

HAWAII Women LAWYERS

June/July 2005

Upcoming Events

Brown Bag Lunch

Litigation: Tips on Improving Your Skills in the Courtroom

Who: Magistrate Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi and Judge Victoria S. Marks

What: A presentation on effectiveness in the courtroom. Learn tips for success and pitfalls to avoid in your litigation practice.

When: Tuesday, August 30, 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. If you would like to attend, please contact Wendy Hanakahi at hanakahi@m4law.com or 529-7420 by Aug. 26, 2005 and mail your check, payable to Hawaii Women Lawyers, to her at P.O. Box 2800, Honolulu 96803.

REMINDER

Hawaii Women Lawyers is updating its resource directory. If you are interested in being listed in the updated HWL resource directory, please return your completed form to HWL at P.O. Box 2072; Honolulu, HI 96805, as soon as possible. If you need another form, please contact HWL at HawaiiWomenLawyers@hotmail.com or Emi Kaimuloa at EKaimuloa@wik.com.

Special Thanks to Joy Miyasaki

It is with a deep sense of sadness that we say farewell to Joy Miyasaki, who is leaving the HWL board after five years on the board as President, Vice-President and programs committee chair. During her tenure, Joy worked tirelessly on all aspects of HWL's activities. She served as programs chair for several years bringing to us brown bag luncheon speakers on a variety of topics from "Advancing Within a Law Firm" to "Legislation Affecting Women." In doing so, she introduced us to women from all walks of life: Mary Zanakis, who spoke about her pregnancy discrimination lawsuit against KHON, Bernadette Baraquio, who discussed "Presentations Before a Camera" and Shereen El-Kadi and Faten El-Kadi, who spoke about "Women and the Islamic Faith." She kept us up-to-date on legislative issues with her series on "Why Get Involved in Politics?" with Lorraine Akiba and now-Governor Linda Lingle representing the Democratic and Republican Party perspectives. She also provided us with relevant information concerning our legal practice from Kitty Lagareta, who spoke on "Marketing For Women Lawyers" and Judge Susan Oki Mollway, Loretta Sheehan, and Janice Kim, who discussed "Litigation Tips."



Evertireless and committed, Joy will be focusing on Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and is co-chairing HWLF's annual fundraiser, "Putting on the Ritz at the Monster Masquerade," which will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Ballroom.

Joy, you will be sorely missed!

HWL publishes its newsletter ten times a year.

Letters, articles and other contributions are always welcome. Please email you submissions to Shellie Park at shellie@hawaii.edu.

President's Column

Stacey Kawasaki Djou, HWL President



I was driving home from work the other day with my two-year old daughter singing in the backseat. As I was trying to figure out what to make for dinner while trying to forget about the pile of unfinished work I left on my desk, it hit me . . . I'm now president of HWL. I know for those of you who are reading this, that

statement doesn't inspire a whole lot of confidence. In fact, I'm quite mortified that I never realized the enormity of the responsibility given the extent of HWL's accomplishments over the last 29 years.

By way of background, for the younger members like me (I was six years old when HWL was formed in 1976), HWL has had a long history of advancing the status of women in the legal profession and our community at large. Among many other things, HWL:

- Advocated against gender discrimination at private country clubs (Oahu Country Club, Waialae Country Club, Mid-Pacific Country Club and the Pacific Club), which eventually resulted in the elimination of policies barring women from membership and/or discriminating in their policies against women. Shockingly, prior to the agreements to change their by-laws and/or club policies, one club proposed allowing single women to join on the condition that they resign their membership upon marriage.

- Established the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline, which was initially staffed by HWL volunteers, and eventually became a separate non-profit organization, the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline.

- Supported legislation on gender bias, civil rights, health and welfare, reproductive rights, domestic violence, adoption, child care, family leave, rape laws, child care, and pay equity.

- Published "Called from Within: Early Women Lawyers of Hawaii" and "Our Rights, Our Lives A Guide to Women's Legal Rights in Hawaii," which received an outstanding community service award from the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations.

- Established the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation.

- Sponsored educational forums on reproductive rights and filed amicus briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court urging that *Roe v. Wade* be preserved.

- Published brochures on "How to Negotiate a Successful Family Leave Policy"; "Family Leave Negotiations"; "Dads Count!" and "Kids Need Moms & Dads!"

- Campaigned against a constitutional referendum which would have restricted the number of qualified women and minority candidates eligible for the district court bench.

- Supported statewide efforts to obtain appointments of at least 50% women to Hawaii state commissions and boards.

- Published Multi-Lingual Domestic Violence Help Cards

- Teamed with the Women's Resource Center of the YWCA to initiate the Clothes Closet Project, providing business clothes to women in transition--those leaving a domestic violence situation or trying to get off welfare.

Having listed only a small fraction of HWL's numerous accomplishments, I can only be amazed and awed by HWL's founder, Rai Saint Chu, and its past presidents: Carol Mon Lee, Sherry Broder, Nancy Stivers, Marguerite Simson, Dona Hanaike, Virginia Lee Crandall, Joyce Y. Neeley, Leslie A. Hayashi, Laurie E. Furuya, Lorraine H. Akiba, Ellen Godbey Carson, Linnell T. Nishioka, Trudy M. Burns, Corianne W. Lau, Laura Thielen, Pamela Byrne, Magali V. Sunderland, Susan Ichinose, Rosemary McShane, Nancye L. Betherum, Melissa Pavlicek, April Wilson-South, Joy Miyasaki, and Lane Hornfeck McKay.

Those are mighty big shoes to fill.

Women in Law Enforcement and Law Practice: A Brown Bag Discussion with Barbara Wong

By Wendy Hanakahi

At a recent brown bag luncheon, Barbara Uphouse Wong discussed lessons learned through a 28-year career with the Honolulu Police Department. Ms. Wong was one of the first two female police officers in the department and achieved the rank of Assistant Chief of Police, HPD's third highest rank. After nearly three decades of dedicated service, Ms. Wong retired from the police department and entered law school in 2000. After graduating magna cum laude from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2003, she began practicing law with the Pacific Law Group.

Given her background, it was immediately striking when Ms. Wong opened her presentation by saying that her path in the police department was so similar to the career path of a female lawyer. Both careers are male-dominated, although recently seeing more entry from women, and present unique challenges for women.

As a female police officer, Ms. Wong encountered resistance from a minority of fellow police officers and, in some cases, from members of the community she was serving. She observed, however, that people will often move past initial misgivings and appreciate your experience and service if you do a good job.

Ms. Wong offered the following words of advice:

- (1) **Take to heart the words of only those you respect.** If you do not respect someone, do not give credence to this person's negative words. How important is this person's opinion?
- (2) **Live in the present.** Sometimes when you set goals, you are too focused on where you want to be instead of where you are. Remember to take care of your responsibilities today and to enjoy what you are doing.
- (3) **Learn strategic rule-breaking.** Women must learn strategic rule-breaking, which is not unethical rule-breaking or taking uncalculated risks. Be flexible, but remain ethical. An example is fouling the shooter to prevent a basket when you know the shooter cannot make freethrows.
- (4) **Be able to draw the line in the sand.** When you are challenged by certain opponents, you must be prepared to draw a line and not be pushed over it. While this is certainly true in contentious situations, it also has everyday applicability. For example, when it is time to leave after a big meeting and someone stands in your way, politely ask this person if you can pass by, rather than taking the long way to walk around the table.
- (5) **You must listen to those you are trying to help.** In particular, if you want the help of the greater community, you must be willing to listen to them, rather than only tell them what their needs are, and you must be willing to take their suggestions to heart.

Ms. Wong's discussion of her time on the force, highlighted with exciting stories that captivated the audience, was inspirational and engaging. While women lawyers are not asked to respond to a report of a huge street brawl and do not have bullets shot over their cars, Ms. Wong showed that women in fields dominated by men face common challenges and difficulties.

Congratulations to the New HWL Board Members for 2005-2006

The results of HWL's annual elections are in!

Welcome your new officers and directors for 2005-2006:

President:	Stacey Kawasaki Djou
Vice-President/ President Elect:	Lynne McGivern
Secretary:	Emi L. M. Kaimuloa
Treasurer:	Lauren R. Sharkey
Immediate Past President:	Lane Hornfeck McKay
Directors:	Prairie Bly Dianne Winter Brookins Nalani Fujimori Joanne L. Grimes Wendy Hanakahi Tricia Nakamatsu Ruth K. Oh Zale T. Okazaki Shellie K. Park Jennifer Rose Patsy Saiki
WSRSL Student Representatives:	Sarah Bazzi Larissa Schwartz

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.

HWLF NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation annual fundraiser will be on October 22, 2005, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, with a theme of "Putting on the Ritz at the Monster Masquerade."

The silent auction will showcase entertainment packages, original arts and crafts, and other items donated by Hawaii's attorneys. HWLF seeks your generous donation for the silent auction of:

- wine from your cellar
- tickets to a sports event
- dinner at your home
- a stay at your beach house
- a children's party
- original art or craft work
- homemade baked goods
- jewelry
- or other silent auction items

Perhaps you have clients who will donate gift certificates for hotel stays, dining, golf rounds, wine or other gifts.

To donate silent auction items, please contact any one of the following: Rhonda Griswold at 544-3871 or rgriswold@cades.com, Stacey Djou at 521-9203 or sdjou@cades.com, Cori Lau at 524-1800 or clau@ahfi.com, or Zale Okazaki at 537-6119 or zokazaki@hotmail.com.

The last day for silent auction donations will be August 3rd!

Chop Sui Generis

Back by popular demand . . . Chop Sui Generis

Congratulations to the many HWL members who were named in the July issue of Honolulu Magazine as "The Best Lawyers in Hawaii 2005." HWL members include: **Paul Alston, Ellen Godbey Carson, Rosemary T. Fazio, Nancy Grekin, Ronald L. Griswold, Ronald Heller, Lea Hong, Susan Ichinose, Grace N. Kido, Patricia Y. Lee, Bernice Littman, Kenneth S. Robbins, and Gail M. Tamashiro.**

HWL past president, **April Wilson-South**, has returned to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission as an enforcement attorney. Ever hard working, she still maintains a law practice at the Hawaii Women's Law Center on the weekends.

Congratulations to **Lea Hong** and **Patsy Saiki** for being named part of PBN's Forty Under 40 Class of 2005. Patsy is a current HWL board member. Lea is a past HWL board member and received HWL's 2004 Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year Award.

Congratulation to HWL member **Della Au Bellati** and her husband Michael on the birth of their daughter, Emma Hoi Yee Bellati (6 lbs. 8.8 oz., 19 inches in length), on Sunday, May 15, 2005.

If you have an announcement, please contact Shellie Park at shellie@hawaii.edu.

Hawai'i Women Lawyers

P.O. Box 2072

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805

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PERMIT NO. 172

Save The Date

“Putting on the Ritz at the Monster Masquerade”

What: HWLF's 15th Annual Fundraiser

When: Saturday, October 22, 2005

Where: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Ballroom

YWCA's Downtown Decadence

When: Thursday, October 27, 2005

Cost: \$50.00, with 2 drink tickets.

Martinis, wine, mini manicures, mini facials, mini
massages, white elephant sale, silent auction.

For more information, please contact Zale T. Okazaki at 537-6110
or zale 000333@hotmail.com.