

Hawai'i Women Lawyers

April 2002

You can also find us at: <http://www.hsba.org/sections/HWL/hwl.html>

Upcoming Events

WHAT: Settling Disputes By E-Mail and Using E-Mail In The Negotiation Process

WHEN: Tuesday, April 23, 2002, noon to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Cades, Schutte Conference Room; 1000 Bishop St., 12th FL

WHO: Giuseppe Leone

WHY: The global economy has created unprecedented business opportunities as well as disputes in which parties live in different states or countries. An increasing number of mediators are now providing their services online, helping parties reach an agreement entirely by email. Besides learning more about online mediation, you will also learn about the strategic use of email in the negotiation process. Giuseppe Leone has 25+ years experience in business management and international trade. He has been a mediator since 1997. He is an online mediator for eBay disputes. He is also a mediator for the United States Postal Service for EEO disputes.

COST: \$7, includes lunch. RSVP to Erin Uyeda at eu@miyasaki.com or call her at 521-3255. Please send a check payable to Hawaii Women Lawyers, to her by April 19, at Pacific Tower, Suite 1030, 1001 Bishop St., Hon. 96813.

First HWL Happy Hour Rousing Success! April Happy Hour Scheduled

HWL held their first Happy Hour of 2002 at Che Pasta on March 15, 2002. A number of people were on hand to kick-back, drink a glass of wine, and relax after the long work week. In light of the success of the first Happy Hour, HWL has scheduled its April Happy Hour for April 19, 2002 at 5:30 pm at Che Pasta. All (members/non-members) are welcome.

Congresswoman Patsy Mink Speaks at HWL Celebration of Women's History Month

By Julia Morgan

On March 27, 2002, Congresswoman Patsy Mink spoke to HWL members. The presentation was to honor Women's History Month. Rep. Mink had been chosen by the National Women's History Project to be honored during Women's History Month as one of six women whose actions have shaped, and continue to shape, our history.

Representative Mink began by recounting the story of how she got involved in politics. After being denied admission into at least a dozen medical schools, Rep. Mink applied to and was accepted at the University of Chicago law school. She was admitted under a "foreign students" exemption and required to take English classes. After graduating, she returned to Hawaii and petitioned to take the bar exam. The Attorney General rejected her application on the basis that she had lost her domicile in Hawaii when she married her Pennsylvanian husband in Chicago. Never one to sit back, Rep. Mink wrote a brief arguing her case. To say the least, Rep. Mink sat for the bar.

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An Evening with Helen Zia -- critically acclaimed author of "Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People," and "My Country Versus Me" with **Wen Ho Lee**. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Japan America Society of Hawaii, Pacific Asian Affairs Council cordially invite you to An Evening with Helen Zia

Friday, April 19th
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Fifth floor lounge
2454 S. Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 945-7633

5:30 Welcome reception, light refreshments

6:30 Program begins

6:45- Helen Zia will be speaking on the Impact of Sept. 11 on Asian Americans

Free and open to the public. Validated parking \$2.00

Helen Zia is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*, and the recently released *My Country Versus Me* with **Wen Ho Lee**. She is an award-winning journalist who has contributed numerous articles, essays, columns, and reviews to such publications as *Ms.*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Essence*, *San Francisco Focus*, *A Magazine*, *OUT!*, *Social Policy*, *Sojourner*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. A second generation Chinese American, Helen Zia has been a long-time activist for social justice on issues ranging from civil rights and peace to women's rights and countering hate violence. For more information contact 945-7633.

President's Message: Mentoring



**HWL President:
April Wilson-South**

On March 14, 2002, Hawai'i Women Lawyers' sponsored its second annual HWL Balancing Work and Family Luncheon at the Richardson School of Law. During the luncheon, practicing attorneys spoke for several hours with law students about whether it is possible to practice law and have a rich personal life, and how one goes about making the choices that allow for the practice of law and a fulfilling personal life.

Emi Morita, HWL law student board member, arranged this event which was a wonderful forum for women law students -- who will soon be lawyers -- to ask questions like, "Do I have to wait to have a family?" and "I'm married and I love my spouse; will I be able to spend any time with him once I'm working?"

There were three separate panels of 3 to 4 attorneys who spoke with groups of 10 to 15 law students. All of the attorneys on the panel in which I participated agreed that the current environment for practicing law is much more open to possibilities that allow a lawyer to have a life as well as a career. All of the panelists agreed that it was important not to "wait for your life to begin" but to have children when you want them and to devote time to the important people in your life -- because these are the things that really matter in life.

However, it was also clear that most of the attorneys in the panel worked far more than an eight-hour day (though one panelist was taking some time to stay home while her two young sons were still toddlers).

We all agreed that any attorney who wants to limit her commitment to a "normal work week" (i. e., 40 hours) has to carefully evaluate where they are willing to work, and should do some background research on a firm's reputation regarding family friendliness before they accept a position. Additionally, we all agreed that it was important to know the balance that you want in your life and to explicitly advise a potential employer or working partner of the amount of time you are willing to devote to the practice of law, and of the expectations you have about the time you plan to devote to family and other personal activities. All of us agreed that some types of practice (particularly litigation) do not allow a 40-hour week, while other areas of law can be controlled and limited to a 40-hour week or less.

HWL is currently working on developing other ideas about how our organization can develop, sponsor and participate in other mentoring activities -- not only for law students, but also for our membership and others in our community, including high school, intermediate, and elementary school students. If you are interested in participating in the development of an HWL mentorship program or have any ideas about mentorship that you would like to share with us, please send me an email at April@hicrc.org.

Aloha,
April

A Congresswoman's Plea

by Julia Morgan

When I told a male friend Representative Patsy Mink was speaking at an HWL luncheon, he scoffed: "Why? She has no power." How quickly elation deflates in the face of such perception. So, I trudged over to Carlsmith Ball on March 27 around noon, to listen to a woman I believed had "no power." I had no great expectations, but did hope enough of our members showed so as not to embarrass us or the Representative.

The luncheon audience filled the conference room and included women of all ages. One of our directors even brought her two daughters. That director, whom I admire greatly, did a very good thing by inviting her girls. For, not only should we have brought our daughters to hear this so-called powerless woman speak, we should have brought our colleagues, our mentors, our bosses. In fact, everyone should hear Rep. Mink speak at some time in their lives.

Congresswoman Mink began by telling us about her early career and the chicken skin never stopped. She spoke of the trials and tribulations she faced as being the first woman to do so many things: she was the first woman to become her high school class president; the first woman to practice law in Hawaii; the first woman of color in the U.S. Congress. The impressive list goes on. Rep. Mink's story reminds us that only a short time has passed since women were not allowed to go medical school or law school. We were, as Rep. Mink said, half a person. No one told her she was half a person until she tried to apply to medical school and her application was soundly rejected. No one told her she would never be hired to practice law, because the work was too hard and too demanding, until she applied for attorney positions here in Hawaii.

Instead of bowing her head to the rejection, Representative Mink fought. She fought the Hawaii State Attorney General and forced him to let her take the bar, making him reverse his earlier decision that she lost her domicile in Hawaii when she married a Pennsylvanian in Chicago. She fought Scott Foresman Inc. in 1965 and got the publisher of popular children's readers to portray women as having leadership roles in society. She fought the Administration and forced them to establish the Job Corps for both boys and girls. She fought the U.S. Department of Education and forced them to edit their career development movie, intended for release to high schools throughout the country, to add information on career options for women in addition to nursing or secretarial careers. Then, in the early '70s, Patsy Mink fought Congress and successfully added five lines that changed the face of the United States.

Those five lines, now commonly known as Title IX, essentially state that no institution receiving federal funds can discriminate against women. Five lines and women can go to law school. Five lines and women can become world champions of soccer and receive gold medals at the Olympics. Five lines and the daughter of the man who said Patsy Mink was powerless can go to medical school and become a pediatrician - an option Patsy Mink did not have in her time.

The fight for equality is not over, at least not for Rep. Mink. Her battle has shifted to poor and mostly poor women who are struggling to make ends meet. She is dedicated to education - informing the audience with horror that Hawaii is ranked 50th in education, below Mississippi. She told the group they could help. They could read at schools. They could tutor. They could adopt a school. They could spend time with the children of Hawaii and help them to see their options and their possibilities. They could play a role in letting a child know they were a whole person. After it was all over, not once, not twice, but half a dozen times I heard members of the audience say they wanted to help. They were so motivated by the power of Rep. Mink, her story, and her convictions, that they wanted to answer her plea and do something.

And do something we can. Part of the mission of HWL is ". . . to enhance the status of women and to promote equal opportunities for all people." In the upcoming months HWL will be contacting its membership to help with various volunteer programs to fulfill that mission and help the women and children of Hawaii. We hope to create tutoring, mentoring and other programs. We also will be working with Patsy Mink's office and others to enhance the status of women and promote equality for all people. We hope our membership will be as excited and as invigorated by these opportunities as those who heard Mrs. Mink speak.

Representative Mink closed by reminding the audience the legal profession is a public service and we can not block out what is happening in society. Instead, we must continue to reach out. Rep. Mink is right. Our profession is a public service and we must reach out to our community and help those like Rep. Mink find solutions.

Mahalo

—Julia

Celebration of Women's History Month: Congresswoman Patsy Mink

(Continued from page 1)

With license in hand, she set about finding a job. Each interview ended in rejection. She was repeatedly told she could not be hired because she had to take care of her child and husband ("as if he were some sort of invalid," she scoffed). She was told the work, which included night and weekend work, was too demanding and women could not compete. Unable to find work at a firm, she hung her shingle at 12 N. King Street and started practice. Her clients were very poor and her first payment was "a big red fish." She joked she would never have gotten into politics had the system welcomed her in to practice law.

Mrs. Mink told the rapt audience Title IX did not occur overnight, but was the end of a series of battles fought in Congress. The first began in 1965, when Mrs. Mink encouraged Congress to hold hearings on the content of Scott Foresman Readers, a popular line of children's readers. The readers consistently portrayed women as mothers with aprons, nurses, or seated behind a typewriter receiving directions from a male boss. The readers never showed women as having leadership roles in society. After massive hearings on the subject, Scott Foresman changed its children's readers to better reflect the role of women in society.

Rep. Mink fought her next two battles against the Administration. She convinced the Administration that the newly formed Job Corps should include jobs for girls, as well as boys. After that success, she convinced the Administration to edit their educational film on career opportunities, which was distributed throughout the United States, to include information on careers for both girls and boys. Finally, in the early 1970's, she was instrumental in passing Title IX, which essentially states no institution receiving federal funds can discriminate against women. As a result of her hard work, overnight schools were transformed. Today, she noted women could go to medical school, an opportunity denied her, or law school. Women could win world soccer championships and gold medals at the Olympics and go to college on scholarships and fellowships.

Mrs. Mink warned the audience the battle was not over. Title IX annually runs the risk of being watered down as women, who have forgotten how much they have gained in such a short time because of Title IX, fail to realize how important it is to preserve.

Rep. Mink's work on gender equality, including Title IX, stem from her admission rejections from medical schools in 1948. The rejections shocked her to the core. Her parents, who were very traditional, never told her she could not be what she wanted to be. Not until she applied to medical school did society, the government, and everyone else tell her, in no uncertain terms, that she was not a whole person.

Mrs. Mink continues her work on gender equality issues by working on welfare reform issues. She also is very concerned with the plight of education in Hawaii. She noted with amazement and horror that Hawaii is now ranked 50th in education, below Mississippi. Rep. Mink concluded her comments by reminding the audience that law is a public service and each lawyer has an obligation to go out and serve the community.



Anne Lopez, the project coordinator for Hawai'i Women Lawyers, is looking for projects. Anne is currently developing a few ideas but would welcome any suggestions from the membership. Anne can be reached at: (w) 539.4722, (c) 782.5051 or by email at: lopezan@hawaii.rr.com

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Here are the events taking place during the month.

For more information on any of the events, call the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at 535-7600.

DINE OUT FOR A CHANGE!

Eat at one of the following restaurants on Tuesday, April 23, 2002.
A portion of your bill will be donated to the Sex Abuse Treatment Center.

The restaurants include:

Big City Diner
Chai's Bistro
Che Pasta
Honolulu Cafe
Indigo
Murphy's
Pomodoro's Cafe
Sunset Grill

for more information on this event, contact Angela at 535-7600.

OPENING CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 3, 2002 11:00-1:00

Tamarind Park, Bishop Square

Information booths from over half a dozen agencies on topics including child sexual and physical abuse and abduction, domestic violence and more. Entertainment provided.

SEX ASSAULT PREVENTION: WHAT DADS NEED TO KNOW

Monday, April 8, 2002 5:30-7:00

Kapiolani Women's Center, 1907 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu

Learn the role that fathers and mothers can play in helping to prevent sexual victimization. To register, call 535-7000.

PERSONAL SPACE: SEX ASSAULT PREVENTION FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND MENTAL RETARDATION

Wednesday, April 10, 2002 9:00-3:00

Kapiolani Women's Center, 1907 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu

A training program to take the issue of sexual assault prevention to those with developmental disabilities and mental retardation. To register call 535-7000.

WHEN SHE SAYS NO

Friday, April 12, 2002 10:00-11:00 or 11:00-noon

Leeward Community College, General Technology Building Room 218 and Monday, April 15, 2002 9:00-10:15 University of Hawaii, Manoa, Queen Liliuokalani Student Services Center, Room 412

Enjoy a presentation of the award winning "When She Says No," an examination of two couples, one who has a healthy relationship and one whose relationship ends in a sexual assault.

VOICES FROM US ALL

Friday, April 12, 2002 6:00-8:00

Serendipity Books and Gifts, 2885 S. King Street, Suite 202

An array of readings and monologues related to violence and sexual assault.

Hawai'i Women Lawyers

HWL Newsletter is published ten times a year.

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Hawaii Women Lawyers is a non-profit organization of men and women, founded in 1976, committed to: Improving the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influencing the future of the legal profession, and enhancing the status of women and promoting equal opportunities for all people.

HWL annually elects members to serve on its 15-member board of directors. Members volunteer to serve on committees such as the Legislative, Newsletter, Programs, Projects, Publicity, Judicial Equity and Membership committees. HWL is supported by the dues paid by its members and grant funding from the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and other organizations.

COME TO THE TEA PARTY!

Join Alice, the March Hare, and the Dormouse at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party! **Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation** invites you to the Tea Party on Sunday, April 28, 2002, 4-6 p.m., at the home of Terry and Rick Clifton, 2475 Makiki Heights Drive, Honolulu (carpooling encouraged, parking limited).

The Rhoda Lewis Award for Public Service will be presented at the event to **Elizabeth Croom** of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. While the event is free, the Mad Hatter's hatbox will be passed for HWLF. If you come hatless, one will be provided for you.

RSVP to Mary Houghton at 396-8506 by April 23rd.

REGISTERED
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