

Upcoming Events

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Girls Court: Surfing the Tsunami

Who: The Honorable Karen
Radius, Family Court Judge,
Circuit Court of the First
Circuit, State of Hawai'i

Topic: Girls Court: Surfing the
Tsunami

When: Friday July 13, 2007
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Carlsmith Ball, ASB Tower,
Suite 2200, 1001 Bishop
Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

RSVP: Please RSVP to Lynne
Jenkins McGivern at
539-0438 or at
lmcgivern@awlaw.com.
Please feel free to include
any questions that you
might have.

Lunch, including sandwich, potato
chips, and cookie will be available
for \$7.00. Please mail your check
for \$7.00 made payable to "Hawaii
Women Lawyers" to Lynne Jenkins
McGivern, c/o Ashford and Wriston,
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1400,
Honolulu, HI 96813 by Tuesday
July 10, 2007. Please feel free to
bring your own lunch if you prefer.

*HWL members and non-
members are invited!*

Hawai'i Girls Court State of Hawai'i - Family Court of the First Circuit

By Judge Karen Radius

What is Girls Court?

Nationally, the proportion of female juvenile arrestees has doubled since 1975. Female involvement in the United States juvenile justice system has emerged as a significant trend over the past three decades (Budnick and Shield-Fletcher 1998). In 1975, girls accounted for 15% of all juvenile arrests. In 1990, they represented 19% and by 2004, they comprised nearly 30% (Steffensmeier 1993; FBI 2005).

In Hawai'i, female juvenile arrest trends are even more pronounced, with a significantly higher proportion of arrests of girls than the national average. In 2003, females accounted for 41% of the total juvenile arrests on Oahu, an increase of 7.4% from the 33.7% recorded in 1991 (Department of the Attorney General, 2003). When compared to the nation average, Hawai'i's Female juvenile arrest rate is nearly 12% higher.

The Hawai'i State Judiciary's innovative and effective effort to stem the rising tide of female delinquency is the Hawai'i Girls Court. Initiated in September 2004, the Girls Court has been a "laboratory court" to develop and expand gender-specific programming that address the special needs of adolescent girls in the juvenile justice system. Girls Court focuses on the differing needs of adolescent females who, although appearing before the court as an offender, are most often victims of physical or sexual abuse or domestic violence themselves. Girls Court works on a strength-based model to develop healthy relationships among the girls and their families, return the girls to school or appropriate educational placement, and introduce the girls to employment, education and other opportunities in the community. Girls Court holds girls accountable for their actions while working to develop healthy productive lifestyles for the girls and their families.

Open Court

The Hawai'i Girls Court convenes once every 5 weeks with Presiding Judge Karen M. Radius. Court sessions are held in an open court setting with the girls, their families, attorneys and probation officers present. These court sessions serve to provide positive reinforcement of their strengths and accomplishments as well as a method for imposing graduated sanctions and creating accountability for the girls. The open court setting allows for the girls to learn from and share each others' experiences, successes, and challenges. It provides an innovative and effective base from which positive and permanent behavioral and cognitive changes can be made.

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Girls Groups/Parents Groups

The girls meet in a group session covering topics such as teen pregnancy prevention, domestic violence prevention and intervention, healing from trauma, substance abuse issues and problems, HIV/AIDS and STDs prevention, and escaping sexual exploitation. Parents are also required to attend a parent group which focuses on areas such as developing parenting skills, conflict resolution skills, and informational sessions on educational and therapeutic services available for their daughters or family.

The Girls Court requires parents to be parties to the case and legally requires their active participation in the Court. This innovative and holistic approach to juvenile justice, results in more stable families and, ultimately, sustainable progress and improved relationships between the girls and their parents. This type of parental involvement is central to the Girls Court.

Group Activities

Additional activities are scheduled for the girls by connecting and partnering with resources in the community. These activities and services that the Hawai'i Girls Court offers the girls and their families provide a powerful context for girls to build relationship skills and maintain healthy relationships. Moreover, group activities promote team-building and positive personal growth as well as help the girls develop decision making and self-confidence skills.

Mental Health Services

Mental Health Services are a critical component of the continuum of care that Girls Court offers to help the girls and families develop in healthy and positive ways. Because a majority of the girls in the juvenile justice system have experienced sexual, emotional, and/or physical abuse, recognizing and treating issues related to the abuse, from which many maladaptive behaviors stem, is critical in the continuum of care. Individual and family therapy is provided by the Girls Court therapist. The Girls Court staff also coordinates with private therapists and school counselors, and drug treatment providers to work for the success of the whole girl.

Education/Employment

Girls learn of the importance of education and opportunities for women in non-traditional learning and employment for their future. Girls are required to return to school or enroll in alternative learning centers or pursue a General Education Diploma (GED). Staff works with the schools and parents and develops an appropriate Individualized Education Plan (IEP) when necessary.

Many of the Girls Court girls have gone on to attend community college. Others have entered the work force with a positive view that they can accomplish their goals.

Community Service Projects

The girls and their families are required to engage in quarterly community service activities along with the Girls Court staff and the Judge. This provides the girls, their families, and court staff further opportunities to connect positively with one another as well as with diverse community members and organizations. The girls learn that what they do does matter and that they can make a difference by giving back to the community.

Cross-System Training

Girls Court coordinates cross-system trainings extended to statewide and communitywide youth serving agencies to build skills and augment awareness of the need for gender-responsive services.

Hawaii Lawyers in Iraq: Perspective on the War, the Abu Ghraib Trials, the Iraqi People, and More

By Natalie Younoszai



On March 6, 2007, Hawaii Women Lawyers hosted a brown bag lunch entitled "Hawaii Lawyers in Iraq: Perspectives on the War, the Abu Ghraib Trials, the Iraqi People, and More," featuring speakers Patsy Kim Takemura, Esq. and Thomas Farrell, Esq. The lunch was held at Carlsmith Ball.

Ms. Takemura, an Army Reserve lawyer, shared some of her experiences as a Judge Advocate General stationed in Iraq, where she recently represented United States Army Spc. Sabrina Harmon against charges of abusing inmates at Abu Ghraib prison. Ms. Takemura provided copies of photographs of herself, her colleagues, and her surroundings.



She described her representation of Ms. Harmon, aspects of litigating before a military jury, and what daily life was like for her in Iraq, including some harrowing travels through the war-torn country.

Ret. Col. Farrell, who served as an Army intelligence officer in Iraq from June 2005 to May 2006, provided a concise overview of the political, social, and socioeconomic situation in Iraq, particularly the status of women there.



He also expressed some well-informed views on the war and presence of United States military forces in the country.

After the speakers had given their presentations, they fielded questions from the roughly 12 captivated audience members in attendance. The question-and-answer session could have continued well into the afternoon.

Mentoring Program

In HWL's Membership Survey, 61% of members stated an interest in a mentoring program. Most were interested in being mentors to law students or new attorneys and a few were interested in being mentors to transitioning attorneys. We received a smaller number of members interested in being mentees.

We agree that a mentorship program can make a critical difference to a law student, starting attorney or transitioning attorney in their career, as such we are very interested in creating a mentorship program that will be useful to all participants. However, during the survey, we had an equal number of members interested in both a formal and an informal program. In order to design the best program for our members and to ensure participation we're looking for your assistance.

If you would like to be a mentor or be mentored or assist with the design of the mentorship program, please contact Nalani Fujimori at nalanifujimori@gmail.com.

2006 Annual Awards



On April 13, 2007, HWL held its Annual Awards Ceremony honoring five outstanding women in our community. The 2006 award recipients were: Colleen Wong (Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year); Honorable Sabrina McKenna (Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award); Shimeji Ryusaki Kanazawa (Lifetime Achievement Award); Carol Mon Lee (Distinguished Service Award), and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono (President's Award). Nearly two hundred people joined us in honoring these women. HWL would like to thank everyone for their support and send a big congratulations to all awardees.

Photos from the 2006 Annual Awards



2006 Annual Awards



HWL SURVEY RESULTS

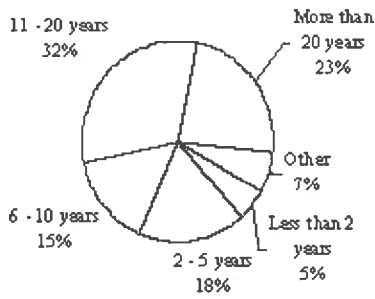
At the end of March, HWL members received an e-mail survey designed to get to know the membership better and help shape the events of the organization. Sixty HWL members responded to the survey and provided information that is very helpful to the Board in better serving your needs.

HWL's membership is fairly diverse with over 55% of its members practicing attorneys for over 11 years and the remaining 45% practicing less than 10 years or are law students or currently inactive.

Approximately 42% of HWL members work in private firms, however they are also well represented in government and the judiciary. The remainder of the membership work in public interest firms and non-profits, are in-house counsel, are pursuing non-legal careers, are students or in academia and are solo practitioners.

The majority of members are also litigators, followed by those who have an administrative and regulatory practice, and then by those in ADR, business law and real estate practice. Over one fifth of our membership also practices in labor and employment law and in tort trial and insurance practice.

How Long Have You Practiced Law?



Our members have been with HWL for differing lengths of time, 18% for more than 20 years, 22% for 11 to 20 years, 25% for 5 to 10 years, and 45% for less than 5 years.

Most members found out about the organization through friends or through their firm and there is still a good contingent of members who first found HWL through law school and have stayed on as members.

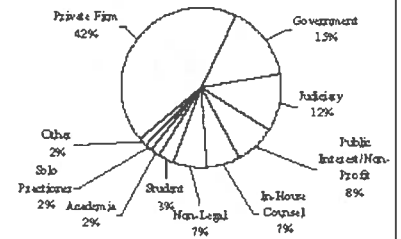
Our members join HWL for a variety of reasons, but the most important reason is for networking and professional development. Our work with HWLF on the Mother's Day Basket community service project is still one of the most popular and professional development brown bags were still at the top of most HWL members' list of programs.

There is also some interest in a mentoring program with 61% of you stating your willingness to participate in a program. What's even more wonderful about your interest is that most of you are interested in being mentors. Given this interest we are looking into a mentoring program, please see the other article in this newsletter for more details.

Many of you shared your ideas for future community projects and programs and as the Board looks for new activities and events, we will definitely be keeping in mind your thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you again to all of you who helped us with this survey. For a full summary of the results, please contact Nalani Fujimori at nalanifujimori@gmail.com.

How Would You Describe Your Practice?



Mark Your Calendar

READ TO ME FUNDRAISER

When: August 9, 2007
 Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Where: Anne Namba's Showroom
 324 Kamani Street
 Valet Parking
 Tickets: \$75.00
 Gently used designer bags, clothing and shoes
 Guests limited to 40 people total.



Photos from Read to Me Fundraiser

As Hawaii prepares for school to begin on July 21 this year, Hawaii Women Lawyers asks you to support Helping Hands Hawaii, and it's Ready to Learn Program, to make sure that all our Keiki have the School Supplies they need to be "Ready to Learn"

Please join us by donating money or any of the following items (new) during the months of April, May, and June, 2007–

24-count Crayons
Composition Books
Plastic Erasers
Glue – 4 oz. size

Scissors – 4 1/2#
Portfolios
Backpacks
Calculators

Folder Paper – College or Wide Rule
2 Pencils
Black/ Blue Ball Point Pens (Med. Pt.)
Rulers
Spiral Notebooks – 1 Subject

DROP – OFF SITES

Allii Place – Ashford & Wriston, 14th Floor
Contact Person: Lynne McGivern

American Savings Bank Tower – Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, 20th Floor
Contact: Shellie Park-Hoapili

First Hawaiian Center – Watanabe Ing & Komeiji, 23rd Floor
Contact: Emi Kaimuloa

First Hawaiian Center – Kobayashi Sugita & Goda, 26th Floor
Contact: Ruth Oh

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (Bethel Street)
Contact: Nalani Fujimori

Pacific Guardian Center, Makai Tower – Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher, 19th Floor
Contact: Lane Hornfeck

Pacific Guardian Center, Mauka Tower – Case Lombardi & Pettit, 26th Floor
Contact: Lauren Sharkey

Pauahi Tower – Ayabe, Chong, Nishimoto, Sia & Nakamura 25th Floor
Contact: Zale Okazaki

** According to Census 2000 data and information from Hawaii's Second Harvest – the Nation's Food Bank Network – 11.6% of Hawaii's 295,615 of Hawaii's Children live below the poverty line in 2003 and cannot afford basic school supplies. In 2006, Helping Hands Hawaii, collected and distributed school supply packets to 8,534 of Hawaii's keiki at 279 different schools throughout the State. These children were identified by social workers at 52 different social service agencies in Hawaii.

Hawaii Women Lawyers
P.O. Box 2072
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
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MCGIVERN, LYNNE JENKINS
ASHFORD & WRISTON
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HONOLULU HI 96813-4500