



Aloha HWL members,



It is my privilege to serve as the president of Hawaii Women Lawyers for the 2020-2021 term. I am proud to be a part of this community of nearly 300 members, and to work with our Board, a group of very talented and diverse women attorneys. In July, we held our first virtual annual meeting and in August, the Board engaged in a virtual retreat to talk about our priorities for this year. We talked about how the pandemic has been uniquely impacting women attorneys, and the ways in which we are handling this new normal. Like many others, we are dealing with the adjustments of working from home, remote schooling, and worrying about the health, safety, and well-being of our loved ones, friends, and larger community.

But regardless of the challenges, the Board is committed to continuing HWL's service and work. We came away from our retreat with many different ideas for projects to take on this year, including supporting the appointment of qualified women to the Judiciary and other positions, hosting mentorship programs for our members, educating the legal community in efforts to promote equal opportunities for all people, and promoting community service projects. Please see our section below for more information regarding upcoming and prior events. We always welcome ideas and suggestions from you, our members, about what you would like to see HWL accomplish this year. Please feel free to contact us at hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com with your comments and/or questions, or even just to reach out to meet virtually and let us know how you are doing.

Mahalo,

Michi Momose
HWL President

Annual Awards 2020

Hawaii Women Lawyers would like to congratulate the recipients of the HWL Annual Awards for 2020:

Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year

Senator Laura H. Thielen



Lifetime Achievement Award

Judge Barbara P. Richardson (ret.)



Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award

Judge Alexa D.M. Fujise (ret.)



President's Award

Rachael Wong



Distinguished Service Award

Tracey S. Wiltgen



Although we were not able to come together this year to celebrate the awards in person, HWL is honored to recognize the many accomplishments of our awardees, and their numerous contributions to the community. Through their work and service, they have exemplified HWL's mission 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 people.



HSBA's Annual Bar Convention

Hawaii Women Lawyers is hosting a seminar as part of the HSBA's Annual Bar Convention. The seminar will take place on October 16, 2020, from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Participants will receive 3 ethics CLE credits. Register now here! <https://cvent.me/vvywML>.

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: HOW ATTORNEYS OF ALL GENDERS ARE BECOMING ALLIES FOR WOMEN AND CHANGING THE LEGAL PROFESSION - The seminar will be moderated by Rita Makana Risser Chai and Amanda Lavis, and will feature a panel with Claire Wong Black, Kimi Ide-Foster, Madisson Heinze, Rhonda L. Griswold, Danton S. Wong, and Pōhai Nu'uhiwa Campbell.

Despite equal numbers of women entering the legal profession, female attorneys still lag in equity partnerships and leadership roles. Additionally, women attorneys frequently face unique institutional hurdles and societal stereotypes, which have been exacerbated by the recent pandemic. Join our informative conversation about gender harassment and discrimination in the legal industry, and hear from our panel of women attorneys who have successfully broken through the glass ceiling and have collaborated with key allies (both men and women) in their workplace. Attendees will learn how to identify gender barriers and harassment, how to become an ally who empowers women in the workplace, and how to gain a competitive edge through diversity and inclusion. This interactive program will benefit attorneys of all genders who are committed to equitable and inclusive law firms.

Recent Events

Prosecutor's Debate – October 2020

On Saturday, October 10, 2020, Hawaii Women Lawyers hosted its second Prosecutor's Debate with candidates Steve Alm and Megan Kau. The event was broadcast live on KITV-4 and moderated by Judge Karen Ahn (ret.). The video will be available soon on our website at <http://www.hawaiiwomenlawyers.org/events>.

School Supplies Drive – October 2020

HWL and HWLF have partnered to support the Mālama Honua Public Charter School in procuring much-needed PPE and technology supplies.

Mālama Honua Public Charter School is a Hawaiian-focused charter school, located in Waimānalo. Its kula was founded in 2014, the same year Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia set off on their world-wide Voyage. MHPCS's focus is to teach their haumana the Hawaiian values through wa'a, voyaging, and project-based learning. MHPCS services approximately 167 keiki from the Windward side of O'ahu, kindergarten through 8th grade, of which 73% are Native Hawaiian and 50% are of low socioeconomic status.

Donations were accepted until October 9, 2020. If you still wish to donate, please contact HWL at hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com.

Access to Justice Room – September 2020

Hawaii Women Lawyers volunteered to provide pro bono legal services through Access to Justice in the second half of September 2020. For the safety of clients and attorney volunteers, services were provided by telephone.

Prosecutor's Debate – July 2020

On Saturday, July 11, 2020, Hawaii Women Lawyers hosted its first Prosecutor's Debate with candidates Steve Alm, RJ Brown, Jacquie Esser, Megan Kau, Tae Kim, Dwight Nadamoto, and Anosh Yaqoob. The event was broadcast live on KITV-4, streamed by ThinkTech Hawaii, and moderated by Louise Ing. The video can be viewed here: <http://www.hawaiiwomenlawyers.org/events>