

## HWL's Annual Awards Reception: April 23, 2012



You are invited to attend Hawaii Women Lawyers' 2011 Annual Awards Reception and join us in honoring the outstanding work and commitment of five distinguished individuals:

*Shannon Wack and Jo Kim  
Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award*

*Judge Faye Koyanagi  
Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award*

*Professor Jon Markham Van Dyke  
Lifetime Achievement Award*

*Elizabeth Kent  
Distinguished Service Award*

*Susan Ichinose  
President's Award*

(see pages three and four for biographies of the awardees)

Friday, April 13, 2012  
The Plaza Club, Main Dining Room  
900 Fort Street Mall  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
\$40 per person (\$25 per student)

Heavy pupus will be served; no-host beverages will be available by scrip. Discounted flat rate of \$3.50 for parking after 5:00 p.m. in the Pioneer Plaza building.



April 3, 2012 deadline to RSVP and remit check payable to "Hawaii Women Lawyers" c/o Patsy Saiki, First American Title, 1177 Kapiolani Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96814. Please indicate the names of your guests with your reservations. Tables of 6 or 8 may be available. For questions, please contact Maya Harada at (808) 545-6132 or email her at [mharada@firstam.com](mailto:mharada@firstam.com).

Come and help us honor our extraordinary award winners!  
We look forward to seeing you on April 13th.

# President's Column

Patsy Saiki, HWL President



## ***Hawaii Women Lawyers -- Annual Awards***

Every year, Hawaii Women Lawyers honors five individuals whose particular contributions served our mission in the previous year, or over a career. Instead of celebrating the individual successes within our membership as we did in the last newsletter, this newsletter is dedicated to these five individuals in particular whose work significantly enhanced the lives of women in the legal profession in 2011 -- Professor Jon Van Dyke (Lifetime Achievement to be accepted by Sherry Broder), Shannon Wack and Jo Kim (Outstanding Women Lawyers), the Honorable Faye Koyanagi (Outstanding Judicial Achievement), Elizabeth Kent (Distinguished Service), and Susan Ichinose (President's Award). Their achievements are summarized in the following pages.

HWL thanks all of these award winners for their contributions, and invites all of our members to honor and thank them in person by attending the annual awards dinner on April 13. Mahalo nui loa.

### ***A Brown Bag Discussion with Honolulu District Judges***

On January 26, 2012, the Hawaii Women Lawyers hosted a brown bag featuring District Court Judges of the First Circuit. HWL member Jennifer Anne Rose facilitated the conversation. The Honorable Melanie Mito May spoke to the audience on the judicial application process. The Honorable Chief Judge Barbara P. Richardson encouraged interested members to consider per diem service. The Honorable Hilary Gangnes discussed the diverse nature of the District Court civil calendar. The Honorable Faye M. Koyanagi shared her insights on the transition from private practice to District Court. The Honorable Linda K. C. Luke shared her thoughts on the Family Court to District Court. The Hawaii Women Lawyers thanks the judges for generously sharing their experiences with our membership.

### ***HWL's MISSION STATEMENT***

"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."

# 2011 HWL Annual Award Recipients

## **Shannon Wack and Jo Kim - Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award** (Individual attorney having achieved accomplishments of significant merit that advance the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers)



Shannon Wack and Jo Kim are the awardees for the Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award for 2011 for their work as the driving force in the creation of Self-Help Centers throughout the state. Learning of Self-Help Centers at a national Equal Justice Conference, Shannon and Jo took the lead to bring this idea to Hawai'i and to expand the self-help services already provided through the Judiciary by involving pro bono attorneys. They sought

partnerships with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i to make this dream a reality. With funding from the Hawai'i State Bar Association and with the strong support of Chief Justice Recktenwald, they brought Bonnie Hough, a nationally recognized leader around Self-Help Centers to talk to judges, court administrators, and attorneys from across the state and helped launch interest in the idea.

It was from this conference in 2010, that the first Self-Help Center in the state using pro bono attorneys opened in September 2011 on Kauai through the efforts and support of Judge Trudy Senda, Judge Randal Valenciano, the Kauai Bar Association, training from the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, and the on-going support and encouragement from Shannon and Jo. Other Self-Help Centers are currently being planned in Maui, Hilo, and Honolulu.

Shannon and Jo have been co-chairs of the Delivery Legal Services to the Public Committee of the Hawai'i State Bar Association, are both graduates of the William S. Richardson School of Law, and provide pro bono legal assistance with Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i. They were both very active with the Access to Justice Hui which led to the creation of the Access to Justice Commission.

Shannon is a partner at Roeca Luna & Hiraoka focusing on defense litigation. She sits on the Access to Justice Commission and is the Chair of the Right to Civil Counsel Committee. She has previously worked at First Insurance Co. of Hawai'i, Ltd., and Moon O'Connor Tam & Yuen. She also clerked for Judge Robert Klein.

Jo is in private practice on the island of Hawai'i and has a long history of working in legal services. She is a co-founder of Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i and the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline (now Domestic Violence Action Center). She has worked for both organizations as well as the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. She is also the Honoka'a High School Girls Varsity Soccer coach.

## **Judge Faye Koyanagi - Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award** (Judge who has made significant contributions to the bench that advance the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers)



Faye Koyanagi is a resident of the State of Hawaii. She attended Kaimuki High School then obtained a Bachelor of Arts from UCLA in 1966, then went to Berkeley and received her teaching certificate in 1968. She then attended Hastings Law School and received her JD in 1977. At law school, she participated in Hastings Moot Court and Trial Advocacy Seminar.

Judge Koyanagi was a deputy prosecuting attorney from 1978 thru 1981; a deputy corporation counsel from 1981-1983; an associate with the law firm of Libkuman Ventura Ayabe Chong and Nishimoto (which is now known as Ayabe Chong Nishimoto Sia & Nakamura) from 1983 thru 1988, head counsel for the law firm Kaululo and Koyanagi from 1988 thru 1993, managing attorney for the law office of Faye M. Koyanagi from 1993 thru

2003 and in June 2003, became a District Court Judge of the First Circuit. In 1995, she became a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, aka ABOTA.

The main reason that Judge Koyanagi deserves this award is the healthy respect she has in "giving back" to the community. There are various ways of "giving back." For Judge Koyanagi, the call to "give back" comes in the form of her contacting HWL three times a year, every year, for the past ten years. The first call concerns her hefty donation of toiletries for the HWL mother's day bags. Each year HWL collects toiletries to make Mother's Day bags for the mothers of foster children. Each year, Judge Koyanagi herself drops off TONS of toiletries which she obtains from her travels. Consider how many times she has had to lug these toiletries from her hotel rooms off island and the mainland, then haul it to a drop off site in downtown.

The Judge's second call to HWL comes during or after the holidays, when HWL collects donations for the Hawaii Foodbank or Aloha Harvest for holiday treats. And Judge Koyanagi's holiday treats look really delicious!

The Judge calls a third time, without fail, when Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation has its annual fundraiser. Each year, without fail, the judge creates a wondrous blanket or a set of pillows and quilts them by hand. Each year, without fail, her quilts or pillows sells for a high price. Each year, without fail, the Judge will call and say, "I will drop off the quilt today". And this is even before the letters go out to request a donation.

It is people like Judge Koyanagi who understand the mission of HWL, who believe in the HWL mission, and who, selflessly and without a thought as to her time and energy, donate to the HWL causes. Her unselfish acts for the past 10 years is the main reason she is so deserving of this award. Judge Koyanagi exemplifies the ultimate volunteer: she always rises to the occasion without HWL having to ask and when we do ask, she is definitely ready, willing, and totally ABLE!

## **Professor John Markham Van Dyke - Lifetime Achievement Award** (Individual in our community who has over her or his career made significant contributions in areas that advance the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers)



Jon Markham Van Dyke was a leading Hawai'i professor, legal scholar, and practitioner in international human rights, environmental, ocean and constitutional law. He taught his students by his actions and his polite, patient, demeanor, as well as his words. Many members of Hawai'i Women Lawyers were touched by his encouragement, his mentorship, his steadfast assistance and the wonderful way he responded to even the most inane questions with respect and care.

Jon was born in Washington, DC in 1943 and died November 29, 2011 in North Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia. Jon came to Hawai'i to teach at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law in 1976. His teaching, marked by a masterful use of overhead projector slides, and later, PowerPoint, was honored with numerous teaching awards. Students consistently recognized Jon as a favorite teacher and outstanding professor.

Jon's work and his achievements extended far beyond the classroom. He was the University's representative on the Executive Board of the Law of the Sea Institute, Director of the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, and Associate Fellow at the East-West Center. He was a visiting scholar in South Korea, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, India, Nagoya, Shanghai, Penn State, Santa Clara and UC Berkeley. Jon Van Dyke was the author of six

# 2011 HWL Annual Award Recipients

books, editor of another five books, and has published more than 120 scholarly articles. His work on human rights issues, with his partner Sherry Broder, included assisting in Asia, Micronesia and throughout the South Pacific. Together they litigated a consumer class action lawsuit involving the contamination of Hawai'i's milk supply, they represented Native Hawaiians and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, they represented the people of the Marshall Islands pursuing claims for exposure to atmospheric nuclear testing, and they represented the victims of torture in the Philippines. They worked on numerous issues with the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Maui. Many lives have been touched by Jon and Sherry's skillful advocacy, including Rusti the Orangutan.

Sherry Broder, Jon's wife, law partner, and best friend, is a founding member of Hawai'i Women Lawyers and an inspiration and role model for all women in Hawai'i. Their children, Jesse Broder Van Dyke, Eric Broder Van Dyke, and Michelle Broder Van Dyke were steadfastly at the center of Jon's life. Jon Markham Van Dyke's lifetime of achievement will continue in the lives and achievements of countless men and women in the state of Hawai'i and around the world.

## **Elizabeth Kent - Distinguished Service Award** *(Individual in our community who has made significant community contributions that advance the mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers)*



The depth and breadth of contributions that Elizabeth Kent has made to the State of Hawaii are well-known among the legal community, and far greater than she herself would likely acknowledge. As Director of the Hawaii State Judiciary's Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution Center for the past 17 years, Elizabeth has helped to shape and guide the dispute resolution culture in our State, and has

been a leader in moving our community toward dispute resolution processes that promote creativity, inclusivity, self-actualization, and yes, lasting agreements. She has also provided many trainings for our government, business, non-profit, and community leaders, helping them to think differently about disputes, and how disputes can be resolved with the larger community's interests in mind. In particular, HWL members noted that Elizabeth: facilitated a multi-year initiative aimed at addressing complex and multi-faceted domestic violence issues; facilitated meetings between stakeholders, which not only helped the parties resolve their issues, but also laid the groundwork for a more effective and informative public process; and worked closely with many schools and others to give our youth the tools to effectively deal with conflict.

However, this is only one facet of Elizabeth's enduring commitment and service to our community. Elizabeth also served as a Hawaii commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, on the drafting committee for the Collaborative Law Act, as a mediator for the Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc. (a community mediation center), as an arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, as a panel member on the Medical Claims Conciliation Panel. She was also on the drafting committee for the Uniform Mediation Act.

On a more "grassroots" level, Elizabeth was the driving force behind the establishment of HWL/HWLF's now-award-winning Mother's Day Project, which began in 2001, when Elizabeth found herself with unused cosmetic bags that came "free with purchase." She wondered: "What if the women lawyers in HWL/HWLF gathered up their unused toiletries and cosmetics, and gave them to the children in domestic violence shelters, so that they can give a gift on Mother's Day?" Thanks to Elizabeth's infectious enthusiasm and commitment to this project, donors and volunteers made a total of 101 Mother's Day gift baskets that year, for 100 children then-living in Hawaii's domestic violence shelters. The appreciation was overwhelming. Since that time, the project has grown and evolved to award-winning proportions. The Mother's Day Project has continued to be a great

source of pride and community involvement for HWL, and Elizabeth has continued to play a significant role in this HWL project, and in many others, year after year.

## **Susan Ichinose - President's Award** *(Presented by President Patsy Saiki)*



The mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers is to "improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, to influence the future of the legal profession, and to enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all people." Susan Ichinose was asked to accept the President's award this year because she is an outstanding example of an individual whose leadership, good work, and character serve to advance this mission.

Her resume states that she is a "civil litigation advocate, arbitrator, mediator, independent fact-finder, and expert witness." She is all that, but she is also much more -- she is a role model, mentor, and even hero to many women in the legal profession.

Ms. Ichinose is widely respected as an effective litigation attorney and counselor. She is an individual whose work has made a real difference. She first began her practice in Hawaii in 1977. In many years since then, she has been included in the list of the Best Lawyers in America in the fields of Business Litigation and Labor and Employment Litigation. For the last 25 years she has been rated "AV" by Martindale-Hubbe, the highest rating that law firms can achieve based on legal expertise and professional reputation, and has been rated "AV Preeminent" for the last 15 years. Through her work, she has significantly enhanced the status of women in our profession and encouraged equality for all people. For example, as pro bono counsel, she represented the plaintiff in *Parnar v. Americana Hotels*, which in 1984, established the right of an at-will employee in Hawaii to sue for wrongful termination of employment. Ms. Ichinose also represented the plaintiff in *Austen v. State of Hawaii*, the first sex discrimination case in Hawaii to be successfully tried and which was upheld on appeal. These cases are just two of many examples of her success. For over twenty years, Ms. Ichinose has also served as an effective mediator and arbitrator with Dispute Prevention & Resolution.

Ms. Ichinose has also spent countless hours outside of her practice in service of our community. She has been an adjunct professor of Appellate Advocacy and Pretrial Litigation at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii for several years, and has been an instructor in Commercial Litigation at Kapiolani Community College. She has been a speaker and panelist at dozens of law seminars, and has authored numerous articles on the law. Ms. Ichinose is presently the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, served as a Director of the YWCA Board from 2002-2004, and is the Founding Chair of the Hawaii Library Foundation of which she was a Member of the Board from 1993 -1997. She has served on the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association, and the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers from 1996-2000, as President of HWL from 1997-1998, and co-chair of its Legislative Committee from 1998-2000. She was awarded HWL's Outstanding Women Lawyer of the Year in 2000. She is currently a Bencher on the American Inn's of Court, and the head of the Employer Law subcommittee of the State Civil Jury Instructions Committee.

In June 2011, Ms. Ichinose was elected the Chair of Hawaii's Judicial Selection Commission. Under her leadership, the nine-member Commission changed its rules to disclose the names of judicial candidates it sends to the Governor. The rule change was a significant accomplishment in leadership. It took both courage and an ability to bring consensus among many strong opinions to accomplish these changes. For that reason, Ms. Ichinose was named one of "10 Who Made a Difference" by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser in 2011.

Congratulations!!!



## *A Special Invitation*

*to Members and Friends of Hawaii Women Lawyers*

Please join us in another in our series of monthly brown bag programs to support you.

### **“Painless and Effective Networking Tips”**

One of life’s most uncomfortable situations is walking into a crowded banquet room and not knowing a soul. Yet, effective networking is one of the best, and least expensive, ways to build your business. This program demonstrates how to start (and end!) conversations, how to make a positive impression in less than 10 seconds, and how to pave the way for mutually-beneficial relationships.



Please join us for this valuable brown bag program with Pam Chambers. Pam Chambers is known as Hawaii’s Presentation Coach. Since 1985, she has helped thousands of people become better communicators — whether they speak to one person, to small groups, or to large audiences. Pam is the author of *Speak for Yourself, Stand & Deliver*, and *Life is a Presentation*. Her latest book, *Public Speaking Made Easy*, made the bestseller list in Hawaii. She was named by Honolulu Magazine as one of Hawaii’s 10 Most Admired Women. Pam’s style is interactive, entertaining, and practical. She knows how to bring out the best in her audiences, and she is praised for her “wise and cheerful lessons.”

**Friday, March 16, 2012**  
at 12:00 PM

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**Ashford & Wriston**  
1099 Alakea St., Ste. 1400  
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**RSVP to Lynne McGivern, [lmcgivern@awlaw.com](mailto:lmcgivern@awlaw.com)**

Hawai'i Women Lawyers

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