

Upcoming Events

Brown Bag Lunch

Efficiency and Ease With Medical Experts

- Who:** Lynn M. Aylward-Bingman,
Benchmark Medical Consultants
- What:** A presentation on Benchmark's
services in enabling the best
available healthcare and forensic
professionals to bring cost effective
and focused written reports, verbal
consultations, and expert
testimony to your personal injury
disputes.
- When:** Tuesday, April 19, 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 Wendy
Hanakahi at hanakahi@m4law.
com by 12:00 p.m. on April 15,
2005 if you wish to attend.

Linda Martel Appointed Family Court Per Diem Judge

HWL would like to congratulate Linda Martel on her recent appointment as a per diem Judge for the Family Court of the First Judicial Circuit.

Congratulations Linda!!!

HWLF IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2005 RHODA LEWIS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation is currently seeking nominations for the 2005 Rhoda Lewis Public Service Award. Please send your nomination, including a brief statement about the nominee, to HWLF at P.O. Box 2576, Honolulu, HI 96803-0576. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2005.

The Rhoda Lewis Public Service Award provides a \$500 honorarium to honor an outstanding woman attorney for extraordinary public service. The Award is named for Rhoda Valentine Lewis, the first woman appointed to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Past recipients include Shawna Sodersten (Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline) (2004), Tracey Wiltgen (Mediation Center of the Pacific) (2003), Elizabeth Croom (Legal Aid Society of Hawaii) (2002), and Annabel Murray (Na Keiki Law Center) (2001).

HWL's Fifth Annual Balancing Work & Family Lunch

Hawaii Women Lawyers, with assistance from the William S. Richardson School of Law, is planning its Fifth Annual Balancing Work & Family Lunch, which is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2005, from 12:40 pm to 1:30 pm. The event, which began when several students expressed interest in talking with local attorneys about the ability to balance the demands of work and family while practicing law, has been extremely successful, with about 50-60 students attending each year. The students appreciate the participation and candor of HWL's attorneys. Lunch and parking will be provided.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Larissa Schwartz at lschwartz@hawaii.edu or by phone at 358-5664.

Thank you for your participation and support!

President's Column

Lane Hornfeck McKay, HWL President



HWL Is Still Needed and Remains Relevant, Even Today

Many of you read or heard about the statements made by Harvard University President, Lawrence H. Summers at the conference on women and science, hosted by the National Bureau of Economic Research ("NBER"), on January 14, 2005.

Basically, his first point was that women with children are often unwilling or unable to work 80-hour weeks. His second point was that, in math and science tests, more males earn the very top scores, as well as the very bottom scores. He also said that, while no one knew why, "research in behavioral genetics is showing that things people attributed to socialization" might actually have a biological basis -- and that the issue needed to be studied further. Many interpreted these statements to mean that Harvard's President believes that boys are genetically smarter than girls.

Somewhat appropriately, on March 16, 2005, 218 faculty members of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences ("FAS") voted that they lacked confidence in President Summers' leadership. One hundred eighty-five voted against and 18 abstained from the motion, which was tantamount to a vote of no confidence. The FAS had previously passed a motion expressing regret for Summers' remarks on women in science and certain "aspects of the President's managerial approach." The two non-binding motions are unique in Harvard's history but are largely symbolic gestures since only the Harvard Corporation, the University's top governing body, can force Summers to step down.

In response to the FAS rebuke of President Summers, the National Organization of Men ("NOM")'s co-president Warren Farrell responded, on March 18, 2005, saying, "Harvard's action reflects a new double standard: Nearly any negative statement, no matter how unsubstantiated, can be made about men, but only positive statements can be made about women. Just imagine what would have occurred if Summers asserted that 'Men are just plain better human beings than women.'" NOM co-president Marty Nemko added: "This is more than an issue of censorship or free speech. It is also about fairness to men. NOM strongly supports Lawrence Summers on this issue and NOM's leaders welcome the opportunity to debate it."

Thankfully, President Summers did not agree with NOM and previously expressed regret for his comments through a letter to the Harvard community, written January 19, 2005. Among other things, Summers wrote, "I deeply regret the impact of my comments and apologize for not having weighed them more carefully.... I was wrong to have spoken in a way that has resulted in an unintended signal of discouragement to talented girls and women."

It is generally understood that President Summers was asked to make a speech at the NBER Conference that would encourage debate. It certainly did. Unfortunately, from NOM's perspective, they would prefer that the statements nevertheless be made regardless if correct and regardless of what impact they may have on women in science. NOM's position reinforces the reason why HWL, and similar organizations nationally, are needed and remain relevant, even today.

HWL Officers and Board of Directors

HWL will be holding elections for new Officers and Board Members. Currently, there are about four to five openings on the board. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact any of our current board members for more information.

HWL 2004 Annual Awards Ceremony



On March 18, 2005, HWL held its Annual Awards Ceremony honoring five outstanding women in our community. The 2004 award recipients were: Lea Hong (Outstanding Women Lawyer of the Year), Honorable Susan Oki Mollway (Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award), Lois Yasui (Lifetime Achievement Award), Nanci Kreidman (Distinguished Service Award), and Dr. Laura Weldon Hoque (President's Award). Nearly one hundred seventy-five people joined us in honoring these women. HWL would like to thank everyone for their support and send a big congratulations to all awardees.



The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse & Legal Hotline is pleased to introduce the newest members of its legal team: **Jan M. Tamura**, former shareholder at Burke, McPheeters, Bordner & Estes, past President of DVCLH's Board of Directors and a member of Hawaii Women Lawyers, has joined the agency as its Director of Legal Services. **Cheryl Y. Yamaki**, formerly with DVCLH and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, has returned to the agency as Supervising Attorney. **Anna Lisa Vidad**, **Jin Ho Pack**, **Grace Yonehara**, and **Lehua Opedal** have joined the agency as Staff Attorneys. DVCLH is a not for profit agency with offices on Oahu and Maui and provides legal representation and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence.

Hawai'i Women Lawyers

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