



Dear HWL Members,

Happy Women's History Month! In addition to March being Women's History Month it is also the start of Spring which can be an exciting month and a good time to reflect on the progress of our goals for the New Year.

This Spring has started off to be busy and lively for HWL. We have been actively planning our Annual Award ceremony being held on April 10, 2019 at 5:15pm at the Plaza Club and look forward to the opportunity to recognize some amazing women in our community. We are also very excited to present for the first time a Women Corporate Director's panel discussion on April 30, 2019 moderated by Barbara Tanabe and an esteemed panel of women consisting of Louise Ing, Constance Lau, Catherine Ngo, and Crystal Rose. We look forward to another joint community project with the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation for the Parent and Children's Together ("PACT") Women's Shelter. As always, we look forward to a new round of HWL Mentoring Circles, panel discussions, and educational events throughout the year and be sure to check out our job bank in the Members section of the Wild Apricot website for some recent job postings.

- Jacquelyn Esser, HWL Board President

## ***HWL Annual Awards Reception***

***Wednesday, April 10, 2019***

*The Plaza Club*

*900 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu*

You are invited to attend Hawaii Women Lawyers' 2019 Annual Awards Reception! Please join us in honoring the outstanding work and contributions of five distinguished individuals!

**Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year**  
**Rebecca Copeland**

**Distinguished Service Award**  
**Karen Char**

**President's Award**  
**Doctor Jackie Young**

**Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award**  
**Judge Helen Gillmor**

**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
**Esther Kwon Arinaga**



Doors open at 5:15pm with the awards ceremony starting at 6:00pm.  
Heavy pupus will be served.

Individual tickets (unreserved seating) are \$45 each. Reserved tables of 8 are available for \$360.00 each. Online registration available [here](#). Table sales will only be available through April 4th, so please act quickly!

Please contact HWL at [hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com) with any questions

# HWL Annual Awards Bios

## Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year *Rebecca Copeland*



Rebecca is an appellate attorney, ally, and community advocate. Rebecca is active in the legal community, serving on a number boards and committees including the Hawaii State Bar Association's Board of Directors, the Hawaii Judiciary's Commission on Professionalism, the Hawaii Justice Foundation, and the Hawaii Judiciary's Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts. Rebecca previously served on the boards for the Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation, and Equality Hawaii. During her time with Equality Hawaii, she successfully advocated during the 2015 and 2016 Hawaii legislative sessions for the passage of the Transgender Birth Certificate Bill and the Transgender Insurance Bill, both of which were signed into law. As a current Board member of the Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation, she focuses many of her efforts on education and support for LGBTQ youth. She is also the mother of a transgender son and a teenaged daughter who identifies within the LGBT spectrum.

## Distinguished Service Award *Karen Char, MAI, CRE, ASA*



Karen Char has an MBA and BBA from the University of Hawaii and is a graduate of Punahou School. She has been a commercial real estate and business appraiser for all of her career, as well as President of John Child & Company, Inc. for most of her career. She has earned the MAI, CRE and ASA designations. Currently, she is a board member of HWLF and Vice President and board member of Hawaii Opera Theatre. She volunteers for both non-profit organizations because both serve needy children in Hawaii:

- HWLF collects donations of toiletries and cosmetics to give needy children a gift to give on Mother's Day.
- HOT collects lightly used clothes and other items to raise money to take the performing arts to public school children in low-income communities in Hawaii.

## Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award *Judge Helen Gillmor*



Judge Helen Gillmor is a Senior District Judge for the District of Hawaii. She was first appointed as a United States District Court Judge for the District of Hawaii in 1994, and served as Chief Judge from December 2005 to June 2009.

Judge Gillmor graduated from the Boston University School of law, magna cum laude, in 1968. After law school, she worked at a law firm in Boston, until her husband, a fellow lawyer was drafted, which led to her relocation to El Paso Texas and Korea. While living in Korea, Judge Gillmor became a lecturer in Korean law to Korean judges and prosecutors for the Agency for International Development in Seoul.

Following her stint in Korea, Judge Gillmor and her family moved back to Hawaii, where she worked for the law firm of Moore Torkildson and Schultz. She also clerked for the Honorable William S. Richardson, Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and worked as a Deputy Public Defender, and a per diem judge in the Family and District Courts of the State of Hawaii.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Gillmor served as Vice-President, Treasurer and Director with the Hawaii State Bar Association. She has also served as past chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Hawaii, a member of the Board of Bar Examiners and a director of the Friends of the Judiciary History Center. She currently serves as a Director with the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation.

**President's Award**  
***Doctor Jackie Young***



Dr. Jackie Young was an influential feminist in Hawaii and an advocate for social change and healthy communities. She dedicated her life's work to reducing discrimination and creating a more equitable society.

Young served as an appointed member of the Hawaii State Judicial Selection Commission, and the Hawaii State Advisory Committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and as a board member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii and the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge Campaign.

In 1977, Young was hired as an administrator for the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE). In that role, Dr. Young was responsible for implementing P.L. 94-142 (The Education for All Handicapped Children Act). In 1985, she became the DOE sex equity and Title IX administrator. She also served as adjunct professor at Hawaii Pacific University for 10 years. She then earned her PhD, chaired the Hawaii Women's Political Caucus and was elected vice president of the National Women's Political Caucus.

In 1990 Dr. Young was elected to the State House of Representatives and then elected in 1992 as vice speaker, the first woman to hold that position. She championed issues related to Native Hawaiians, the environment and crimes against women. In 1994, Young was appointed as the state's affirmative action officer. While undergoing breast cancer treatment and speaking publicly about her experience in 1998, she managed the nation's first marriage equality campaign, "Protect Our Constitution," in partnership with the Human Rights Campaign. She later served as the University of Hawaii's sex equity coordinator. Young became an executive with the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific in 1999 and retired in 2013 as its chief staff officer.

Young has received numerous awards for her outstanding community service and work in gender equity and civil rights. These awards have come from organizations including the National Education Association, the ACLU, the YWCA, the Korean American Foundation Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu, and the Punahou Alumni Association. She is a recipient of the President's Award from the Union Institute & University and the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Hawaii. Her advocacy work and life story have been featured in television specials, syndicated newspapers, and national and international magazines.

Dr. Jackie Young passed away on February 10, 2019 at the age of 84. Young is survived by four children, three grandchildren, a niece, nephew and grandnephew. She will be greatly missed.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

### **Esther Kwon Arinaga**



Esther Kwon Arinaga was born in Honolulu and graduated from Roosevelt High School. She received her BA in political science from the University of Hawaii where her advisor was Dr. Allan Saunders, the founder of ACLU-Hawaii. Dr. Saunders instilled in his students the importance of standing up for political and social justice.

A second-generation Korean American, Esther has had a lifelong interest in Korean culture and history and earned an MA in Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii. Her immigrant parents worked actively in Hawai'i as supporters of the Korean Independence Movement to restore Korea's sovereignty after the Japanese occupation. Her mother was a social activist.

Esther's work as a state/federal criminal justice planner introduced her to the justice system, including the police, courts, and correctional facilities on all islands. A member of the first Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, she led a project to improve the scandalous treatment of teen-aged girls in the Juvenile Justice System throughout Hawaii.

In 1982, Esther enrolled in law school at the University of Hawaii and graduated at age fifty-six with the class of 1985. During law school she met Bill Hoshijo, then attorney and Executive Director of Na Loio no na Kanaka, a public interest immigration law firm located in Palama Settlement. Inspired by Bill's commitment to needy immigrants, Esther joined the firm as a staff lawyer. Her experiences at Na Loio would shape and kindle a deep concern for the plight of immigrants unable afford legal representation.

For the past thirty years Esther has served on numerous boards and commissions, in part to support programs that provide access to legal services. These include the Hawaii Bar Foundation, ACLU-Hawaii, Na Loio, the Judiciary History Center, and The Legal Clinic (TLC) at First United Methodist Church. TLC will open its doors in a few months to assure that immigrants seeking asylum or family unification or facing imminent deportation will not be denied the help of a lawyer based solely on their ability to pay.

In support of her other areas of interest, Esther has served on the boards of Hawaii Public Radio, Hawaii Council for the Humanities, the Hawaiian Historical Society, and the State Humanities Council (national board). Her publications include books and articles on Korean immigrant history and the history of early women lawyers in Hawaii. With support from the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and Hawaii Women Lawyers, Supreme Court Justice Rhoda Lewis and labor lawyer Harriet Bouslog, Esther coordinated the book project that resulted in the publication of *Called from Within: Early Women Lawyers in Hawaii*, edited by Mari Matsuda.

Esther Arinaga retired in December 2018 but continues to support The Legal Clinic!

**Please join us on April 10th as we honor the outstanding work and contributions of these five distinguished individuals!**



## Upcoming Events

### Hawaii Women Lawyers/Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation 2019 Mother's Day Project

Please help us to continue our tradition of helping hundreds of deserving children say "Happy Mother's Day" with a pretty gift for a special person!

If you would like to volunteer to help put the gift bags together, please contact HWL at [hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com)

Sessions will be held on Sundays from 3/10/19 through 4/14/19, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm.

### Women Corporate Directors

#### "Executive Compensation: Top 10 Things Directors Need to Know"

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Location: The Plaza Club, 900 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu

Cost: \$40.00 for Non-Members

Registration [HERE](#). Please also RSVP to [kyamamoto@kpmg.com](mailto:kyamamoto@kpmg.com) by March 15, 2019

Speakers for this event include:

- Todd Leone: Partner, Head of Executive Compensation at McLagan
- ADM (Ret.) Tom Fargo, HEI Compensation Committee Chair

### Pinay Powerhouse Hawaii Luau Opening Reception & Fundraiser

Date: Friday, March 29, 2019

Time: 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Dress Code: Semi-Formal, with Luau and/or Filipino Gala Attire Welcome

Location: Elks Lodge 616, 2933 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu

Cost: \$75.00 General Admission, \$45.00 Students

Registration [HERE](#)

Support Filipina lawyers, enjoy a scenic sunset, eat a luau-inspired dinner with a Filipino touch, watch seaside fireworks, and mingle with leaders in the law at a private club on the water's edge of Waikiki

### Hawaii Women Lawyers Annual Awards Reception

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Time: 5:15pm - 8:00pm

Location: The Plaza Club, 900 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu

Cost: \$360.00 for a Table of 8 Guests, \$45.00 Individual Ticket, Unreserved Seating

Registration [HERE](#)

Please join us in recognizing the outstanding work and contributions of Rebecca Copeland, Karen Char, Dr. Jackie Young, Judge Helen Gillmor, and Esther Kwon Arinaga!

Please reserve your tables/seats by April 4th!

## Upcoming Events

### Move Me Hawaii

#### Screening of “And Then They Came for Us”

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2019

Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Kaimuki High School

Cost: \$35.00

Registration [HERE](#)

Please join Move Me Hawaii for a screening of “And Then They Came for Us” and stay for light refreshments and a panel discussion on the forced incarceration of individuals of Japanese ancestry, both on the Mainland and in Hawaii, and why we must continue to protect the rights of people of any ancestry.

Funds raised from the screening will be used to provide grants to educate the public about social justice issues, promote community unity, and to support organizations providing legal or social services to the underserved.

### Women Corporate Directors/Hawaii Women Lawyers

#### Panel Discussion on How to Join Corporate Boards

Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: The Plaza Club, 900 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu

Cost: \$20.00 for HWL Members, Prices Range from \$40.00 to \$60.00 for Non-HWL Members (please see event page at the link below)

Registration [HERE](#)

Much has been written recently about efforts to increase the number of women on corporate boards across the nation. However, how does one even get considered for a corporate board in Hawaii? What type of professional and/or pro bono experiences and skill sets are important for board consideration? What are ways to maximize opportunities to be considered?

Moderated by Barbara Tanabe, the panel will be comprised of distinguished Hawaii women, including attorneys, who serve on corporate boards.

Speakers for this event include:

- Louise Ing
- Constance Lau
- Catherine Ngo
- Crystal Rose

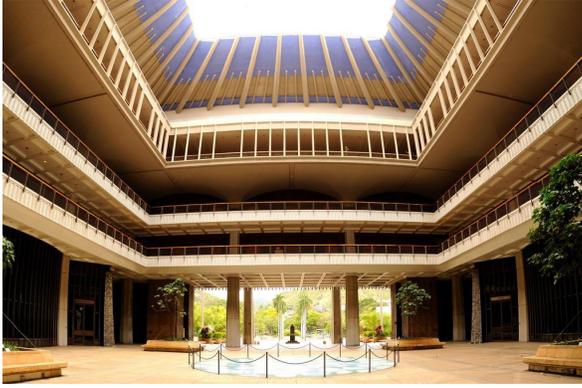
Event Details:

The event will be located in the Plaza Club’s Coronet Room

- 5:00pm - 5:30pm: Cocktails and Pupus
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm: Panel Discussion
- 6:30pm - 8:00pm: Optional Wrap-Up with Cocktails and Pupus

For event questions, please contact Shan Wirt at [swirt@awlaw.com](mailto:swirt@awlaw.com).

## Legislative Outreach Update



The mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers is to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all. As part of this mission, Hawaii Women Lawyers takes positions on legislation at the State level that may impact the lives of women and families. For the 2019 legislative session, Hawaii Women Lawyers has submitted or will submit testimony on the following bills:

**HB 488/SB 1041/ SB 1048 – Relating to Employment (Sexual Harassment)**. SUPPORT with amendments to close loopholes. These measures prohibit written nondisclosure agreements involving sexual assault and sexual harassment as part of an employee's conditions of employment. They also make mandatory confidentiality clauses in an arbitration agreement unenforceable as to sexual harassment claims.

**HCR 5/HR 6/SCR 12/HCR 5 – Relating to Sexual Harassment**. SUPPORT. These resolutions request members of the United States Congress to amend federal law to ensure that victims of sexual harassment and sexual assault from being forced into arbitration and silenced instead of having access to the Courts.

**HB 710 – Relating to Employment Practices (Reproductive Health Discrimination)**. SUPPORT. This measure adds reproductive health decisions and utilization of family leave to the list of categories that are protected against discriminatory employment practices.

**SB 1375/ HB 1192 – Relating to Equal Pay**. SUPPORT INTENT. These measures conform statutory prohibitions against wage discrimination with other prohibitions on employment discrimination. Additionally, they clarify allowable justifications for compensation differentials and remedies for pay disparity and requires employers to disclose wage ranges to employees and prospective employees.

**HB 1311/ SB 1457/ SB 864 – Relating to Appointments of Justices and Judges**. OPPOSE. These measures propose amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii relating to the appointment and retention of justices and judges. Specifically, these measures: 1) change the required time frames from thirty to ninety days for the process to appoint and consent to a justice or judge; 2) harmonize the senate consent procedures for district court judgeship nominees to mirror the senate consent procedures relating to supreme court justices and intermediate court of appeals and circuit court judges, and 3) authorize the senate to approve or reject subsequent terms of office for justices and judges.