

HAWAII Women LAWYERS

August/September 2006

Hawaii Women Lawyers

1976-2006

**Celebrating 30 Years
of Enabling Women to
Live Their Best Lives**

*~ in Law, at Home
and at Work, in the
Community ~*

Update Information

HWL is updating its members' email information. Please send your current email address to Dianne Brookins at DBrookins@ahfi.com. Thank you!

Help Wanted

HWL is always trying to find ways to better serve its members. If you hear of a job opening, either legal or non-legal, on a full or part-time basis; even contract work, please let us know. We would be happy to publish the information in our monthly newsletter or send an email on the topic. For newsletter submissions, contact Shellie Park-Hoapili at shellie@ahfi.com.

HWLF Annual Fundraiser

"Can We Dance?"

Stars of Hawaii's legal community will showcase their talents with professional ballroom dance partners as they rumba, waltz, and salsa across the dance floor -- all for the cause of helping Hawaii's women and children. Seize the opportunity to twirl, glide and dip in your most elegant ballroom attire, or don your hottest Latin outfit, bite down on that rose and come ready to tango. No matter what you wear, the music will move you. Remember your dancing shoes!

What: HWLF's annual benefit dinner

When: Saturday, October 14, 2006

Where: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom

Attire: Ballroom or elegant evening

Champagne, silent auction and lots of dancing!!!

Networking Luncheons - YOU are Invited!

By Ellen Godbey Carson

Networking is one of the most rewarding ways to meet new friends, attain your career goals, build your own client base, keep in touch with what's happening, and just have some great fun. You are invited to attend an informal women lawyers networking luncheon I have hosted for over 10 years, that meets downtown monthly to help facilitate these goals. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2006. The attendees have included "newbie" lawyers, partners, government attorneys, judges, retired attorneys/judges, law clerks/students and others. We would love to have you join us, and bring a friend/colleague. We do not have any formal program or agenda, and the luncheons are not an official function of HWL. This is instead a personal effort to encourage and support the success of women lawyers by giving us an informal forum to share our personal goals and challenges, to share tips and strategies, and to support one another as friends and colleagues. If you would like to join us on October 11, and/or would like to be added to the monthly email notice for these meetings, please call Rose Patrocinio at 524-1800 or email her at rosep@ahfi.com. Our meetings occur at the Plaza Club, 21st Floor of Pioneer Plaza (Fort Street Mall), at Noon and end by 1:30pm. The costs for lunch there range from \$13 to \$23 depending on your order; there is a scrumptuous saladsoup bar as well as a full luncheon menu. No advance payment is required, but we do request that you notify us if you are coming, or if you need to cancel, so we can have an accurate headcount. Please call me if you have any questions, at 524-1800.

President's Column

Lynne Jenkins McGivern, HWL President



HWL 1976-2006

This year HWL is celebrating its 30th anniversary. I realized only recently what a truly remarkable milestone this is, and how fortunate we Hawaii women attorneys really are to have had the professional network, programs, support and friendships which Hawaii Women Lawyers has availed to us over the past 3 decades

I never gave much thought previously as to when other state women lawyer organizations were founded. However, on August 4, 2006, HWL hosted our High Tea at the YWCA for women lawyers who were in Honolulu for the annual ABA convention and the topic came up as everyone mixed and mingled. I learned, for example, that Oregon Women Lawyers is considerably younger, having been founded in 1989. Texas Women Lawyers wasn't started until 1995!

Thereafter, I sought out HWL founder Rai Saint Chu and its first president, Carol Mon Lee, and had fascinating discussions with each of them about the founding and early years of the organization.

Rai, who graduated from the University of Maryland Law School, was admitted to the Hawaii bar in 1972 when only a handful of other women were practicing locally. She was raised as an only child in a family without typical gender stereotypes to be independent and self-reliant. She began practicing with Legal Aid and then practiced Criminal Law at the Office of the Public Defender and later Family Law and Civil Litigation in private practice.

She was still striving to form and solidify a professional network when the William S. Richardson School of Law graduated its first class in 1976, including a small group of women who were facing the same challenges in the local legal community as she was.

What were those challenges? Among them: constant controversy over their dress and appearance, being a novelty and not being taken seriously when they showed up in Court with clients, and being afforded less latitude than their male colleagues in moving about the courtroom, presenting evidence, and arguing their cases to the judge or the jury.

Carol Mon Lee moved to Hawaii in 1976 after practicing two years in Los Angeles, California. She began teaching Administrative Law, Legal Writing, and other courses at the William S. Richardson School of Law. She was one of only two female professors her first year, and the only female professor her second year.

Rai recalls that when she first started going to court in Hawaii with clients, court personnel and other attorneys automatically assumed initially that she was a litigant, not an attorney. One male attorney, who saw her regularly in the courtroom halls, even asked "what kind of repeat offender" she was. This was a time when many could still not conceive of another reason for a woman to be frequently at court.

In 1974, a reporter for the Honolulu Advertiser wrote

a two-part series featuring the "three women in the City Prosecutor's Office" and the "four women (including Rai) in the Office of the Public Defender." In this article, Rai noted being treated as a "little girl" and an "outsider" by the judges, who, with her male colleagues were part of a "fraternity" that excluded her. She also stated, "The jury is much more alert and attentive because they haven't seen too many women trial lawyers and they stay awake to see how you'll do."

In 1976 Rai invited a handful of women attorneys to meet with her at the art gallery then located at 1164 Bishop Street. She now describes this as the "kickoff" to Hawaii Women Lawyers. The intent was to form a support group without dwelling on issues of victimization. The goal was to brainstorm about professional issues "close to the heart," to empower each member of the group, and to create visibility and impact for women legal practitioners as a unit. By the following spring, the group had continued, even hosting a lunch at the YWCA to which they invited the handful of female legislators holding elective office.

Rai kept up the communication by sending out regular newsletters, now an institution and long standing tradition for the organization.

In the earliest years of HWL, the members discussed controversies over proper courtroom attire for women attorneys, strategies for dealing with judges with particularly traditional views of women, and strategies to gain the respect and confidence of clients. Carol stated that the group also tirelessly compiled lists of women attorneys qualified for administrative positions, directorships, commissions, and judicial appointments, supported the application of these attorneys for open positions, and advocated for their selection and appointment. They also advocated for women to be included in firm partnerships. In general, there was an ongoing effort to identify areas where women attorneys were underrepresented, and to make inroads into remedying the inequities.

Carol also remembers that in the beginning, meetings were less structured and the group met socially on many occasions to celebrate personal victories in cases and members' promotions and increasing visibility in the community. Carol was HWL's first officer, becoming Treasurer in 1979 and then its first President in 1980. The rest is history.

The earliest members of HWL included many other women attorneys who were motivated by the spirit of activism of the 1960's and 1970's and who were as dedicated as Rai and Carol to improving the legal profession in Hawaii. We are fortunate that many are still practicing among us.

Thank you, Rai, Carol, and all of the other pioneers who were there in the early years, paving the way for the rest of us and making it easier for successive generations of Hawaii Women Lawyers to continue our mission: *To improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession; to influence the future of the legal profession; to enhance the status of women and to promote equal opportunities for all people.* Happy 30th Anniversary, HWL!

YWCA DOWNTOWN DECADENCE

An evening of food, festivity and pampering under the stars



Looking for an affordable evening out on the town with the girls or friends from work? The YWCA's Downtown Decadence - an evening of food, fun and festivity - is just what you're looking for!

The divas of downtown Honolulu are making a collective statement and celebrating nothing else than the "Empowered Woman." This star studded event is more than a social affair -- this gathering of over 350 women is a fundraiser and statement of incredible support for the YWCA of O`ahu. All proceeds will go to further economic advancement and leadership opportunities for women in Hawaii.

This year's Downtown Decadence features champagne, wine and martini bars courtesy of The Wine Stop, delicious appetizers, makeovers, mini-manicures, massages, hairstyling, a silent auction and more. Guests will dine on an array of fine appetizers created by Cafe Laniakea, Indigo, and other talented local chefs donating their culinary skills.

The silent auction, themed "Decadent Pleasures," will feature jewelry, clothing, vintage treasures, as well as gift certificates and packages from our best restaurants, hotels, and beauty & hair salons.

Special outposts will be set-up throughout the site provided by consultants donating their time and services. Beauty partners include JPS Dressers, CHOP Hair Salon, Elements Hair Salon, Body & Soul Cosmetics, Fixx Cosmetics, Brian Kleine Massage Therapy, The Institute of Massage Therapy, Massage & Foot reflexologists including Linda Friedman, manicurist Sharon Richards, plus many more.

Tickets are \$60, which includes admission to the event, heavy appetizers, two drinks, pampering services (mini-manicures, massages and makeovers) and entertainment. Proceeds will be used to support the YWCA's women's economic advancement and leadership development programs.

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2006
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Café Laniakea Courtyard (downtown Honolulu)
1040 Richards Street

To purchase tickets, contact Zale Okazaki at (808) 265-9241 or zale000333@hotmail.com. \$25.00 of the ticket price is tax deductible.

High Tea at the YWCA

On Friday, August 4, 2006, Hawai'i Women Lawyers hosted a successful and well attended high tea at the YWCA, in conjunction with the ABA Convention. Many distinguished women attorneys attended the high tea and commented on the delicious food, wonderful venue and great fellowship.

Ms. Lynne Townsend Albert, President of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, thanked HWL for a "delightful high tea" and said the "setting and food were outstanding."

Thank you to everyone who planned and attended this wonderful event.



(From left to right): Hon. Ann Aiken, U.S. District Court for Oregon, Hon. Betty Roberts, one of the 2006 Margaret Brent Award winners, and Hon. Susan Oki Mollway.

Jennifer Rose Outstanding Adjunct Professor Award (Fall 2005)

HWL's very own Jennifer Rose has been awarded the Outstanding Adjunct Professor Award for the Fall 2005 Semester at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her name will be added to the Adjunct Professor of the Year plaque which is prominently displayed in the University's Law Library.

For those of you who may not be aware, Jenn has been an Adjunct Professor with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's William S. Richardson School of Law and has taught the Family Law and Domestic Violence Clinic for the past 6 years.

This award is special for Jenn because it is based on feedback from her peers, as well as students in her class!

Congratulations Jenn!

Ready to Learn School Supplies Drive 2006



Hawaii Women Lawyers and Price Busters joined forces to help Hawaii's children be "ready to learn" by collecting school supplies during the months of April, May, and June from law firms and companies of HWL members. The school supplies and money to buy them were donated to Helping Hands Hawaii's (HHH) Ready to Learn Program in time for the first day of school on July 21, 2006.

Price Busters donated 25 cool back packs with complete school supply kits. In addition, HWL collected \$875 in cash from members and 12 full boxes of school supplies to deliver. Finally, one lucky young

girl received a special "Tinkerbell" themed basket made just for her by member Zale Okazaki. Zale received a very nice thank you note (see below). Maria Chomyszak, Ready to Learn's Program Manager, was amazed by the generosity that people had for this project.



Partnering with other community groups, corporations, and social service agencies, HHH was able to deliver school supplies to 8,534 students before the first day of school this year. We are so pleased to have been able to contribute to that effort.

Linnel Tamae Nishioka

HWL sends its deepest condolences to the family of the late Linnel Tamae Nishioka, who passed away on September 2, 2006.

Linnel had a distinguished career in law and government. She began at a private law firm before moving on to serve as Deputy Attorney General in the Land Division. She was appointed in 1999 as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources where she served as the head of the Water Commission. In 2002, she joined the firm of Oshima Chun Fong Chung and later became a partner in the firm Morihara Lau & Fong. She specialized in natural resource and water law.

Linnel will be deeply missed!



Hi bonny

My name is

I just

wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the tinkerbell basket. I am so happy to have such a beautiful gift. Thank you very much. Love

1L Orientation Lunch at UH Sponsored by HWL



On August 15, 2006, Hawaii Women Lawyers ("HWL") hosted its annual 1L lunch for incoming law students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. In attendance from HWL were Lynne Jenkins McGivern, Lauren Sharkey, Jennifer Rose, Natalie Wilson, Michelle Walker and Natalie Younoszai. Dean Laurie Tochiki, Dean Carol Mon Lee and other members of the law school community also joined us.



The new class of law students and LLM students took a break from their busy first day of orientation to enjoy wraps from Lanikila Café and conversation with HWL members. After learning about the programs and goals of HWL, almost half of the new student body, women and men, took advantage of HWL's 3-month free membership offer for incoming law students.

HWL looks forward to liaising with student members in the coming school year. We encourage member participation in events such as the Balancing Work and Family lunch and other student-initiated events.



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