

## *Upcoming Events* HWLF Silent Auction Traveling Jewelry Show

Come, view and buy jewelry handcrafted by Hisaka Goto Yoshida Cosgrove & Ching to benefit the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. Jewelry will be on sale at the HWLF Fundraiser Silent Auction to be held on October 16, 2004 at the Sheraton Waikiki and during a presale at the following locations and times:

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

October 4 and 5, 2004

at Cades Schutte, LLLC

12th Floor Conference Room

Cades Schutte Building

1000 Bishop Street

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

October 6, 7, and 8, 2004

at Hisaka Goto Yoshida

Cosgrove & Ching

Pacific Guardian Center,

Mauka Tower

737 Bishop Street, Suite 3000

Please support this worthwhile event. If you need further information, contact Lauren Sharkey at Case, Bigelow & Lombardi at 547-5400.

## HWLF FUNDRAISER

### "Tony & Tacky, the Musical"

When: October 16, 2004

Where: Sheraton Waikiki Ballroom

If interested in attending, please contact Lane Hornfeck McKay at Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher at 537-6100.

## Shawna Sodersten receives prestigious Sunshine Peace Award

Shawna Sodersten, Supervising Attorney at The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse, received one of the prestigious Sunshine Peace Awards at a ceremony in Wilmington, NC on August 7, 2004. Ms. Sodersten was selected for this national award for her important work advancing safety and protections for victims of domestic abuse.



"Shawna is one of the attorneys working locally who makes a big difference, at our agency and in the community. She has touched the lives of individual survivors and influenced the direction of public policy in Hawai'i," says Nanci Kreidman, Executive Director of The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse. "Her contribution cannot be overstated." The

Sunshine Lady Foundation, created and supported by Doris Buffet, looks for individuals working in domestic violence whose work has had a broad impact on the community and who are passionate about the personal and professional development of women.

As a representative of the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Hawaii Women Lawyers, Ms. Sodersten has worked with Hawai'i's legislature drawing on her years of experience as an attorney working in Family Court. The work done by Ms. Sodersten has contributed to improvements in the protection order process, the handling of interstate custody disputes and the ability of victims to take time off from work to improve their safety without risking their jobs. The Hawaii Victims Leave Act, which took effect January of 2004, allows victims to take unpaid leave to go to court, relocate, or obtain services relevant to recovery and safety. Hawai'i was the second state in the nation to pass such a law, thanks in part to the advocacy and lobbying of Ms. Sodersten.

*Congratulations Shawna!!!*

# President's Column

Lane Hornfeck McKay, HWL President



As many of you know, Summer brings a changing of the guard for HWL. At our Annual Meeting, held on June 25, 2004 at the law firm of Case Bigelow & Lombardi, we recognized the election of new HWL officers, including myself

as president, Stacey Djou as vice president, and Patsy Kirio as secretary, and we recognized the re-election of Lauren Sharkey as treasurer. We welcomed back board members Joy Miyasaki as our immediate past president and fearless leader, Danielle Conway-Jones, Joanne L. Grimes, Emi L. Kaimuloa, Lynne J. McGivern, Zale T. Okazaki, and Shawna J. Sodersten. We welcomed new board members M. Nalani Fujimori, Tricia Nakamatsu, Ruth Oh and Shellie Park. We also welcomed two new student representatives from the William S. Richardson School of Law, Larrissa N. Schwartz and Sarah Bazzi. As meetings and parties go, this meeting was quite a success. Attendance was quite high, the food from Indigos was fantastic, and the location was comfortable and fun. Thank you again to all who joined in the festivities and those who planned them. All in all, the Annual Meeting set the right tone for this coming year.

HWL would like to thank Karen Narasaki and Mari Matsuda for speaking at the July 7, 2004 breakfast co-sponsored with the William S. Richardson

School of Law. The talk was inspiring and enlightening for all in attendance. We also owe a big thank you to Joy Miyasaki and Ruth Oh for coordinating with the law school and organizing the breakfast. More details on the substance of the talk can be found in the article contained in this newsletter.

September 2004 is the 11th Annual Women's Health Month in Hawaii. Women's Health Month is organized by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, and this year's theme is Women's Fitness-Body, Mind and Soul. HWL will be sponsoring 4 brown bag seminars for the general public to promote women's "legal health." The general topics are basic estate planning, the Hawaii Victims Leave Act, general family law, and basic residential leasing rights. If you are interested in giving an additional seminar, give me a call or send me an email. If you are interested in attending one, look for more details on these seminars in the calendar section of this newsletter.

— Lane Hornfeck McKay

# A Breakfast Discussion On Being American: Earned Citizenship & Patriotism

by Ruth K. Oh & Lane Hornfeck McKay



The exacting critique of their words and years of advocacy, not the Kona coffee, kept the attendees' interests and adrenaline high, even at the early hour of 7:30 a.m. Adorned with firecracker leis just a few days after the Fourth of July, two dynamic speakers and women attorneys Karen Narasaki and Mari Matsuda shared their insights and social commentary, "On Being American" at a "sold-out" breakfast of 40 female and male leaders in the legal community. Hawaii Women Lawyers and the William S. Richardson School of Law co-sponsored the speaking event and discussion over breakfast at the Boardroom of the First Hawaiian Bankers Club.

Ms. Narasaki, President and Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium ("NAPALC"), has been named one of Washington's 100 Most Powerful Women, and she did not disappoint in her brief presentation. As the chair of the Rights Working Group ("RWG"), a coalition of human rights, civil rights, immigration rights, and civil liberties groups concerned with the erosion of rights of immigrants and their communities, particularly after 9/11, Ms. Narasaki spoke with authority based on her years of dedication to shaping national policy in these areas. RWG helped to craft the Civil Liberties Restoration Act. Ms. Narasaki also serves as the Vice President of the Coalition for New American Opportunities (a coalition of national and local immigrant rights groups and labor), which is leading the campaign for comprehensive immigration law reform.

Ms. Narasaki spoke of changing demographics and definitions of who gets to be seen as "American," from where it emanates, and why newly restrictive distinctions are growing between undocumented and temporary non-citizens. Acknowledging with sensitivity the devastation of 9/11, Ms. Narasaki questioned the direction of the U.S. Department of Justice on who is and should be American. The legal policy and social issues converged with many unanswered questions and implications, such as how hard should naturalization be? Why do legal permanent residents get lesser rights when they serve in our military? Why are Asians and Arabs on the mainland still seen as less than American when we/they, too, like most Americans, have funny dysfunctional families?

On a note that hits close to home, Ms. Narasaki commented on how Hollywood's North Shore is guilty of perpetuating lead actors in mythic scenes of "all-American" renditions of Ken and Barbie living in paradise. She noted, as many of us living in Hawaii may have, that North Shore, is devoid of local flavored reality, except for a trace of realism with Filipina maids employed at local luxury resorts "acting" as extras. Hopefully, the voice of this powerful woman may move Hollywood to recognize that the fictions perpetuated in American TV culture are noticeably flawed and may need revision in a pragmatic and policy-correct world.



The ultimate goal and potential solution – deconstruct these fictions and categories. Offering hope for “nice ladies in suits” to find courage to speak up without fear of backlash, both Ms. Narasaki and Ms. Matsuda gave a simple suggestion to the attendees – ask the big question – why?

Mari Matsuda, professor at Georgetown University Law Center and author of well-known articles on constitutional law and jurisprudential issues, is another pace-setter in expanding society’s views and consciousness in areas of affirmative action, feminist theory, and civil rights. Ms. Matsuda serves on several national advisory boards of Ms. Magazine, the ACLU, and NAPLC. She commented with scalpel-like precision on some classic images and means of being American – noticing that these means are typically traditional roles and rites of passage enjoyed exclusively by men. Ms. Matsuda broadened our intellectual boundaries by viewing the world’s approach to citizenship through a decidedly clear lens. For example, Ms. Matsuda addressed the primary way an American can be viewed as patriotic and loyal to “his” country – serving in the military and serving in times of combat. This mechanism of attaining the title of “ultimate patriot” has been historically reserved for men, where women have been often excluded from the front lines of battle and excluded from elite forces within the military branches.

In concert with Ms. Narasaki, Ms. Matsuda highlighted the distinct approaches between the male and female to the ever-American past-time of sports. In her opinion, women players do not just accept the directions of the coach to just jump the fence, run with the ball, tackle the opponent. Women players tend occasionally to challenge hierarchies or other traditional structures and to ask such radical questions as why?

Ms. Matsuda also compared “earning citizenship” and the male – female approaches of acquiring positions or being a part of a club or group. By giving special rights to one group, the citizens, and denying those rights to others, the non-citizens, the citizens attain a special status or place. This is demonstrated and historically reinforced with opportunities sought by males – to lead, to be special and to belong. Ms. Matsuda offered that, on the whole, women tend to be more inclusive and desire to share rights and opportunities with all men, women and children.

Both Ms. Narasaki and Matsuda inspired the attendees to question the current state of demographics and definitions of the American citizen. Ask why, over and over, again, as we deconstruct old images and strive toward redefining and legislating what “being American” really needs to mean for all.



## Women's Health Month - Women's Fitness - Body, Mind and Soul September 2004

In conjunction with Women's Health Month, HWL is organizing four seminars scheduled as follows:

- **September 9, 2004:** *"Do I Need a Will? What Are the Basic Estate Planning Tools?"* by Joy Miyasaki (5:00 p.m.)
- **September 16, 2004:** *"Protecting Your Rights As a Residential Tenant"* by Lane Hornfeck McKay (5:00 p.m.)
- **September 23, 2004:** *"Hawaii Pregnancy and Victims' Leave Laws"* by Shawna Sodersten (5:00 p.m.)
- **September 30, 2004:** *"General Family Law"* by Shawna Sodersten and Lynne McGivern (5:00 p.m.)

All seminars will be held at the YWCA in Room 205.

### Kaho`olawe Access Trip February 2005

HWL is planning a trip to Kaho`olawe tentatively scheduled for either February 19 or 26, 2004. Cost for the trip will be \$100 plus airfare. The Kaho`olawe access trip is coordinated by Protect Kaho`olawe Ohana ([www.kahoolawe.org](http://www.kahoolawe.org)).

Please contact Larissa Schwartz for more information  
([lschwartz@hawaii.edu](mailto:lschwartz@hawaii.edu))

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE BAR  
APPLICANTS WHO  
RECENTLY TOOK  
THE JULY 2004 BAR  
EXAMINATION.

Do not forget to update your membership information at [hawaiiwomenlawyers@hotmail.com](mailto:hawaiiwomenlawyers@hotmail.com)

*Hawai'i Women Lawyers*

P.O. Box 2072

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805

PRE-SORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HONOLULU, HI  
PERMIT NO. 172

Hawaii Women Lawyers  
Officers and Board of Directors  
2004 - 2005

President	Lane Hornfeck McKay
Vice President/President-Elect	Stacey K. Djou
Secretary	Patsy H. Kirio
Treasurer	Lauren R. Sharkey
Immediate Past President	Joy Miyasaki
Directors	Danielle Conway-Jones Nalani Fujimori Joanne L. Grimes Emi L. Kaimulua Lynne Jenkins McGivern Tricia Nakamatsu Ruth K. Oh Zale T. Okazaki Shellie K. Park Shawna J. Sodersten
William S. Richardson School of Law Student Representatives	Sarah Bazzi Larissa N. Schwartz