently serves as a \$1 per year consultant in the AG's office.

The Birthday Party will feature heavy pupus, a no-host bar, and spectacular sunset views from the pinnacle of Hawai'i's tallest building.

It will also provide members and guests alike an opportunity to visit with the newly installed HWL Board of Directors.

A program highlight of the evening will be an historical perspective on HWL, and the myriad service projects, legislative initiatives and lobbying efforts conducted by the organization over the past two decades and more. Hopefully it will serve as added inspiration for the work that must be done now, at the turn of the millennium, in the areas of judicial gender equality, domestic violence and support for contemporary women's and children's issues.

**Big Party and Stuff
Friday, August 27, 1999
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Banker's Club at First Hawaiian Tower**

Cost for the party and program, which will feature ample opportunity for networking and pau hana uncoiling, is \$30 for HWL members and \$35 for non-members. People who elect to join the organization at the time of registration for the party, of course, will benefit from the lower rate.

Your check will confirm your reservation. RSVP by August 24th to HWL at 76 North King Street, Suite 206, Honolulu, HI 96817.

Chop Sui Generis

On the Move

Esther K. Arinaga has a new address and phone number. Her friends and business acquaintances will now be able to reach her at 5543 Po'ola Street, Honolulu 96821. Her new phone number is 337-3684.

Note This New Number

HWL Treasurer **Hilary Benson Gangnes** moved her practice to the law firm of Crabtree and Hoshibata early this summer.

Hilary is of counsel at the firm, working mostly in the area of plaintiff personal injury cases. She continues as a per diem judge in Honolulu District Court. The office number is 524-5644, or she can be reached via e-mail at gangnes@consumerlaw.com



How to Deal With Obstreperous Opposing Counsel

July HWL Brown Bag Luncheon Topic Reveals Stories

Ever been faced with the deplorable conduct of opposing counsel who bluster, bullies, and back-stabs? Attorneys Shelby Foyd, Cheryl Okuma-Sepe and Nancye Bethurem drew on their collective experiences in private and government law practices to describe survival--and success--strategies to women attorneys at the July brown-bag lunch meeting.

"Be the best prepared," and "keep to the high ground," were two of Nancye Bethurem's "top ten tips" for dealing with obstreperous opposing counsel. Stick to the substance, Nancye advised, and don't waste time trying to teach opposing counsel good manners. "Remember," says Nancye, "life is short."

Cheryl Okuma-Sepe agreed that perspective is important, and a sense of humor helps as well. Cheryl, who used to run for exercise, now spends time gardening to relax.

Shelby Foyd recommends seeking out more senior attorneys with whom you work for support and assistance. Time, patience and experience can help an attorney gain the knowledge and insight to know when an aggressive counter is required, or when a softer approach will be most effective.

All three speakers dramatized the need to develop personal strategies for dealing with difficult opposing counsel with real life horror stories, including Nancye's once being grabbed by the lapels in the heat of an argument. Nancye is an attorney for the federal government and serves as President of HWL. Cheryl, formerly of the City & county of Honolulu's Director of Wastewater Management, now serves as Honolulu First Deputy Corporation Counsel. Shelby is a partner in the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing.

Domestic Violence Help Cards

HWL wishes to express its gratitude to Bow Mun Chin of Na Loio and Advocates for Immigrant Women for their help in translating the newly developed multilingual domestic violence Help Cards for each of the neighbor islands and Oahu.

We would especially like to acknowledge Benjamin Chen, Esq. for his assistance in providing funding for the printing of the cards.

Help cards may be obtained from the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence at (808) 486-6939.

Donations and School Supplies Needed for Back-to-School Bash on August 14th

As a public service project, the Young Lawyers Division of the Hawai'i State Bar Association and American Savings Bank, in conjunction with Ohana Ola O Kahumana, are hosting a Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, August 14th, for children on the Leeward coast of Oahu who are either needy, homeless or in transitional housing.

These children come from families who can barely afford the basic necessities of life, much less the school supplies every child needs. You can help level the playing field just a little, by making sure these children start school with the basic tools they need to learn.

The response from the legal community thus far has been wonderful in obtaining books, school clothes and other goods. Unfortunately the project is still short of reaching their goal and they are appealing for additional help from the all attorneys and their staffs.

If you or your firm can spare just a few dollars, it will help purchase the rest of the desperately needed school supplies, and make this project a success.

Homeless and needy children have an especially difficult time in school. If you can help, please contact Paulette or Janna at the HSBA office (537-1868). Call now!

Vacancy Available on Hawai'i Land Use Commission

*Environmentally -Friendly
Lawyers Encouraged
to Apply*

A vacancy has been created on the Land Use Commission, due to the recent resignation of an "at-large" member.

Hawai'i Women Lawyers, the Sierra Club and other concerned community groups are encouraging Governor Cayetano to nominate an envirominded individual with a long history of cultural and land use involvement who understands environmental sustainability.

If you fit this profile and are interested in the position, we suggest that you call or write the Governor ASAP with your qualifications.

If you are not personally interested, but would like to support HWL's desire to have the Governor nominate someone from the environmental community to fill this important vacancy, we encourage you to let the Governor's office know your wishes.

Governor Benjamin Cayetano
Executive Chambers
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-0034
Fax: 586-0006
gov@gov.state.hi.us

HWL Participating in Day of Caring, August 25th

Aloha United Way is having a Day of Caring on Wednesday, August 25th. If you would like to volunteer to work on an HWL activity helping people during this event, please call Calleen Ching at 522-0673.

President's Message

In 1967, I led the first "sit-in" at my school. The school had decided to eliminate the entire sports program for "girls" (such as it was) in order to have more money for the "boys" and I was mad! Since "sit-ins" were the "in" method of protesting "the establishment," I organized the girls on all of the teams that were being eliminated, and we sat in the gym and refused to attend class until our protest was heard. It was just a short period of time before I was in front of the dreaded establishment, making my first legal argument. "It's unconstitutional, it's against the Bill of Rights, it's illegal," I proclaimed. "No, it's not, said "the man." I replied, "Well, it ought to be!" I thought that should get them. They asked, "Who do you think you are, Patsy Mink?"

"Hmm?" I thought. "Patsy Mink? I didn't know who she was, but replied anyway, "Of course I'm not, but I am her biggest fan." They laughed, sent me to class, and indicated that they would consider my position. As soon as I got out of there, I went directly to the library to find out who Patsy Mink was. I had a vision of a very tall and beautiful woman. It sounded like such an elegant, rich name. I was wrong about the "tall" part. I could not find any information at the library (this was before the days of internet research) and asked my history teacher. She laughed and explained that Patsy Mink was a Congresswoman from Hawaii who was making a name for herself because she believed in equal rights for women. I thought, "That's exactly who I want to be." Patsy Mink became my idol, because she was fighting to let girls gain equal opportunities with boys in school sports.

It's now 30+ years later. The same battles are being fought, although now, thanks to Patsy Mink, the law is on our side. It is illegal for young women to be deprived of sports programs in order to have more money for male athletics or less opportunity in education. That's what Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1972 accomplished, by banning sex discrimination in education, including high school athletics. Under Title IX, young women are entitled to equitable athletic facilities and opportunities. But isn't it ironic that Hawaii, home of Patsy Mink, still has such a long way to go.

In an attempt to rectify lack of compliance in Hawaii, a bill was passed in the last legislative session, Senate Bill 532, which would correct this inequality. Jill Nunokawa, an attorney and former UH Wahine basketball star, was the driving force behind this bill. The Governor was expected to sign the bill, but he didn't for unexplained reasons. Sadly, girls who love participating in sports will continue to be deprived of equal athletic opportunities. I encourage each of you to let the Governor know you are unhappy that he vetoed the equity bill. Girls out there are depending on us!

As for the outcome of my first "sit-in," we were allowed to continue our sports program as an intramural program, and the coaches "volunteered" their time after school. Times have changed but there is still work to be done. Thank you, Patsy Mink, for giving us the legal foundation to make this happen, and thank you, Jill Nunokawa, for continuing the fight for gender equity in education.



Nancye L. Bethurem

Legislative Committee Update

The Legislative Committee is headed by HWL Past President Susan Ichinose. Members of the committee include HWL Board Members Hazel Beh, Calleen Ching, Sara Harvey, Lea Hong, Lora Liss, Rosemary McShane, and April Wilson-South. This committee is probably HWL's most important committee, as it shoulders the bulk of our social and political agenda.

Although the committee works behind the scenes year-round, committee members work intensively for about six months - before, during and after each legislative session.

HWL is presently gearing up for the 2000 Legislative Session. We will be actively supporting legislation related to domestic and child abuse, welfare reform, education, health care, long term care, civil rights, and gender and pay equity. We will hold meetings and a retreat to frame and identify issues for the next legislative session and to organize and develop our strategy in the fall.

During legislative session, committee members will monitor the progress of bills, confer with and advise legislators, write and present 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.

After lobbying through four legislative sessions, HWL Legislative Committee is especially proud of its success in finally getting changes HRE 412 passed, bringing Rule 412 into conformity with modern rules of evidence, so that victims of sexual offenses will not be revictimized in court by the introduction of the victim's prior sexual history. The amendments were passed and signed into law in June of 1999.

HWL needs your help in our legislative effort. Interested members who would like to assist in our lobbying efforts should contact Susan Ichinose at 585-0333.

HWL Follows Up on Judicial Equity

The Battle Continues

During the month of July, the HWL Committee on the Judiciary (Susan Ichinose, Calleen Ching, Rosemary McShane, Nancye Bethurem, Hazel Beh) had very productive meetings with members of the Judicial Selection Commission, Governor Cayetano and Chief Justice Ronald Moon.

HWL wanted to learn more about the appointment process and explore ways we can become more effective in promoting gender diversity in the judiciary. During our meetings we were told that the number of women applicants is slipping, although we were unable to get accurate counts. HWL shall continue to press for more information.

Outgoing President, Rosemary McShane stressed in our last newsletter the need to remain vigilant because the number of women being appointed to the bench is declining.

HWL to Sponsor Seminar at HSBA Conference

HWL remains dedicated to supporting both ethnic and gender equity within Hawaii's judiciary. As part of our efforts to increase diversity and demystify the application process, HWL will be sponsoring a session at the December HSBA Convention.

Save This Date!

"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Judicial Selection Process But Were Afraid to Ask."

December 3, 1999
HSBA Annual Convention
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

You are the Membership; The Membership is You

Charla Murakami and Melissa Pavlicek
Membership Committee co-Chairs

As an organization of volunteers, Hawai'i Women Lawyers depends entirely on its members for support of programs, legislative advocacy, and this newsletter. Without you, there would be no HWL. We thank you for joining!

The HWL Membership Committee won't be successful without your help. The Committee's goal for the year 2000 is for every HWL member to invite at least one new member to join the organization.

Often, lawyers are interested in HWL, but don't know anyone who is a member - or, more accurately - that many people they already know are members. All it would take for a "prospect" to become an active HWL member is for a current member to invite them to join.

Please invite someone you know to join HWL this year.

To assist member-networking, the Membership Committee is completing a membership directory listing all HWL members, a valuable new resource. If you would like to join the Membership Committee call Charla at 524-2355 or Melissa at 522-5133.

Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation
Presents the
Ninth Annual Fundraiser Dinner
Entertainment Tonight

with
Mostly Mayors, Numerous Notables and High Muckety-mucks
The Monarch Room at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel
October 16, 1999 Saturday

Date: **Saturday, October 16, 1999**

Time: **5:30 p.m. Champagne reception/silent auction**
6:30-9:30 p.m. Dinner, program, silent auction

Place: **The Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Monarch Room**
2259 Kalakaua Avenue • Validated parking \$3 self parking, \$6 valet parking

Honorary Co-Chairs: **Mel Kaneshige, Chief Operating Officer, Outrigger Enterprises, Inc.**
Karen Nakamura, Executive Vice President, Building Industry Association of Hawaii

Donations: **Mayor's Table \$3,500**
Patron Table \$2,500
Sponsor Table \$1,500
Friend \$ 150 per seat

Make your reservation and return the form on the reverse side of this sheet!


Each table seats 10 people. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Projects & Organizations Funded:

Child & Family Service
Children's Advocacy Center
Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline
Family Peace Center
Friends of Children's Advocacy Centers of Oahu
Girl Scouts of Hawaii
Hale Ho'omaka Na Wahine
Hale Ola Windward Abuse Shelter

Hawaii Island YWCA
Hawaii State Committee on Family Violence
Hawaii State Foster Parents Association
Hawaii Women Lawyers
Judiciary's Committee on Gender Fairness
Kids First Program
Na Loio No Na Kanaka
Parents and Children Together

About HWLF:

 The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation is a non-profit, Section 501(c) (3) corporation formed in 1982. In order to fulfill our mission to "empower women in the legal profession..., influence the future of the legal profession, improve the status of women and advance equal opportunities for all people" in the State, we raise money to fund projects that assist Hawai'i's women and children. Our donors and supporters are lawyers, business people, judges, physicians, other professionals and people who care about Hawai'i's community, both men and women.



Questions? Contact Mary Houghton at HWLF, 396-8506, fax: 396-9162 or
EMAIL MHC.INC@worldnet.att.net

To order tickets: Please fill out and return the form below with your check made payable to HWLF in the enclosed envelope.

**No tickets will be sent. Registration will be at the door.
Table buyers will receive additional invitations for their guests.**

----- ✂ -----
Name of Donor: _____

Donor's Company/Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

- Reserve: Mayor's Table(s) at \$3,500 Patron Table(s) at \$2,500
- Sponsor Table(s) at \$1,500 Friend seat at \$ 150 each
- I cannot attend but wish to donate: \$50 \$100 Other

Total Amount: \$ _____ Check Circle Credit Card Type:



Print Name as it Appears on Card: _____

Expiration Date (mo./yr): _____ Account Number on Card: _____

I am donating a Silent Auction Item. Description: _____

Silent Auction Item Retail Value: \$ _____ Item enclosed.
 Please call to arrange delivery/pickup.

HWL: Who We Are & What We Are About

by President Nancye L. Bethurem

Our corporate charter describes the following goals:

1. To improve the status of women in the legal profession,
2. To increase the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility,
3. To promote the advancement of all women,
4. To provide education, instructional and training activities for the advancement and mutual enrichment of women attorneys, and
5. To maintain communication with other women's organizations in order to achieve the purposes of HWL.

Each of the activities of HWL for the past 20+ years, and continuing this year, advances these purposes. Our projects and programs have included offering seminars for women attorneys on the child and spousal abuse prevention, educating women on their legal rights, promoting the appointment of qualified women in the judiciary, challenging the "no women allowed" position of some of the private clubs in Hawaii, promoting legislation on behalf of women and children, participating in pro-ERA events, establishing the Hawai'i Women Lawyers Foundation (now called the HWLF- Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation), creating a speakers bureau, organizing a mentor program, participation in the UH laws school orientation, establishing model law firm maternity leave policies, assisting on a project regarding gender bias in the courtroom, completing "Called From Within," a biography of Hawaii's early women lawyers, providing legal assistance to women imprisoned in Hawaii, participating in Law Day activities, helping to form the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, providing free legal advice to victims of domestic violence, hosting a Pro-Choice Rally, organizing a statewide effort to promote the appointments of at least 50% women to Hawaii's state commissions and boards, and numerous other programs and projects to advance the interests of women and children.

Our committees need your help. Programs, projects, membership, legislative committees all need you. The volunteer efforts of our membership, with the assistance of our executive director get the work we do done.

Whatever your talents or time, there is a place for you in HWL. Call Kay Lorraine at 545-8055 and sign up today!

Congratulations

Two New Per Diem Judges Appointed for the Big Island

Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon has appointed two women as per diem judges for the District Court of the Third Judicial Circuit (Island of Hawai'i).

Jerilyn Ono Hall

New per diem judge, HWL member Jerilyn Ono Hall, is presently an attorney with the law firm of Belles Graham Proudfoot & Wilson. Previously, she was an associate with the law firm of Case & Lunch, and also served as a legal intern for the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in Honolulu.

Ono Hall's one-year term began on June 1, 1999 and will expire on May 31, 2000.

Barbara T. Takase

New per diem judge Barbara T. Takase is presently a sole practitioner in private practice. Previously, she was an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Department of Education. From 1989 to 1998, Takase was a deputy prosecuting attorney and supervisor for the District Court, Family Court, and Domestic Violence Unit, as well as the Screening/Intake Unit, at the Hilo Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Takase's two-year term began on May 3, 1999 and will expire on May 2, 2001.

Both women are graduates of the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Changes in Rule 412 signed on June 23, 1999



Shown here with Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono are HWL Legislative Committee members (left to right) Nancye Bethurem, Hilary Benson Gangnes, April Wilson-South, Lora Liss, Susan Ichinose and Calleen Ching.

**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: Nancy L. Bethurem
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Lea Hong
Lora Liss
Rosemary McShane
Charla J.H. Murakami
Melissa T. Pavlicek
April Wilson-South
Editor: Kay Lorraine

New Brochure About Voluntary Establishment of Paternity

On July 1, 1999, a new paternity establishment program was implemented in Hawai'i. Under this federally mandated Voluntary Establishment of Paternity (VEP) program, paternity of a child can be legally established when the mother and natural father sign paternity forms at the birthing hospital or at the Department of Health.

This VEP program may be beneficial to cooperating parents who wish to easily establish paternity without the expense and inconvenience of the court process. Once paternity is established, both parents have equal rights and responsibilities with respect to their children. However, for victims of domestic violence it may not be advisable to voluntarily establish paternity because sole custody of the children is lost.

HWL worked closely with the members of the Civil Justice Subcommittee of the O'ahu Domestic Violence Task Force to develop and distribute brochures for mothers that will clearly explain the VEP program and its ramifications. Additionally, in conjunction with the Subcommittee, HWL participated in conducting training on the new law for the domestic violence community.

The brochure may be obtained from the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, DVCLH and AmeriCorps SAVD.

HAWAI'I WOMEN LAWYERS
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805

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