

# Summer 2021 Newsletter

## Annual Elections – Please Vote!



It's time to vote in the Hawaii Women Lawyers 2021 Annual Elections for Board of Directors and Officers! All Hawaii Women Lawyers members in good standing are eligible to vote in the annual election, and fill vacancies of the Board of Directors and the Officers of HWL. Nicole Altman (President) and Michi Momose (Immediate Past President) succeed to office without election. For all other positions, please see below. For a brief background of each candidate, please keep scrolling to the next page!

### **Single-Year Terms**

Molly Stebbins (VP/President Elect)  
Erin Kobayashi (Treasurer)  
Samantha Chan (Secretary)

### **2-Year Term (Running for Election)**

Tara Buckley	Nicole Kalakau
Kimi Ide-Foster	Judy Iriye
Stacy Ma	

**All ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021**

**You may vote at the link [HERE!](#)**

**Tara A. Buckley, Esq.**



Tara A. Buckley is a litigation associate at Chee Markham Kato and Kim. Prior to joining the firm, she clerked for the Honorable Jeffrey P. Crabtree at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. She has also worked for the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and completed externships for Hawaiian Electric Company, the Environmental Court, and the Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Tara Buckley received her Bachelor's in Psychology and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She then went on to obtain her law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Tara is licensed to practice law in the State of Hawai'i and the United States District Court of the District of Hawai'i. She is a member of the Hawai'i State Bar Association and has been a Director on the Board of Directors of Hawai'i Women Lawyers since 2019.

**Samantha M.Y. Chan, Esq.**



Samantha Chan is an Account Executive with Atlas Insurance. Prior to serving as an account executive, Samantha was a Senior Claims Consultant at Atlas since 2017 and an attorney practicing with the law firm Chong, Nishimoto, Sia, Nakamura & Goya. With the cumulative experience in claims and litigation, Samantha is able to assist her clients with developing the appropriate risk management strategies through its insurance program.

Samantha received her B.A. in Economics and International Studies from the University of Washington and her J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law.

**Kimi M. Ide-Foster, Esq.**



Kimi Ide-Foster is an attorney at Chun Kerr LLP, where she concentrates her practice in the areas of real estate, commercial finance, and general business transactions. She is a past-president and a current director with Hawaii Women Lawyers, and also serves as a board member for the Hawaii State Bar Foundation, the national board for Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates, Serving AK, HI, ID, IN, KY, and WA, and as president-elect for the 'Iolani Alumni Association.

**Judy M. Iriye, Esq.**



Judy and her family moved to Hawaii in 2016, and she joined Hawaii Women Lawyers soon after. Judy is a Shareholder in Littler Mendelson's Los Angeles office and splits her (employment law) practice between California and Hawaii. Judy is a mentor through the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, UCLA Law School, and the Japanese American Citizens League. Judy is co-chair of Littler's affinity group for Asian-American attorneys and is the Los Angeles office's pro bono liaison. She has several pro bono clients, including Hale Kipa, Nā Pu'uwai, and the East-West Players. Judy is a graduate of Harvard College, where she played volleyball for four years, and UCLA School of Law. After college, Judy spent a year abroad studying

at Keio University in Tokyo as a Rotary Ambassadorial Fellow. She enjoys baking, hiking, and traveling with her husband and 16-year-old daughter.

**Nicole P. Kalakau, Esq.**



Nicole Kalakau is a litigation associate at Leavitt, Yamane & Soldner representing catastrophically injured clients. She has been an HWL Board member since 2018 and looks forward to the opportunity to promote HWL's mission over another term. Nicole is a graduate of the Gonzaga University School of Law and worked as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu for five years, leaving as the Team Captain of the Domestic Violence Felony Division to join her current firm. Before law school, Nicole earned her bachelor's degree from Hawai'i Pacific University as a member of HPU's softball team.

**Erin M. Kobayashi, Esq.**



Erin M. Kobayashi is a founding partner of Lukela & Kobayashi, LLP and has served on the board of the Hawaii Women Lawyers since 2012. She practices in all areas of family law, to include divorce and post-divorce matters (including child custody, child support, property division, and alimony issues), paternity matters, adoptions, and guardianships. Ms. Kobayashi received her Juris Doctor degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii.

**Stacy Y. Ma, Esq.**



Aloha! In December 2015, I returned to Hawaii after 13 years on the East Coast, 6 of which I was practicing as a litigation associate with Schulte Roth in New York City. I joyfully transported my little family of 3 (a husband, then 1 ½ year old son, and golden retriever) from the busy city to a less busy one – with the hope of finding more connection and balance between my legal career and the community that I would be living in and serving. I joined Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP as an associate in the Business Litigation Department, and was nominated as a partner in 2019.

I have always viewed Hawaii Women Lawyers as a vital organization to our community (from brown bags for practicing veterans and new lawyers to local outreach programs), and certainly one that I want to join. Beyond Goodsill, I was a participant in the 2019 Federal Trial Academy and a fellow in the HSBA 2018 Leadership Institute, and am current a board member of the Federal Bar Association Hawaii Chapter and Hawaii Women’s Legal Foundation. I receive my JD from The George Washington University School of Law in Washington, D.C., and BA from Boston University, *cum laude*. I am licensed in Hawaii and New York (inactive). I live in Kailua with my husband, now 6 ½ year old and 4 year old sons, golden retriever and a new cockatiel.

**Molly A. Stebbins, Esq.**



Molly Stebbins is Manager of Claims Services for ProService Hawaii. Prior to joining ProService, Molly worked as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City & County of Honolulu, practicing in the office’s labor law and land use sections. She began her legal career with the County of Hawaii where she served as a Deputy Corporation Counsel from 2007 to 2014, and was appointed the Corporation Counsel from 2014 to 2016. Molly received her B.A. in Social Thought and Political Economy from the University of Massachusetts and her J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law. She joined the HWL Board of Directors in 2020 and is now excited to run for the position of VP/President-Elect. Molly is grateful for the guidance and inspiration of strong women throughout her life and career. She would consider it an honor to continue to serve HWL and to work in furtherance of the organization’s mission of improving the lives and careers of women attorneys and promoting equal opportunities for all.