

Upcoming Events

Brown Bag Lunch

Personality Types in Decision-Making

- Who:** Judge Leslie Hayashi
- When:** Tuesday, January 18, 2005 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- What:** A presentation on personality types in decision-making. Judge Hayashi will address how the Myers-Briggs/Keirsey personality temperament may be an important factor in understanding the law and communicating with judges. If you are interested in attending, please take the "Temperament Sorter II" test in advance. It is available online at <http://www.advisorteam.com>.
- Where:** Carlsmith Ball, ASB Tower, 22nd Fl.
- RSVP:** Attendance is \$7.00, lunch included. Please contact Lane Hornfeck McKay at lmckay@starnlaw.com by 12:00 p.m. on January 17, 2005 if you wish to attend.

Lora Nakai - Heaven on Earth - Healthy Life and Business

- Who:** Lora Nakai, Heaven on Earth
- When:** Tuesday, February 15, 2005 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Where:** Carlsmith Ball, ASB Tower, 22nd Fl.
- RSVP:** Attendance is \$7.00, lunch included. Please contact Lane Hornfeck McKay at lmckay@starnlaw.com by 12:00 p.m. on February 14, 2005 if you wish to attend.

HWL's Annual Awards Reception: March 18, 2005

You are invited to attend Hawaii Women Lawyers' 2004 Annual Awards Reception and join us in honoring the outstanding work and commitment of five distinguished women:

Lea Hong - Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year Award
**Honorable Judge Susan Oki Mollway -
Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award**
Lois Yasui - Lifetime Achievement Award
Nanci Kriedman - Distinguished Service Award
Dr. Laura Weldon Hoque - President's Award
(see page three for biographies of the awardees)

Friday, March 18, 2005
The Plaza Club, Main Dining Room
900 Fort Street Mall
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
\$35 per person

Pupus will be served; beverages will be available by script. Discounted parking will be available in the Pioneer Plaza building after 5:00 p.m.

To make your reservation, please contact Shellie Park at shellie@hawaii.edu or 539-4722 and mail your check for \$35 per person, payable to Hawaii Women Lawyers, to her at 2648 Kuilei Street #102C, Hon. 96826, by March 11. Please indicate the names of all your guests with your reservation.

Come and help us honor our extraordinary award winners! We look forward to seeing you on March 18.

President's Column

Lane Hornfeck McKay, HWL President



On behalf of the board of directors of HWL, I hope your holidays and New Year were fun, exciting and, most importantly, restful. HWL is gearing up for 2005 and very excited about upcoming brown bag seminars, projects, and the Annual Awards Ceremony.

This past December 2004, the Board voted on nominations for our Annual Awards. We hope that you will join us on March 18, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at the Plaza Club to honor this year's award winners.

As always, feel free to send in suggestions, comments and ideas for new projects and seminars to HWL to insure that we are making HWL work for, and serve the needs of, the HWL membership.

University of Hawai'i's First Annual Winter Institute for Black Studies

In support of the core principles of diversity and equity, the Faculty of African Descent (FAD) announces the launch of the First Annual Winter Institute for Black Studies at the University of Hawai'i. The FAD, through the Winter Institute for Black Studies, will engage a new topic and rotate the WIBS Chair each year. What will not change is FAD's commitment to showcasing the research and intellect of scholars of African Descent whose work impacts societal conditions affecting Hawai'i, the Pacific, Asia, and the African Diaspora.

With the First Annual WIBS, the FAD at the University of Hawai'i joins the debate about health disparities already in progress nationally and internationally. To advance both the scholarship of Faculty of African Descent and the health needs of Hawai'i, FAD presents Lifestyle Changes: Keys to Reducing Health Disparities among People of Color. The Institute will be held on January 18-19, 2005 at the East-West Center, Imin Conference Center on the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Campus. The Institute seeks to showcase, among others, distinguished scholars, researchers, teachers, strategists, and historians of African Descent who will address how the national study and discourse of health disparities in People of Color communities impact Hawai'i and its communities.

The ultimate benefit of the Institute lies in its ability to position the University of Hawai'i to have an aggressive advocacy infrastructure and make a major impact on the national health agenda, particularly as it affects poor, medically underserved minorities in the State, region, and nation. The First Annual Winter Institute for Black Studies, with its focus on health disparities among People of Color, will attract scholars of color to the University of Hawai'i. The advances made with this Institute will further promote University of Hawai'i's leadership in diversity.

Please join us in Hawai'i as we launch this historic Institute. To learn more about FAD, WIBS, and the University of Hawai'i, please visit www.UHFAD.com. Please also download from the website the co-sponsorship form and, if possible, make a contribution to the Winter Institute for Black Studies. Finally, please feel free to distribute throughout your network.

Mahalo,

Danielle Conway-Jones, Associate Professor of Law & Co-Program Director Winter Institute for Black Studies

2004 HWL Annual Award Recipients

Lea Hong - Outstanding Women Lawyer of the Year Award



Lea Hong has spent most of her legal career protecting Hawai'i's precious and unique environmental and cultural resources. After working for several years at the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now known as the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund), she joined the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing in 1996 as an associate. She became a shareholder and director in 2000 and formed the firm's environmental and cultural resources practice group, which she continues to chair today.

Lea was part of an excellent team of lawyers at Earthjustice who litigated groundbreaking environmental and Native Hawaiian issues, including *Public Access Shoreline Hawai'i and Pilago v. Hawai'i County Planning Commission*, 79 Hawai'i 425, 903 P.2d 1246 (1995), *cert. denied*, 517 U.S. 1163 (1996) (the *PASH/Kohanaiki* decision) and *In re Water Use Applications*, 94 Hawai'i 97, 9 P.3d 409 (2000) (the Wai'ahole Ditch decision). At Earthjustice, she helped to represent community environmental organizations in several successful Clean Water Act lawsuits regarding unlawful discharges of sewage from wastewater treatment plants. She was lead counsel of one the first Hawaiian/environmental coalitions, the Ahupua'a Action Alliance, which included over 60 diverse organizations.

Since joining Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, Ms. Hong has continued her commitment to the protection of environmental and cultural resources. In her first few months with the firm, she obtained an injunction on behalf of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ("OHA") and the Kona Hawaiian Civic Club to stop a beach dredging project at a Hawai'i Island resort that adversely impacted environmental and historic sites. Other high profile cases include her work as co-counsel for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL), including: (1) an amicus curiae brief in *Rice v. Cayetano* (U.S. Supreme Court), and (2) *In re Wai'ola O Moloka'i*, 103 Hawai'i 401, 83 P.3d 664 (2004) (DHHL water rights). Her *pro bono* clients in private practice have included Friends of the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, the Kailua Bay Advisory Commission, Life of the Land, the Hoe 'Ohana, Na Mamo O Hawai'i, Tau Dance Theater (a non-profit contemporary Hawaiian dance group for which Lea also serves as a director), and the Callonis (a military couple in a dispute with a townhome association regarding installation of a solar water heating panel – the panel was allowed to remain and substantial fines and fees waived).

More recently, Lea successfully represented OHA against NASA in a lawsuit regarding the construction of up to six outrigger telescopes at the Keck Observatory on the summit of Mauna Kea, resulting in a settlement in which NASA agreed to complete a more detailed environmental impact statement that studied the project's

impacts on unique environmental and cultural resources.

Currently, she represents *pro bono* Mauna Kea Anaina Hou, the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, and the Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter in an appeal of a recent Board of Land and Natural Resources' decision to grant a conservation district use permit for the same outrigger telescopes project on Mauna Kea. She is also co-counsel in a pending federal court Clean Water Act lawsuit in which she represents the Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, Hawai'i's Thousand Friends, and Our Children's Earth regarding unlawful sewage spills from the City and County of Honolulu's aging sewage collection system that closed O'ahu beaches in the winter of 2003-2004.

Lea has served as an adjunct professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, co-teaching courses on Hawaii Environmental Regulatory Compliance and, in 2004, an advanced seminar on Environmental Litigation in which students drafted summary judgment motions and argued the motions in federal court. She has been active in promoting a minority fellowship for UH law students through the HSBA Natural Resources Law Section, and co-chaired the committee for several years. Lea has also taught CLE programs on various environmental and cultural practice topics, including historic sites, burials and cultural impacts, listing and designation of critical habitat for endangered species, and CERCLA (Superfund) amendments relating to Brownfields (re-development of historically contaminated property).

Lea has been selected for inclusion in the Best Lawyers in America publication and was identified as one of Hawaii's Best Environmental Lawyers by Honolulu Magazine in 1997, 1999, 2001, and 2003. She graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1991 and in her spare time, is an avid longboard surfer working to perfect her "hang five."

Honorable Judge Susan Oki Mollway - Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award



The first Asian-American woman on the federal bench, Judge Susan Oki Mollway, enhances the status of women in the legal profession, and has spent much of her legal career promoting the advancement of women in the legal community.

Appointed to the bench in 1998, Judge Mollway has presided over numerous high-profile cases including legal challenges to the U.S. Army's training in Makua Valley, NASA's use of telescopes on Mauna Kea, the involuntary servitude of Vietnamese workers in an American Samoa garment factory and more recently the legal challenge to OHA and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge

2004 HWL Annual Award Recipients

Mollway was a partner at Cades Schutte Fleming & Wright from 1986 to 1998. She also taught at the William S. Richardson School of Law as an Adjunct Professor, and lectured at Takushoku University in Tokyo and at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in its English department. A 1981 graduate of Harvard Law School, Judge Mollway served as Editor in Chief of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. Judge Mollway was also a Contributing Author of *Called from Within: Early Women Lawyers of Hawai'i* (1992), a collection of biographies of women lawyers who were admitted to Hawaii's bar before statehood.

Judge Mollway has been honored by a number of organizations, including Hawaii Women Lawyers. In 1998, Judge Mollway received the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Trailblazer Award, and in 1987, Judge Mollway received the Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year Award from Hawaii Women Lawyers. Judge Mollway is a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union, Hawaii Chapter; a past director of Hawaii Women Lawyers; a past secretary and director of Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation; a past director of the Hawaii Justice Foundation; and a member of the Federal Judges Association, the District Judges Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, and the American Law Institute.

Lois Yasui, Principal of Hongwanji Mission School - Lifetime Achievement Award



The foundation of every state, it is said, is the education of its youth. As a school teacher and administrator for the past 39 years, Lois Yasui has helped to build Hawaii's educational foundation. Lois's motto is "Children First." Lois's colleague Teddi Yagi says that "everything Lois does is for the benefit of the children's education."

Lois believes that "girls need to be supported to assert themselves" and tries to create a safe and nurturing environment where they are supported. She has found that female teachers often need similar

support. She is an outstanding role model for students, parents, teachers, and other colleagues, both female and male.

Lois has taught at Ewa Elementary, Barber's Point Elementary, and Palisades Elementary. She served for many years as a student council advisor, student activities coordinator, and grade level chair. She helped develop and run a student leadership camp for elementary school students. She has been an active member of various Parent Teacher Student Associations, including the Ewa Elementary PTSA, Palisades Elementary PTSA,

and Oahu District PTSA. She has also worked at the Diamond Head School for the Deaf and Blind and in Head Start and Early Start programs.

From 1991 to 1998, she was the Vice Principal of Waipahu High School. Since 1998, she has been the Principal of Hongwanji Mission School (pre-school to grade 8) which welcomes all students irrespective of race, language, culture and religion. Lois received her BED and 5th Year Diploma from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Lois has also been an active member of the Momilani Community Association, Aiea Jaycees, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Hawaii State Kyoiku Kai (Japanese Language Schools Association), and United Japanese Society. She has also been a Little League Team Mother and a Cub Scout Den Mother.

Lois is married to Bertram Yasui and has 3 sons, Scott, Stuart, and Spencer.

Nanci Kriedman, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline - Distinguished Service Award

Nanci Kriedman believes that we all deserve peace and solace in our families, and she has devoted her professional life to helping victims of domestic violence for more than 25 years. She has worked tirelessly at the local, state, and national levels to address family violence issues and to educate the public. She is the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline ("DVCLH"), which has offices on Oahu and Maui and which provides free or low cost legal and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence.

Nanci is the mother of 3 teens, who, along with Nanci's husband, maintain a spirited commitment to Nanci's work. Nanci began working to bring awareness and programs to our communities in the late 1970's. While working at the only existing island shelter at the time, she discovered 2 critical things: 1) the community barely recognized the problem of domestic abuse and 2) victims often are forced to return to their abusers because the obstacles to autonomy and safety seem insurmountable. Those discoveries led Nanci to write and direct a video documentary, "Too Many Lickins: Spouse Abuse in Hawaii," which was widely distributed. With the momentum from this project, the first batterers intervention group, Komo Mai, was begun, and subsequently, a support group for victims, "Maluhia O'Wahine" was co-founded by Nanci and now continues its work in the community as The Family Peace Center.

Nanci and the DVCLH staff conduct training for private and public agencies locally and on the mainland, and provide consultation to Hawaii's policy makers. Nanci was also the first person qualified by courts in the State of Hawaii as an expert in the area of Domestic Violence; she has been called many times as an expert by the prosecution to explain the cycle of violence to jurors and to educate them on the many reasons why victims often

2004 HWL Annual Award Recipients

recant and fail to cooperate with law enforcement.

Under Nanci's leadership, DVCLH has grown from a staff of 2 part-time employees to a specialized agency with a staff of 50. Teens, ethnic communities, immigrants, victims with disabilities, and employers have all benefited from the agency's programs. DVCLH maintains active partnerships and collaborations with many other community groups and agencies with the goal of keeping the problem of domestic abuse in the forefront of the community's consciousness. In 2004, DVCLH launched its first capital campaign to assist the agency in continuing its critically important work.

Dr. Laura Weldon Hoque - President's Award



Laura Weldon Hoque: Helping and Healing the Women of Hawaii

Dr. Laura Weldon Hoque is the Award Recipient of the 2004 HWL President's Award. She grew up in Hawaii and graduated from Punahou School in 1983. She received her Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees in biology from Boston College, and her medical degree from the Boston

University School of Medicine. In 1994, after completing an internship at the University of Hawaii Surgical Residency Program, she moved to New York City and completed a surgical residency at Manhattan's St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center. In June 1999, she completed a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. She is board certified by the American Board of Surgery

In 1999, she was appointed Medical Director of the Kapi'olani Breast Center. The only one of its kind in the Pacific Basin, this center is an exciting resource for the women of Hawaii. She is one of only a handful of Hawaii surgeons who performs the sentinel breast biopsy. She is interested in bringing high level clinical trials to Hawaii and is very active in conducting original research.

In 2000, Dr. Hoque was appointed Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and has been involved in teaching both students and residents. She is the president of the Hawaii Breast Society, an organization of physicians who meet regularly to keep current with breast cancer issues in Hawaii.

During her fellowship, she was actively involved in breast cancer research and has continued that here in Hawaii. Ongoing projects for which two of her researchers and she have received grants include "Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy in Hawaii: Support for a New Standard of Care," "Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy in Hawaii: The Effect of Ethnicity," and "Incidence of Mammogram and Ultrasound Negative Breast Cancer."

In May 2004, the Kapi'olani Breast Center opened to offer a "one-stop shop" where women facing breast cancer can take care of screening, testing, diagnosis and most treatment at one location. Dr. Hoque is the surgeon and center's medical director. About 750 women in Hawai'i are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and Dr. Hoque sees about 200 of them.

She stays current in her field by reading the latest articles about breast cancer and attending two to four national meetings per year in the field. She also lectures frequently to physicians at various hospitals throughout the state. She is an active member of the American College of Surgeons, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Association for Women Surgeons, American Society of Breast Diseases, American Cancer Society, Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology, Hawaii Medical Association, and the American Board of Surgery.

After 10 years in Boston and five years in New York, she and her husband moved back to Hawaii in 1999 with their four young children. She is very happy to be back home to raise her children and to have the opportunity to take care of the women of Hawaii.

Congratulations!!!

HWL 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.

*Write to HWL at
P.O. Box 2072; Honolulu, Hawaii 96805
or e-mail questions or submissions for the
newsletter to
hawaiiwomenlawyers@hotmail.com*

HWL's Mentoring Mixer - A Success

by: Nalani Fujimori

For a new attorney starting out, a mentor can be a valuable resource to learning the ropes, figuring out which way to go and how to best succeed in a competitive environment. For women attorneys, a woman attorney mentor can play an extra special role in being a cheerleader, a kick in the rear end when one needs it and a someone to help navigate through the difficulties of balancing a career and family. Mentoring is always looked at as being one key to a successful career.

Finding mentors, however, can be difficult. With the need to balance career, family, personal life and friends along with a healthy lifestyle, many women attorneys find it difficult to add mentoring into that mix of responsibilities and priorities. For women just starting out in practice, just figuring how to draft a complaint or review a contract can mean hours and hours in the office with little time for seeking a mentor. Over and over we've seen that effective mentoring relationships are not formed through survey matching, but through time and as the "mentor" and "mentee" create a relationship of trust and understanding.

Realizing the complexities of creating and finding mentoring relationships, on November 18, 2004, Hawaii Women Lawyers held its first "Mentoring Mixer" at Che Pasta. The Mixer was aimed at introducing experienced attorneys, new attorneys, recent law school graduates, and law students to each other to talk about careers, balancing of family, and experiences in the profession. The event rule was simple, "Talk to someone you do not know."

Thirty attendees filled the small back space of the restaurant talking in groups about why they attended, why they joined Hawaii Women Lawyers and what they were looking for in their career. Many of the women were law school students, just starting out and taking a break for their studies. For these women, the Mixer gave them the opportunity to ask those questions about what it's really like to work at this firm or this agency and what the best way is to get a job there. Newer attorneys sought the advice of more experienced attorneys as to how to learn the ropes, where to go to expand their practice areas and how to get involved in different community activities. More experienced attorneys reconnected with those that they had not seen in a while, introduced people to each other and took the opportunity to pass on their own experiences to those seeking advice. As a follow-up to the event, each attendee was encouraged to meet with someone that they just met over coffee or lunch to learn more and possibly create a mentoring relationship.

As more and more women find success in our profession as partners, successful litigators, judges, and attorneys who balance their career, family and personal lives, mentoring can help to continue increase the success and happiness of women in the legal field. It is hoped that this is just the first step in creating mentoring relationships throughout our community of attorneys. Look for future Mentoring Mixers and take a look around you, there may be a woman looking for a mentor or who could be a mentor right in front of you.

KAHOOLAWE ACCESS TRIP FEBRUARY 2005

The Kahoolawe Access Trip will take place the weekend of February 18-20, 2005. For more information, please contact Larissa Schwartz at lschwartz@hawaii.edu.

Legislative Advocacy: Why It's So Important for HWL

by: The HWL Legislative Committee

Since its inception, Hawaii Women Lawyers has advocated, in the media, courts and legislature for the rights and equality of women, children and all people of Hawaii. As lawyers, and as an organization premised on fairness and equity toward all, we are - and should be - on the frontlines as the voice for those without a voice in the halls of the legislature. Whether it's supporting a bill to fund breast cancer treatment or to end employment discrimination, one of the best ways HWL can effect change is through its Legislative Committee, working with the other organizations in the Women's Coalition.

HWL is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code. What that means is that donations to HWL are not tax deductible as charitable contributions, but (and this is the really important part) HWL is allowed to advocate at the legislature without jeopardizing its non-profit status. Unless HWL takes advantage of its status as a 501(c)(6) to be the voice of women in the community, it is "wasting" its status and the opportunity to play such a key role for Hawaii's larger community. This year, the HWL Legislative Committee recommends supporting the bills in the Women's Coalition package. The extent of that support depends on how active the HWL members are and want to be. If you want to get involved (and the Legislative Committee invites you to participate via email, phone or in person), contact any HWL board member. The Women's Coalition package of bills will be proposed to legislators and submitted to the Legislature. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the bills (or other issues that may come before the legislature) please e-mail Nalani Fujimori at fujimori@shaka.com or call Melissa Pavlicek at 441-6170.

The Women's Coalition package will include bills to provide for medically accurate sex education, require parity for female prison inmates, make emergency contraceptives available in emergency rooms, support public financing for elections, establish a commission on bioprospecting (to support Hawaii's biodiversity), amend Hawaii's reproductive rights statute to conform with interstate commerce (residency requirement) and actual practices since enactment of the original statute, codify reproductive rights currently in caselaw, and establish equal pay for all. In addition, the Women's Coalition will be supporting legislation on increasing the standard of need for welfare recipients, creating a state earned income tax credit, extending independent development account tax credits, and a foster children bill of rights, among other issues.

HWL's Children's Clothing Drive: A Holiday Success



Congratulations and a BIG mahalo to all those who made this year's children's clothing drive a huge success. All donations were greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all your support!



What Was That Message? Listening To Life's Little Signs

by Melissa Teves Pavlicek



Broken mirrors and black cats don't frighten me, but I will admit to holding one superstition. In small, quiet ways, I believe, life talks to us.

Once a car with the license plate "YAY" drove by as I opened the letter saying I passed the bar exam. Another time, a friend who'd never been to my house stopped over as I prepared to quit my job. She recommended me to her firm. I started work there days later.

And so, I attended the Governor's International Women's Leadership Conference as I waited to hear the results of the Hawaii State Bar Association election in which I was a candidate for president.

Leadership conference.

Presidential candidate.

This could only add up to good things, I thought.

The conference speakers were internationally prominent leaders in business, politics, healthcare and the military. But as they spoke, I started to have that funny feeling that life was talking to me, unfortunately not in the way I had hoped.

Each speaker mentioned hurdles, defeats and disappointments. Though every speech was inspiring and uplifting, each woman spoke of their initial "shy wishes" and "bold dreams," plans for success that had developed slowly or quickly and the hard work and setbacks each had experienced before achieving those wishes and dreams.

The common thread was that each defeat motivated them to do something truly significant, rewarding and fulfilling. Some renewed their efforts and overcame initial setbacks to succeed in their chosen path, others moved on to unexpected challenges.

Rina Bar Tal lost three elections, seeking the mayor's office in a city in Israel. She is now chair of the Israel Women's Network, devoting herself to the status of women in the workplace and other community issues. She never did become mayor, but has many years of achieving something equally or more significant to her: the promotion of equality for women.

All of the speakers used their early disappointments to their — and their lives' — advantage.

Hussniya Jabara, a Palestinian woman elected to Israel's parliament, spoke eloquently (she had us laughing one minute, near tears the next) about being appointed to serve as the first female Palestinian to oversee judicial appointments and, even more poignantly about signing a contract with her husband and professors to allow her to

continue studying at a university after marriage, but having to face dozens of angry in-laws on returning home on the first day of school. Michelle Peluso, the 33 year-old president of Travelocity, and Merle Okawara who has built a multi-million dollar frozen food empire in Japan from introducing frozen pizza there in the 1960s, as well as Hawaii's Dee Jay Mailer from Kamehameha schools shared their "secrets of success" — many of which were familiar truisms like building a great team, but others were twists on the old standards (relationship-building versus "networking").

On the second day of the conference, I learned that I had not won the bar election, but I also learned much more. Like exercise, the time I'd spent campaigning seemed to give me more energy and enthusiasm. Meeting attorneys across the state and finding my voice about the importance of pro bono service and diversity in the legal profession were truly wonderful benefits undiminished by the outcome of the race. I had thought that no inspirational story could make me more motivated, but I was wrong. The conference left me with a dozen business and personal ideas, and the energy to start planning — and acting — to achieve them.

Unlike me, my dear friend Ellen Carson (the one who recommended me for that job, which by the way I still enjoy) doesn't believe in superstitions. Hard work makes luck, she says. The women of the International Women's Leadership Conference seemed to agree. If I hadn't made the effort to go to the conference, I wouldn't have been reminded that a set back is just that, and that there is a world of challenges to conquer.

One of those new goals for me is to share the words of inspiration I heard at that conference. So, if you're looking for a sign from life, here is one:

"Don't Miss Next Year's International Women's Leadership Conference."

It's a winner.

Melissa Teves Pavlicek is an attorney at Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing and is a former president of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

“Recap of a Public Forum on Judicial Independence in Hawai’i”

by: Della Au Belatti

On November 13, 2004, before an audience of judges, lawyers, educators, journalists, and community activists, panelists of experts participated in the day-long “Public Forum on Judicial Independence in Hawai’i.” Sponsored by the League of Women Voters in Hawai’i, with contributions by community organizations like Hawai’i Women Lawyers, the public forum brought together an exciting group of nationally recognized legal and educational scholars along with Hawai’i experts from government, media, and educational sectors. Hawai’i panelists included Sidney Ayabe, Chair, Judicial Selection Commission; Mark Bennett, Attorney General, State of Hawai’i; Colleen Hanabusa, Hawai’i State Senator; Ken Kobayashi, Honolulu Advertiser Court Reporter; and Professor Deane Neubauer, Interim Vice-President for Student Affairs, UH-Manoa.

The mainland scholars included: Robert S. Peck, Esq., president of the Center for Constitutional Litigation, a Washington D.C. law firm, and author of numerous books including *The Bill of Rights and the Politics of Interpretation*; Professor Jennifer Friesen, retired law professor from the Loyola Law School and author of *State Constitutional Law*; and Robert S. Leming, E.D.S., director of *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*, a program of the Center for Civic Education.

The day began with some discussion on the definition of the term “judicial independence.” Although no single definition emerged from this discussion or throughout the day’s presentations, Aviam Soifer, Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, started the day off with the reflection that the Judiciary represents the conscience of the community and the quotation “[j]ustice cools the glow of moral passion by passing it through the filter of reflection.” Dean Soifer continued by pointing out threats to the independence of the Judiciary that flow from the public, the legislative and executive branches of government, and from within the judicial branch itself. Based on these comments, the stage and purpose of the Public Forum was set - to raise public awareness about the issue of judicial independence and to explore the systemic and societal pressures and influences on judicial independence. During the day, panelists and audience members considered the following questions:

- (1) How does judicial selection and retention affect judicial independence?;
- (2) Do limitations by the executive and legislative branches affect judicial independence?;
and
- (3) How does the nature of media coverage affect judicial independence and public attitudes?

The day’s proceedings, including the comments made by each panelist, the interaction between various panel members, and the interesting question and answer sessions following each presentation, are being produced and edited into videotapes by the League of Women Voters to be shown on community television throughout the state. For those interested in these tapes, the League can be reached at (808) 531-7448.

Renewals

Renewals for existing HWL members are handled through HSBA. HWL student members should receive their renewal forms directly from HWL. Cost is \$40 for regular membership and \$10 for students.

Thank you to all HWL members for your support throughout the year!

Hawai'i Women Lawyers

P.O. Box 2072

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805

PRE-SORTED STANDARD

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Charles E. McKay, ESQ.
Garcia Rosenberg & McKay
Pacific Guardian Ctr., Mauka Twr.
737 Bishop St., Ste. 1675
Honolulu, HI 96813