

e-news

FROM THE WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I



Welcome

to the Twelfth issue of the William S. Richardson School of Law e-news.

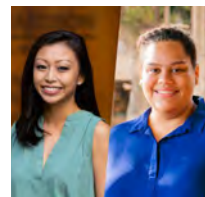
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Stories by William S. Richardson School of Law Media Consultant Beverly Creamer, unless otherwise noted. Photos by Spencer Kimura '96 and Mike Orbito.

Camille Nelson Takes the Helm as Richardson Law School Dean and First Woman Law Dean

CAMILLE A. NELSON, who was Dean of American University Washington College of Law, before taking the helm of the William S. Richardson School of Law August 1, 2020, will be the first woman Dean of the UH Law School, succeeding Dean Avi Soifer, who has retired from the deanship after 17 years but will continue teaching at the Law School.

Dean Nelson, whose appointment was approved by the Board of Regents April 16, said she is delighted to take the leadership of such an accomplished, diverse, and forward-looking Law School. Her scholarship focuses on the intersection of critical race theory and cultural studies, with a particular emphasis on health law, criminal law and procedure, and comparative law.

In this time of international crisis, Dean Nelson said she considers the strengths of Richardson, and those in the Hawai'i community, as critically important. "The expertise that the community holds and cherishes is so greatly needed," she said, citing the deep commitment of the Law School and of the state to environmentalism, social justice, indigenous rights, Hawaiian knowledge, and "Hawaiian ways of knowing."

"There is a way that people in Hawai'i engage each other that is increasingly missing in other places, and it has always profoundly impacted me as positive, inclusive, and contemplative," she said. "Civility, respect, and empathy are taken seriously even when addressing difficulties and challenges. These are also qualities that we try to encourage and support in our law students as problem solvers and leaders."

Dean Nelson was already familiar with the UH Law School when she was first being considered for the appointment. She joined the summer semester teaching team several times as part of the Ulu Lehua Scholars program that supports students from underserved communities. She even flew back to Hawai'i to support her students as they graduated. Years earlier she served as a visiting UH law professor during her first sabbatical.

"This is an incredible opportunity and I'm beyond excited," she said when her appointment was announced. "I'm very much looking forward to working with the president, provost and the faculty and staff at UH, as well as the rest of the UH leadership team. I have always been greatly impressed by the Richardson law students who I have been fortunate to teach over the years. My family and I have had a long relationship with Hawai'i and UH. Of all the places in the world we've been

fortunate to visit as a family we have traveled to Hawai'i the most, so they join in my enthusiasm."

"Her experience and vision will be essential to the expansion of the impact of the Law School here in Hawai'i and beyond."

Dean Nelson said she is also looking forward "to following in the footsteps of Dean Soifer, and to building upon the great foundation he has laid down." In turn, Dean Soifer praised the Search Committee for its service and recruiting Dean Nelson, whom he called "a terrific person" as well as a national leader in legal education who is "experienced, wise, and inspiring."

The University of Hawai'i leadership team also expressed delight that Dean



Dean Camille Nelson

Nelson has been chosen to lead the university's prestigious Law School.

"We are delighted to welcome Dean Nelson to our UH 'ohana," said UH Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno. "Her experience and vision will be essential to the expansion of the impact of the Law School here in Hawai'i and beyond. I look forward to Camille joining the Mānoa leadership team."

Dean Nelson has had a stellar career as an attorney, and in academia. Before her appointment as Dean of American University College of Law, she was the first woman and the first person of color to serve as Dean of Suffolk University Law School in Boston, which is among the nation's largest law schools. Previously she was a Professor of Law at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, a Dean's Scholar in Residence and Visiting Professor of Law at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, and a Professor of Law at the Saint Louis University School of Law. Before entering academia she

was a litigator at the large Canadian law firm McCarthy Tétrault, and clerked for the Supreme Court of Canada.

Born in Jamaica, she holds a B.A. with high distinction from the University of Toronto in Administration; a magna cum laude law degree from the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, and an LL.M. from Columbia Law School.

She has published widely and has received numerous honors and awards. Most recently she was named one of the Top 35 Women in Higher Education by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine, as well as one of the "Most Influential People in Legal Education" by *National Jurist*.

Dean Nelson has joined a Law School that is already highly ranked nationally. Richardson recently was named a Best Graduate School by *U.S. News & World Report* for 2021, and it has consistently achieved high marks in varied rankings, including by *The Princeton Review*, *National Jurist* and *prelaw Magazine*, and *Law.com*. Annually Richardson ranks at or near the top as the law school with the most resources for minority students, as one of the most diverse law schools in terms of students and faculty, and a law school among those most often chosen by older students. It also receives high marks for its Part-Time Evening Program, which supports those who seek to change careers or who have professional, financial, or family obligations during the day but who still dream of attending law school. ❖

Welcome Message from Dean Camille Nelson



THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA William S. Richardson School of Law is truly unique. It is distinct because of its history of excellence and inclusivity, its location in Hawai'i, which is singular in its beauty, its rich culture, its provision of a truly inspiring setting in which to study the law, and its commitment as a Hawaiian place of learning.

As part of a major research university, the William S. Richardson School of Law continues the great tradition of its namesake in uplifting and embracing individuals, community, and all seekers of justice by fortifying them with an excellent legal education delivered by a world-class faculty.

Our professors are internationally recognized for their excellence in teaching, impactful scholarship, and transformative public service. They are dedicated to, and engaged with, our students in ways that support their dreams and aspirations.

The William S. Richardson School of Law ranks amongst the nation's leading schools in affordability and faculty-student ratio. As one of the smaller law schools in the United States, we provide a more personalized learning experience, level of academic support, and engagement with our students, thereby ensuring an exceptional opportunity for our students to learn in a diverse and inclusive environment where they are empowered to excel and achieve.

Our graduates continue to be recognized for their talents in legal practice, business, policy, and on the bench. They have achieved well-deserved reputations for their ethical approach to excellent lawyering and thoughtful leadership, in Hawai'i, across the United States, and around the world. The Law School is proud of our many areas of focus and expertise. Our particular strengths in Environmental Law and Pacific-Asian Legal Studies have been recognized and celebrated for some time.

We also feature many other programs of which we are equally proud and invite you to join us in celebrating our Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, our Clinical and Pro Bono Programs, our Health Law Program, our Business and International law concentrations and certificates, our Innocence Project, and our ongoing commitment to public service, amongst many other excellent programs and learning opportunities for our students.

The staff, administrators, and faculty of the William S. Richardson School of Law nurture, teach, and mentor the next generation of leaders. In short, Richardson Lawyers make a difference. The Law School is home to a community committed to a life of purpose, fortified by an exceptional education that transforms lives and communities, and therefore our world. We are small but mighty and come together in ways that are inspired, uplifting, good-natured, inclusive, and engaging.

We wish you the very best and appreciate your interest in our very special community. ❖

Camille Nelson

With warm aloha,
CAMILLE NELSON

Dean Camille Nelson joined the Richardson School of Law as Dean on August 1, 2020

“As one of the smaller law schools in the United States, we provide a more personalized learning experience, level of academic support, and engagement with our students.”



Law School Follows UH Safety Guidelines With Online Classes

THE WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW is offering classes fully online this fall semester to provide the safest, and most equitable legal education possible during this uncertain time with COVID surging across the U.S. and also in Hawai'i.

A statement from the Law School's deans emphasizes that the COVID Planning Task Force appointed by former Dean Avi Soifer has spent several months developing a plan for the fall that follows the University's instructions for safety guidelines, as well as national public health guidelines.

UH President David Lassner released a statement explaining UH guidelines and the urgent need for safety. From his statement:

"Unfortunately, during these last weeks Hawai'i has seen a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19 cases reported, particularly on O'ahu. UH leadership monitors multiple factors during our regular COVID-19 planning calls. In addition to the case numbers and a number of emergent hotspots, most alarmingly, two major hospitals (have recently) reported that their Intensive Care Units (ICUs) were at or near capacity.

"UH is therefore announcing the maximal reduction of unnecessary presence on our campuses. The only classes conducted wholly or partly in person to start this Fall semester should be those that require physical presence, such as clinical experiences in the health professions, laboratories in the sciences, studios in the arts, and shops in career and technical education. In these and other such cases there must be full adherence to the guidelines released this summer for physical distancing, facial coverings and cleaning/sanitizing.

"Students are requested to review and revise their Fall course schedules to take all or as many courses online as possible while staying on-track for on-time achievement of their degree or certificate."

See President Lassner's full statement here: <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/email/events/august10.html>

These are key elements of the fall plans:

- **Freedom to choose**—No one will be required to come to the Law School in person during the semester.
- **All course instruction will be delivered online.** After Thanksgiving break students who need to or choose to travel will not need to return to the island for the remainder of the online fall semester.
- The Law School will use the **normal grading system** explained in the Student Handbook.
- **As a safety precaution**—and only when necessary—access to the Law School campus will only be allowed by members of the Richardson community and authorized

visitors. All persons will continue to be discouraged from visiting the campus. Because of these safety standards, access to some parts of the Law School campus will be even more restricted than during normal operations.

The deans explained that online instruction will create a semester with fewer interruptions if the COVID situation worsens and the government issues further closures.

They also recognize the challenges faced by students and faculty alike and appealed to the community to work together. "We recognize that the success of the coming Fall Semester depends on all faculty and students redoubling their commitment to creating an engaging and dynamic remote learning environment," they said.

"In addition, the team believes that successful online courses require that students adapt their own learning to fit an online environment. Therefore the team is developing a variety of strategies so the instructor and students together will create an engaging online classroom environment.

"If we all support each other, we are confident that we can use the challenges created by this health crisis to adapt and innovate even under these unprecedented circumstances." ❖



Former Dean Avi Soifer and his wife, documentary filmmaker Marlene Booth, during the farewell Zoom party.

An Emotional Afternoon of Admiration and Fun As Avi Soifer Steps Down from Law School Deanship

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IT WAS NO LESS THAN an online love affair. The outpouring of gratitude,

appreciation, thanks, and yes, love, for former Dean Avi Soifer on July 31, his last day as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, was palpable, even though it was done through a Zoom link-up with 76 colleagues.

From Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald and retired Judge Barbara 'Bebe' Richardson, to UH President David Lassner and Provost Michael Bruno, to attorney and fundraiser extraordinaire Mark Davis and new Law Dean Camille Nelson, plus the entire Law School community, the online praise was a pro-

longed and emotional toast to 17 years of excellence under Soifer's leadership.

"It's one thing to be appreciated for what you have done, but it's another thing to be loved," said Nelson, who stepped into the position as Law Dean the next day. She spoke warmly of what Soifer's tenure has meant and how it has given her "a beautiful foundation on which to build."

But Soifer made clear he and his wife, award-winning documentary filmmaker Marlene Booth, a just-retired University of Hawai'i film instructor, are

not going anywhere. “We love it here,” said Soifer, his voice emotional.

And it was entirely clear that the members of Hawai‘i’s Law School community were delighted and relieved that Soifer and Booth will remain as part of the extended ‘ohana that Soifer has nurtured for almost two decades. Soifer will continue to teach at the Law School.

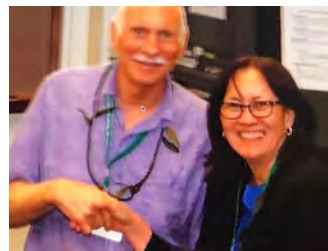
“We are in your debt,” said Judge Richardson, the daughter of the school’s founder and namesake, who has been intimately involved in many aspects of the School’s ongoing activities, including the annual graduation ceremony, yearly orientation for new students, and special dinner that brings scholarship recipients together with benefactors.

“Central to my dad’s vision is for deserving Native Hawaiians to receive a sound education and learning steeped in Hawaiian tradition and progressive ideas, and you wholly embraced his vision,” said Richardson. And that, she said, “has been manifested in a strong and vibrant school.”

Chief Justice Recktenwald applauded Soifer for his “amazing leadership” and spoke of “the strong shared bond between our two institutions.” He noted that more than 30 percent of the judges and justices in Hawai‘i’s legal system are Richardson graduates and added that the Law School serves as an important voice in the community for fairness and justice.

And UH leaders—President Lassner and Provost Bruno—praised Soifer’s long and distinguished Deanship career, but also mentioned his great affection for the Boston Red Sox, with Bruno suggesting that no future classes taught by Soifer would be scheduled after 1 p.m., when baseball games are played on the East Coast.

For his part, Mark Davis, whose law firm, Davis Levin Livingston, and its foundation, provided the \$1 million leadership gift for the new Clinical Building during the fundraising campaign, called Soifer “a



Some highlights of Dean Soifer’s 17 years leading the Richardson School of Law include: groundbreaking for the new Clinical building as well as its dedication; meetings with CJ Richardson and his son, Billy Richardson, and daughter, retired Judge Barbara Richardson; with Justice Sabrina McKenna ’82, and with former Gov. John Waihe’e ’76 and Prof. Melody MacKenzie ’76.

classic dean right out of Central Casting.

“One of the great honors of my life,” continued Davis, “was to help raise money for the building Your building, and your contributions are a great legacy for which you will always be remembered.”

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the moment when Jonathan Osorio, Dean of the Hawai‘iñuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, picked up his guitar and launched into a Bob Dylan ballad, followed by one of his own compositions to honor Soifer. The two deans have been close friends for many years and the musical tribute brought tears to many.

Members of the faculty who gathered for the Zoom farewell reflected on the multitude of accomplishments during Soifer’s tenure, including: establishment of the Part Time Evening Program; establishment of the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law; launch of J-Term to offer added educational opportunities during winter break; start of the LLM program, recently followed by the new AJD and SJD programs; two re-accreditation processes; successful fundraising and support for faculty summer research; and construction of the new Clinical Building, envisioned years ago by CJ Richardson as the Law School’s third prong.

But they also reflected on Soifer’s compassion and kindness, his wit, and his remarkable commitment to reading and making editorial suggestions - plus offering wise commentary.

Professor Emerita Melody MacKenzie ’76, who served as the first director of Ka Huli Ao, reflected on how it was Soifer’s idea for a “full-blown center for Native Hawaiian Law,” and Professor Mari Matsuda pointed to his depth of scholarship, teaching, and legal expertise, and how he had often provided important feedback for her own impressive scholarship.

“He read everything I wrote,” said

Matsuda, who is credited as one of the originators of critical race theory. “Thank you for being a wonderful friend.” Her husband, Professor Emeritus Charles Lawrence, seconded those remarks with his own praise of Soifer’s accomplished scholarship in constitutional law, and their great friendship which began years before he and Matsuda were lured to Richardson by Soifer.

“A classic dean right out of Central Casting”

Former Associate Dean Denise Antolini, Admissions Director Elisabeth Steele Hutchison, Environmental Law Program Director David Forman ’93, Professors John Barkai, James Pietsch, Carole Petersen, Charles Booth, and Associate Deans Ronette M. Kawakami ’85 and Daniel Barnett, all lauded the wisdom with which Soifer has piloted the school.

“He’s the dean who says ‘yes,’” said Kawakami.

“Avi guided us through the rugged shoals of the recession in 2008—with widely opened doors and expanded scholarships and resources for students and faculty,” remembered Professor Eric Yamamoto, who also recalled taking Soifer shopping for aloha shirts when the dean first arrived in 2003. Soifer picked out five, bought them, and was out of the store in seven minutes, said Yamamoto.

Soifer laughed, and admitted he’s still wearing them.

And Professor David Callies, an authority on property law, reprised Soifer’s

own haiku—written on the occasion of the departure of all other faculty and staff members—to pen several limericks for Soifer, explaining that he used Avi’s own technique—“if it doesn’t rhyme, make up a word.” (Soifer is well-known among the Law School’s faculty and staff for writing original and intriguing haiku to honor departing personnel.)



ABOVE: The Law School hosted Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg three times, including pictured here in 2017, as part of the Jurist-in-Residence program. BELOW: Dean Soifer on his last day in his office.

The farewell salute was organized by Deans Barnett and Kawakami, as well as Ka Huli Ao Director Kapua Sproat ’98, Professor Nicholas Mirkay, and Dina Shek ’06, Legal Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai‘i, Kristi Shiraki, Assistant to the Dean, and Susan Serrano ’98, Associate Director of Ka Huli Ao. Spencer Kimura ’96, Director of the LLM and Summer Programs, created a memorable slideshow highlighting Soifer’s 17 years and one month as dean of Richardson. ❖

Kelly Kwan '22 and Gloria-Leilani Palma '21 Chosen As Patsy T. Mink Legislative Fellows for 2020

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DESPITE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC the William S. Richardson School of Law again supported summer legislative fellowships for law students with Hawai'i's congressional representatives as part of a long-standing program honoring the late Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink.

The Patsy T. Mink Legislative Fellowships this year were awarded to Gloria-Leilani N. Palma '21 and Kelly A.S.Y. Kwan '22. Both worked remotely over the summer, with Palma working with Sen. Brian Schatz, and Kwan working with Sen. Mazie Hirono. Both awardees are members of the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program.

"I am most inspired by Congresswoman Mink's unfailing belief that we should all strive for more in hopes of creating a better world," said Kwan, who was a co-founder of CJ's Cubby that provided food assistance to law students in need.

During her work in Hirono's office Kwan looked at federal issues relating

to the environment and the federal Department of Justice. She has worked with women in correctional facilities, and is interested in criminal justice reform.

Palma, who is president of the Student Bar Association, helped the domestic policy team in Schatz' office with upcoming legislation. "I'm excited to further my understanding of policy-making at the federal level, and I'm already seeing how my Richardson education has enhanced my understanding of the law," said Palma.

She has a history of advocacy for some of the most marginalized in the community and is passionate about women's equality.

The Mink fellowship was established by law students in 2003, a year after the congresswoman's death, and "provides a truly unique opportunity" for law students, said Troy J.H. Andrade, Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program.

The fellowship "honors the values and integrity of Congresswoman Mink's life and work," said Andrade, and offers law students first-hand knowledge of national policymaking.

Mink was the first woman of color elected to the United States Congress, serving for 24 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was an outspoken advocate of equal rights for women—as

well as all minorities. Among many efforts, she championed Title IX legislation, which became a portion of the Education Amendments of 1972, and grants women equal access to opportunities in education.

"The fellowship honors the values and integrity of Congresswoman Mink's life and work."

The Mink fellowship honors young law students who possess the passion, drive and commitment to justice exhibited by Mink throughout her lifetime. Facing discrimination in her early years after law school fueled her passion for equal justice for women, and she had a favorite saying: "I can't change the past, but I can certainly help somebody else in the future so they don't have to go through what I did." ❖



Kelly Kwan '22 and Gloria-Leilani Palma '21

'Hero Stories' Took on Special Meaning During COVID-19

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JUST BEFORE FINAL EXAMS FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS, UH Law School faculty and staff have donned chef hats and aprons and dished up an elaborate lunch and dinner for their day and evening students. Dubbed 'Stew Day' and "Noodle Night," these two events have been a way for professors and staff to honor and serve their students.

Included in that long-standing tradition are "Hero stories" gathered from grateful students to spotlight the multiple ways their fellow students looked out for—and looked after—each other.

With classes shuttered for the last semester due to COVID-19, those hero stories took on renewed meaning as they were shared in a week just before final exams.

During a virtual Zoom meeting, two dozen students received special

Ciarra Sapigao plates meals for those in need as part of COVID-19 assistance.



citations from their friends and peers for everything from sharing notes and leading study groups to restarting important student organizations to shopping for, dishing up, and delivering hundreds of meals to those in need during the pandemic.

Here are some of those Richardson Law School heroes:

- Every week **Ciarra Sapigao '22** drove from town to UH West Oahu where she plated hundreds of meals and then drove them to community centers all over the island—all as part of the 'Malama Meals' volunteer organization. "Ciarra has been a true inspiration and has even encouraged other law students to get involved in volunteering especially during this time," wrote her nominator.

- **Debora Halbert '22** shared her notes, helped explain complex class readings to other students, and helped many prepare and prime before a class. "She is incredibly smart and thankfully she has used her skills to help many people digest our course material," said her nominator.

- **Ryan Toyomura '20**, a returning member of one of the moot court teams, shared helpful resources, including briefs, cases, argument formulation, and other assistance with his team members this past year. "He was basically our coach," wrote his nominator. "He even handled most of the logistical legwork (registration, scheduling coaches, working with the school administration) to ensure that our road to the tournament was as smooth as possible."

- **Arianne Cameros '22** drove to class every day after finishing a long day's work at the law firm where she works in Waianae, but she never complained about her commute, and always had a smile. "Ari's infectious laugh will always break the tension in the most stressful situations," wrote her nomi-

nator. "Ari is a kind and compassionate person, and she always checks in on me and her classmates throughout the semester to make sure we are doing okay. Ari has been the support system I needed."

- Second-year student **David Case '21** helped out many first-year students with class advice, note-taking, exam prep, summer prep, and also ran a well-organized and structured Ete team as its head coach. "Had it not been for how well Ete was run, I would not have

"Ciarra has been a true inspiration and has even encouraged other law students to get involved in volunteering."

been closer to my own classmates and those in other grades," wrote his nominator. "At the end of the day, relationships are what matter, and David knows how to help others."

- **Hoku Chun '22** always comes through whether it's organizing events for the Environmental Law Program, making sure moot court briefs are correct, or bringing great food. "Hoku is my hero because she inspires me to be a better law student and a better person," wrote her nominator. "I am inspired by her dedication because I would never be able to balance the demands of law school with the demands of taking care of family. As I struggled through the difficulties of law school, Hoku was always

there to pick me up—something I will always be grateful for."

- **Ilayda Ossana '20** took the leadership role to revive the Law Students Against Violence organization. "I know that she will continue to represent and advocate for people who most need the assistance when she becomes a lawyer," wrote her nominator.

Also cited for their friendship, warmth, caring, and helpful ways were: **Vasana Chiu '20, Constancio Paranal III '22, Melissa Lee '21, Michael Louis '20, Emily Guerrero '22, David Abitbol '22, Jared Say '21, Hannah Caddle '22, Zack Naqvi '20, Joan Tuers '21, Lindsay Lipp '21, Norman Capinpin '20, Ian Tapu '20, and the whole class of Ulu Lehua Scholars.**

As he heard the touching stories, former Dean Avi Soifer said, "The support our students give each other is unsurpassed within legal education in the United States. It was Professor Calvin Pang's idea that the faculty and staff ought to honor and feed them each spring, and each year the students themselves describe extraordinary acts done by their fellow students."

As part of the annual tradition, an outstanding student from each of the day and evening class is chosen to receive former Dean Soifer's 'Red Sox' award—based around his love for the Boston baseball team. In the context of this current difficult time, however, every one of the students nominated were awarded a pair of red socks. ❖



Two UH Law Students Produced More Than 400 Free Face Masks for People in Need

ABOVE: Law students Katie Smith '20 and Lauren Hauck '20 sewed hundreds of masks to give away.

AS UH STUDENTS faced the unparalleled challenge of a pandemic last semester, third year law students Lauren Hauck '20 and Katie

Smith '20 sewed and sent 85 masks to the Women's Shelter at the Institute for Human Services. Another 60 went to the Waikiki Health Center for triage nurses helping incoming patients on the front lines.

Then there were more than 50 for fellow law students at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and their

families; more than 10 for students in the History Department and their families; dozens more for students all across the Mānoa campus; another 35 for Lauren's mom, who is a Los Angeles police officer, and for the officers in her department; and even more for aunts and uncles and cousins and friends who still needed them.

"We made 70 the first weekend," remembers Hauck, who operated her roommate's sewing machine while Smith did the designing and cutting when they first started in early April, just after spring break.

Smith said the two friends launched the project—and by April 30 had produced about 420 free masks—because of their concern that others were profiting from the pandemic, because of the desperate need for protective facial gear. And orders continued to pour in.

"We were hearing from everyone they were going to make masks mandatory," says Hauck. "We wanted to make them available for people who needed them and couldn't afford to order a \$20 mask online," said Smith. "And we've been lucky enough to have generous donations from students and faculty and family and friends." So far the costs have been about \$600, including postage.

"A lot of people in the UH system have contacted us and have gotten our information through word of mouth," says Hauck. "We have a picture with all our mask patterns and we ask 'Let us know how many you need of each.'"

By the end of April they had gone through about 40 yards of fabric and 160-170 yards of elastic. Each 10-yard piece of fabric made about 100-120 masks, with each taking about 10 minutes to cut and sew. Hauck and Smith use 16 inches of elastic for each mask.

Finding the fabric and elastic was the first hurdle. Each roommate, plus boyfriends and other friends spread out



The free masks came in a wide assortment of patterns and colors.

"We wanted to make them available for people who needed them and couldn't afford to order a \$20 mask online."

and stood in long, slow lines at all the local fabric stores to buy elastic and fabric. That took a week. "We each took one day to try to get as much as we could," says Hauck.

Then they looked online to see where the greatest need was.

"I googled what kinds of places needed mask donations and called IHS and got in touch with the woman who runs the Women's Shelter near Costco.

She said 'We need any we can get,'" says Hauck. They sent three dozen at first, and then another 50.

Also important was letting their own networks know, including the History Department, where Hauck has been a graduate student in addition to attending Law School.

Halfway through the project they created a spreadsheet of mask types and addresses so they would have quick access to create shipping labels. They weighed the masks and envelopes so they knew exact postage.

Law School Associate Dean of Student Services Ronette Kawakami '85 said the efforts by these two students were "terrific, and they have concentrated on paying it forward for others."

The two students said their pleated masks do not come with liners, but it's very easy to fold one in—and a heavy paper liner is perfect. They also suggested that the masks be washed every day or two.

"They have done something extraordinary that has helped so many people," said Dean Kawakami. ❖

Professor Melody MacKenzie '76 Named The 2020 Robert W. Clopton Awardee

S “SCHOLAR, TEACHER, MENTOR, community leader, servant leader” —all describe Professor Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie '76, who is the 2020 recipient of the University of Hawai'i's Robert W. Clopton Award for Distinguished Community Service.

“Your subtle, powerful, generous intellect integrated with your open, dedicated, magnanimous heart has generated legacies in research and teaching with counterpart legacies in service to our local communities,” wrote UH President David Lassner in his letter to inform and congratulate Professor MacKenzie.

He added, “You have accomplished the equivalent of a set of challenging professional goals in this field of service to the community, while upholding the highest standards in scholarship as a researcher and writer, and as a citizen of the university.”

MacKenzie retired this past summer after 19 years at the William S. Richardson School of Law, where she established and very successfully led the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law. The Center has trained hundreds of law students in the intricacies of Native Hawaiian law, which is a key prong within Hawai'i's legal system.

“The last two decades of your exemplary professional career as a professor and lawyer have been a focused, intelligent and elegant endeavor to educate and inspire generations of young attorneys in Native Hawaiian Law,” wrote Lassner.

In the words of a student Lassner quoted: ‘Professor MacKenzie’s influence on me, my fellow Ka Huli Ao students and graduates, and Hawaiian law, cannot be overstated. It solidified for all of us that our history, and our legal history, remain relevant in our modern legal framework.’

Law School former Dean Aviam Soifer and Dean Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo‘ole Osorio, of the Hawai‘iniuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, together nominated Professor MacKenzie, noting that she “exemplified the pursuit of justice with persistence, grace, wisdom, and respect for others.”



Former Law Dean Soifer added, “There is no one as qualified for this award, and Melody MacKenzie’s multiple achievements are certain to have a major, positive and lasting effect not only in Hawai‘i but across the globe.”

Professor MacKenzie graduated in the inaugural UH Law School class of 1976, went on to serve as a clerk for Chief Justice William S. Richardson, the school’s namesake, produced the first handbook of Hawaiian law and then spent many years as Editor-in-Chief of the 1,400-page *Native Hawaiian Law: A Treatise (2015)*, generally considered to be the definitive resource for critical legal issues affecting the Native Hawaiian community.

The volume touches on everything from traditional and customary rights, to self-determination, to securing land titles, and it provides detailed explanations of local, national, and international law within a Native Hawaiian context.

President Lassner stated about Professor MacKenzie’s impact: “Going well beyond proposing that culture can and should inform law, your contributions have illuminated culture as a living embodiment of how Maoli culture provides the very foundation for Hawai‘i law.”

The Clopton Award includes a monetary gift of \$1,000. ❖

Professor Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie '76

Cathy Betts '06 Named New Director of State Department of Human Services

RICHARDSON LAW SCHOOL graduate Catherine A. ‘Cathy’ Betts '06 has been appointed by Gov. David Ige to serve as the next director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) beginning September 1, 2020. She has served as Deputy Director under DHS Director Pankaj Bhanot for the past three years, and has been responsible for managing and overseeing operations, according to a news release from the Governor’s office.

“Cathy has the experience and expertise necessary to successfully lead the Department of Human Services during a very difficult and critical period,” Ige said in making the announcement. “I have every confidence that she will serve our residents and our state well.”

Her appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

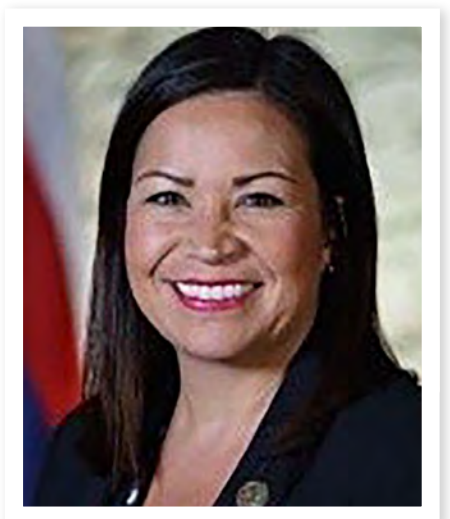
Betts, 43, earned a Bachelors degree in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1999, and then worked at the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapi‘olani Medical Center for Women and Children. It was her experience there that inspired her to seek a legal education at Richardson.

“After working with rape victims I decided to go to Law School to be a victim advocate and to work on policy,” she said. “Richardson definitely honed my critical analysis skills, and the ability to synthesize a lot of data and come to a conclusion based on law. More importantly it strengthened my roots in social justice, and allowed me to see that you don’t have to be a litigator. There are a lot of different careers you can go into with a law degree.”

Her legal background also helped open new doors and she has already had an important career in public service. Before joining DHS in 2017 she was executive director of the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women, and also previously served as Deputy Attorney General with the State of Hawai‘i Department of the Attorney General, where she focused on child abuse and neglect cases. She has also served as a law clerk in the First Circuit Court. Her experience also includes spending time as a family law attorney in private practice.

Betts will run a department that brings to Hawai‘i \$3.6 billion in federal funds annually, and provides benefits to one-quarter of the state’s population through Med-Quest. With state budget shortfalls, those federal funds are critical for the state, she said, noting that funding has increased because of the CARES Act and Corona virus relief. “We’ve been able to apply for waivers for a lot of benefits so that people can get them faster,” she said. “We’ve been able to get ahead of that and serve more people.”

A new DHS framework, ‘Ohana Nui, is a multi-generational approach to eliminate poverty. It designs anti-poverty assistance around serving the diverse needs of the



Catherine A. Betts '06

whole family, rather than serving people in silos. ‘Ohana Nui has been in successful implementation and will continue under Betts. “We should be supporting the whole family so they can get what they need to be healthy and thriving,” she said. “This assistance helps families get on their feet.”

In responding to the Governor’s announcement, Betts said she was honored and grateful for the appointment, and for Gov. Ige’s confidence in her ability to lead. “I will continue to diligently work on our collective vision for the department: that families in Hawai‘i are healthy, safe, and have the ability to thrive. I look forward to continuing this good work throughout the state and with our many respected community stakeholders,” she said in a statement from the Governor’s office. ❖

Law Library Archives Manager Ellen-Rae Cachola Awarded National Fellowship

EELLEN-RAE CACHOLA, library archives manager at the Law Library, was selected as one of 15 fellows nationally for the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Heritage.

Cachola was chosen in the inaugural cohort of fellows for a new three-year program that includes Rare Book School coursework, community symposia and multicultural collections and training activities.

Cachola has been in charge of new collections such as the papers of the late Federal Judge Samuel P. King and eminent legal scholar and UH Professor Jon Van Dyke.

“This fellowship will allow me to showcase our collections in the library, and to engage in dialogue and training with rare books and cultural heritage specialists from across the country,” said Cachola. “It’s an honor to represent our law library and the cultures of Hawai‘i.”

Cachola is the granddaughter of Ilocano plantation workers and a mentee of Hawaiian demilitarization organizers. In addition to her work in the UH law library training and supervising student workers in techniques to process library and archival materials for public access, she is a lecturer in the UH Mānoa Department of Ethnic Studies.

Vicki Szymczak, UH law library director, said Cachola is highly deserving of this national honor, noting that she has taken a leadership role in preserving rare and irreplaceable papers for the UH law library, and made them available for research.

“We are so fortunate to have Ellen-Rae on our team,” said Szymczak. “Her leadership and devotion to archival work is an inspiration and model for anyone who dares to learn from society’s past mistakes and aspires to greatness based on our successes. Her work is so important for all of us.”

UH Law School former Dean Avi Soifer said, “Many of us were aware of the terrific work that Ellen does, but this wonderful national recognition underscores her quiet, yet nonetheless extraordinary, achievements.” ❖



“This fellowship will allow me to showcase our collections in the library.”

Ellen-Rae Cachola

Ian Tapu '20 Wins National Native American Essay Contest And National LGBT Bar Association Student Leadership Award, Plus Organizes National Pasifika Commencement

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NEWLY MINTED UH Law School graduate Ian F. Tapu '20 won first place in the National Native American Law Students Association Writing Competition, and his essay on cultural rights in Pacific island nations is scheduled for publication in the *Arizona Law Review*.

The essay, entitled “*Finding Fonua: Disappearing Pacific Island Nations, Sea Level Rise and Cultural Rights*,” is a critique of the current legal conversation concerning climate change.

At the same time Tapu has won two additional writing awards and organized a nationwide virtual graduation ceremony for all Pacific island students graduating from high school, college and professional schools.



Ian Tapu '20

And, most recently, he has been named winner of the 2020 Student Leadership Award by the National LGBT Bar Association which is the organization's highest honor for law students.

"The award recognizes a law student who has demonstrated leadership within their school and in the surrounding community, especially in the area of LGBTQ+equality," noted the organization's webpage in making the announcement. It also noted that Tapu praised the Richardson Law School 'ohana for being one of his "anchors" in all of his endeavors.

The online graduation ceremony celebrating all Pacific Islanders across the country, including Micronesian, Melanesian, and Polynesian students took place May 29, and was the first-ever Pasifika Commencement Ceremony. Because traditional graduation ceremonies were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tapu reached out to friends throughout the United States and, with their help, put together this first time event.

"We're never sure if this is going to be the last graduation for some of them, so we wanted it to be the best and most celebratory way as possible," said Tapu.

The graduation ceremony was streamed on Facebook, and several registrants were selected to speak. A commencement booklet was created with the speakers' bios, pictures of the graduates, the village or islands they represent, and their schools.

As the first in his family to go to college, and law school, Ian Tapu, whose mother is Samoan, and whose birth father and stepfather are Tongan, has made the needs of fellow Pacific Islanders his mission in life.

Tapu was the president of the Richardson Law School Student Bar Association; president of the Lambda Law Student Association; president of the

Pacific Islander Legal Association; and the Law School Visit Coordinator. He was also one of the coordinators of CJ's Cubby to provide food for law students suffering food shortages.

As winner of the prestigious Native American Law Students award, Tapu looked deeply into the impact of climate

"As Pacific islands disappear due to climate change, what happens to a culture that is inextricably connected to the land? Can legal instruments address those impacts?"

change in Pacific island cultural rights, something that had not been evaluated.

"The impacts of climate change and the national and international responses are viewed through a scientific, technological, political, and financial lens," Tapu wrote. "Even the framing of climate change through a human rights framework has been limited to discussions of political, social, and civil rights, to the detriment of cultural rights."

His article proposes that analysis of the impact of cultural rights will more fully conceptualize the dire consequences of sea level rise in Pacific islands.

"As Pacific islands disappear due

to climate change, what happens to a culture that is inextricably connected to the land?" he asks. "Can legal instruments address those impacts?"

In addition to this award, Tapu has won two additional writing competitions. The first is the Robert Matsui Annual Writing Competition with a prize of \$6,000. His article, "*Who Really is a Noble?: The Constitutionality of American Samoa's Matai System*," has been published in the current issue of the UCLA Asian Pacific American Law Journal - Volume 24, Issue 1. https://escholarship.org/uc/uclalaw_apalj

The second award is the Dukeminier Awards Student Writing Competition. His article, "*Is it Really Paradise? LGBTQ Rights in the U.S. Territories*," is scheduled for fall publication in the Dukeminier Awards Journal of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law.

Tapu has two additional pieces on indigenous rights scheduled for publication, one in the Gonzaga Law Review, and the other in the NYU Review of Law and Social Change. The latter is now up on the organization's website in Volume 44 Issue 3. Find it at: <https://socialchangenyu.com/review/how-to-say-sorry-fulfilling-the-united-states-trust-obligation-to-native-hawaiians-by-using-the-canons-of-construction-to-interpret-the-apology-resolution/>

Retired Law School Dean Avi Soifer said, "Tapu - as he is generally called - is a remarkable leader and organizer, as well as an outstanding student. He has been extraordinarily creative, and he has succeeded in interesting many Pacific Islanders in attending law school; for this, and much more, Tapu has earned tremendous respect from members of the faculty and staff, as well as among his fellow students." ❖

Richardson Again Ranks Among Top Tier U.S. Law Schools in 2021 *U.S. News & World Report* List

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THE UH LAW SCHOOL has again been ranked in the top tier of American law schools, according to the 2021 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for graduate programs released on March 17th.

The William S. Richardson School of Law was ranked 96th among 205 ABA-accredited law schools. Richardson tied with the University of South Carolina and Louisiana State University.

In the same national rankings, the UH Law School's Environmental Law Program ranked 30th out of 190 programs, and the Part-Time Law Program ranked 31st out of 75 programs.

Those rankings put both the full-time and part-time programs at Richardson among the Best Graduate



The new clinical building was completed and dedicated in 2019.



Entrance to the William S. Richardson School of Law

School law programs in the country, according to *U.S. News*.

The overall Juris Doctor degree program's ranking dropped slightly from last year's 91st ranking, but both were higher than two years ago when Richardson was ranked 101st.

"We are pleased to be regularly within the top tier of American law schools," said former Law School Dean Avi Soifer.

"But beyond rankings, our school is known for its warmth, its camaraderie, and its sense of family. Students support one another, look out for one another, and work collaboratively on multiple projects that assist the overall community."

Soifer added, "In addition, we feature small classes and seminars, as well as a great deal of personal connections between students and faculty members."

The amount of attention to student support is reflected in the very low student-to-faculty ratio. Among all law schools, Richardson tied for 5th, with a 4.5 ratio of students per faculty.

In fact, Richardson was only slightly behind Yale, Stanford and Northwestern University's Pritzker Law School in student/faculty ratios.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Daniel Barnett noted that the Law School has undertaken a number of new initiatives that heighten and focus

assistance for graduates preparing for the bar exam.

"Our strength at Richardson is not only our courses and community outreach, but the way our students interact with one another, and bring spirit and energy to an outstanding array of events," said Barnett. "Recently the Native American moot court team achieved high honors, for example, as our moot court teams do every year."

The *U.S. News & World Report* rankings are aggregated based on several factors, including scores on admission tests, acceptance and bar passage rates, and employment rates after graduation. ❖

In *PreLaw* Survey UH Law School Scores Well for Practical Training

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▶ **THE UH LAW SCHOOL** has again received a high grade for its practical training offerings that include clinics, options for externships, and opportunities to be part of moot court teams competing against top law schools across the country.

In the Spring 2020 issue of *preLaw* magazine, the William S. Richardson Law School earned a B+ rating for its array of practical training offerings, which include its requirement of 60 hours of *pro bono* service from each law student before graduation.

"Our school is proud to provide a wide array of clinics in which students have the opportunity to work with real clients alongside faculty and local attorneys," said

former Richardson Law Dean Avi Soifer. "They learn to face and help people with real life problems, even before they become lawyers."

The Law School's Refugee and Immigration Clinic, for example, has been especially active this year while working with migrant families, many of whom live on the Big Island and are seeking asylum. Under the direction of Clinic Director John Egan, law students help offer free legal assistance to families who often speak little or no English.

The migrants often are fleeing terrible violence in their home countries such as Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

At UH, the clinic program was bolstered recently with a new Clinical Building, completed in 2019, that provides space designed for client visits, as well as for the work of clinic students.

While the Refugee and Immigration Clinic has been especially active, it is only one of a dozen clinics offered at Richardson that provide the experiences that law students often say are the most rewarding of their law school years. For instance, the Hawai'i Innocence Project (HIP) offers students the opportunity to work with people who are incarcerated, yet Innocence Projects often can obtain evidence of their innocence.

The project, led by Faculty Specialist Kenneth Lawson, is allied with a network of Innocence Projects across the nation. It affords a powerful example of how dedicated

legal action can at least partially remedy injustice.

PreLaw Magazine noted that practical training has grown "more vital since employers want grads who don't need hand-holding." ❖



The entrance to the new Clinical Building

The 'Leading School' in Ratings for Asian And Native Hawaiian Students

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IN A SPRING 2020 SURVEY of the best law schools for students of color, the William S. Richardson School of Law tops the list as the best choice for Asian and Native Hawaiian law students.

PreLaw Magazine's winter issue named the UH Law School as the leading school in which Asian and Native Hawaiian students thrive. The criteria used included student enrollment, faculty diversity and student services.

The magazine reported that UH Law School has a combined 50.1 percent majority of Asian and Native Hawaiian students; 41.7 percent minority faculty members; and highly rated student services. The magazine noted that UH law students also achieved a high cumulative GPA, and is the school with the highest number of Native Hawaiian students.

Retired Law Dean Avi Soifer noted the remarkably diverse mix of students at Richardson, the Law School's celebration of Hawai'i's varied communities,



and the importance of cultural fluency as a key element of an excellent legal education.

"There is a close-knit sense of mutual support at Richardson, as well as a real partnership in understanding law and seeking justice through it," said Soifer. "Our students create exceptionally strong bonds throughout their three years; great respect for differences is a true strength of our Law School."

University of California-Irvine was second among the top 25 law schools for Asian and Native Hawaiian students, followed by University of California Davis School of Law; University of California Hastings; and Santa Clara University.

The magazine based its decisions on a weighted formula that gave 50 percent of the score to the enrollment, and 25 percent each to the number of diverse faculty members, and the services offered to the diverse student groups.

In rating the services offered to students of color, *preLaw* assessed a range of indices, including: bar exam support; an office that assists minorities; a mentoring program for first-generation law students; student groups that promote the needs of each ethnicity; endowed scholarships for minorities; employment workshops designed to help minority students; and the availability of a summer prep program for admitted students. ❖

China Scholar Professor Alison Conner Retires at the End of the 2019-20 Academic Year

PROFESSOR ALISON CONNER, one of the Law School's authorities on Asia, retired at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Her sendoff was highlighted by a Zoom party with colleagues. Conner, whose more recent scholarship has focused on the subtle political messages in Chinese film including modern as well as pre-1949 movies, has also been an important force in developing new programs at the William S. Richardson School of Law, as well as at UH in general.

At the Law School she directed the Pacific-Asian Legal Studies (PALS) program, for which she introduced Chinese and comparative law courses and oversaw the introduction of the first PALS certificate as well as speaker programs, seminars, and international conferences. She also played a central role in the creation of the highly successful LLM program, for which she served as the initial director. That program was launched in 2003, offering a Master's degree for foreign-trained lawyers and law school graduates. To date it has attracted students from more than 50 countries and now admits U.S.-trained lawyers.

As director of international programs, Conner has also been an important creator of an Advanced JD program, and, most recently, an SJD, or doctorate at Richardson, as well as the VIP program for Visiting International Professionals and a reorganized Visiting Scholars program.

The new programs have served to increase enrollment and attract foreign students over the last decade. The result has been a dramatic rise in diversity and internationalism at the Law School. At the University, Conner has also been active in the Center for Chinese Studies and the Study Abroad Council.

Conner's long love affair with Chinese culture began when she was a child ("I've

always been attracted to Chinese and other Asian cultures") and she has spent part of her career teaching in universities in Hong Kong, Singapore and China as well as conducting research in Taiwan. With a doctorate in Chinese and Southeast Asian history from Cornell and a law degree from Harvard, Conner is an authority on contemporary Chinese society in the context of its social justice system.

She has also been an avid collector of Chinese art and artifacts, and her office at the Law School was a show-case of figurines from the Cultural Revolution, cat teapots, and paintings by contemporary Chinese artists.

"I've lived for at least 15 years all over Chinese Asia and I'm always trying to balance my interests in law and Chinese culture," she has explained. "I think that's why I believe in art and write about movies and expressions of culture."

Her latest article, which has just appeared in *Law & Literature*, analyzes two 1980 films that are not only works of art but dramatize the importance of law in Chinese society.

Conner will remain in Hawai'i but also spend time traveling to both Asia and Europe once travel is available. ❖

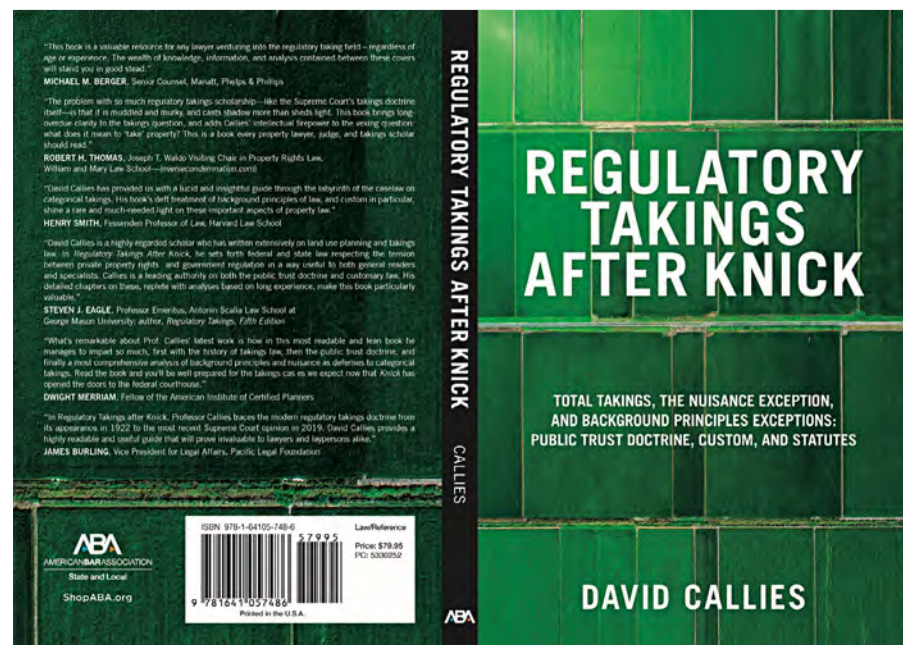


Prof. Alison Conner, center, and the SJD committee, from left: Prof. Tae-Ung Baik, Prof. Carole Petersen, Minara Mordecai, Faculty Specialist Spencer Kimura '96, and Keiko Okuhara.

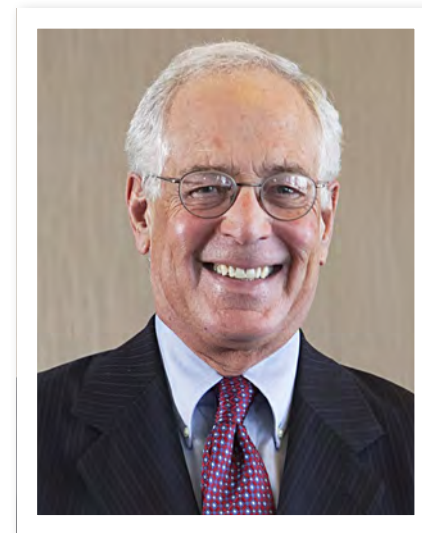
New Book by Law Professor David Callies Explores ‘Takings’ after New Supreme Court Decision

A NEW BOOK published this summer by UH Law School Professor David Callies, an authority on property law, offers an overview of recent legal changes regarding when government entities ‘take’ private property for public use by regulation. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ‘Knick’ decision that enables property owners to sue in federal court without first pursuing legal challenges in state court, property owners now have far more latitude in their ‘takings’ law claims. Callies’s book explores the decision in *Knick v. Township of Scott* (2019) and explains what it means for regulatory takings law.

His book “*Regulatory Takings after Knick: Total Takings, the Nuisance Exception, and Background Principles Exceptions: Public Trust Doctrine, Custom, and Statutes*,” published by the American Bar Association, provides a summary of takings law in general. It also offers a thorough explanation of both customary law, and the Public



Trust Doctrine in real estate law that allows government to prevent any economic use of private land if it is subject to the Doctrine or a customary use.



Legal scholars from across the country already have commented on the importance of Callies’s book. Professor Henry Smith of Harvard Law School called it “a lucid and insightful guide through the labyrinth of the caselaw on categorical takings,” and Steven J.

Professor David Callies

‘Provisional’ Licenses Offered to Law School Grads for 2 Years Because of COVID

A APPLICANTS WHO ARE APPROVED FOR THE BAR EXAM—but do not write it this year or next—will be able to receive temporary licenses to practice law in the state of Hawai‘i, according to an announcement in late July by the Hawai‘i Supreme Court. Due to health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic, the temporary licenses are an alternative to the written test.

The high court has allowed approved applicants the option of foregoing the written test so they can opt for a provisional license for the next two years. Those licenses will expire on July 1, 2022 unless applicants take and pass the exam in the interim time period.

The UH Richardson Law School deans and faculty appealed for these changes because of the many issues of writing the bar exam under these difficult public health conditions. Recent graduates had expressed safety concerns, as well as concerns about having time to study in this difficult period.

Regardless of whether or not applicants seek a provisional license, they can still defer writing the bar exam to a later date. There will be no loss of fees if they have already been paid.

The provisional license allows law school graduates to work—if they are directly supervised by an attorney with an active license who is practicing in Hawai‘i.

The provisional license also requires the applicants to remain in good standing and honor obligations, just as regularly licensed attorneys must do.

The bar exam will still be administered September 9-10, with all public health guidelines and social distancing in place. ❖

Eagle, of the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, noted that the new book “sets forth federal and state law respecting the tension between private property rights and government regulation in a way useful to both general readers and specialists.”

“A lucid and insightful guide through the labyrinth of the caselaw on categorical ‘takings’”

The Supreme Court decision involved a woman fighting her small Pennsylvania town for its attempt to allow public use, during daylight hours, of an area of her farm that was the site of a small cemetery. Background: Takings law is embodied in the Fifth Amendment, which allows governments to take property from private owners for a public use, as long as the property owners are adequately compensated. Through judicial interpretations over many years, the issue has become decidedly complex.

Former Law School Dean Avi Soifer noted that Professor Callies has taught Property Law to at least a generation of law students at the William S. Richardson School of Law, including J. David Breemer ’01, who successfully argued *Knick* in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the Pacific Legal Foundation.

The book is available through the ABA at ShopABA.org. ❖

Professor Andrea Freeman Awarded 2021 Fulbright King's College London U.S. Scholar Award

ASSOCIATE LAW PROFESSOR ANDREA FREEMAN, who pioneered the theory of “food oppression,” studying how industry-government partnerships harm marginalized communities, has been awarded the 2020-21 Fulbright King's College London U.S. Scholar Award.

The grant begins in January 2021.

Professor Freeman will study food inequality and its relationship to policy in the United Kingdom, investigating how law and policy interact with corporate interests, racial stereotypes, and popular beliefs about health and personal responsibility to contribute to health disparities.

“The UK has significant disparities along racial lines in rates of Type 2 diabetes, obesity, strokes, high blood pressure, and heart disease,” said Professor Freeman. “These conditions are risk factors for the most serious and deadliest cases of COVID-19.”

Freeman uses a critical race theory lens to examine how apparently neutral food-related law and policy, influenced by corporate interests, has disproportionately harmed vulnerable communities.

She is the author of the recently published “*Skimmed: Breastfeeding, Race, and Injustice*” in which she explores how cooperation between government and the food, agricultural, and pharmaceutical industries lead to race, gender, and class disparities.

In her book, Professor Freeman traces the story of the famed “Fultz Quads”—four identical sisters born into a North Carolina tenant farming family in 1946. They were America's first surviving black quadruplets. Their white physician sold the rights to use the girls for marketing purpose to the highest-bidding formula company, Pet Milk. Now, more than half a century later, baby formula is a \$70 billion industry and black mothers have the lowest breastfeeding rates in the U.S.

The book has generated a great deal of interest and attention across the country and internationally. ❖

“These conditions
are risk factors for
the most serious and
deadliest cases of
COVID-19.”



Professor Andrea Freeman



A variety of paperbacks and hard cover books were collected at the Law School for Halawa inmates.

Book Drive for Inmates at Halawa Correctional Facility Led by Law School

THOSE INCARCERATED at the Halawa Correctional Facility got an additional 168 paperback books in their library just before last Christmas thanks to a book drive by the UH Law School.

The used book drive at the William S. Richardson School of Law partnered with the Friends of Hawaii Kai Library to bolster the library offerings for the inmates at the Halawa facility. The Library donated an additional 250 paperbacks.

Spencer Kimura '96, director of the Law School's LLM and Summer Law Programs, organized the drive, and helped deliver the books on December 13. The books include thrillers by well-known authors such as Tom Clancy, Michael Crichton, and John Grisham, as well as stories of modern-day adventures.

“With your donations,” Kimura wrote to Law School faculty, staff, and students, “the inmates have the tools to broaden their skills and knowledge, and to connect with other people, worlds, and experiences through reading.”

Kimura learned of the pressing need for books while leading a visit to the prison by international students at the Law School, one of the many external visits Kimura frequently arranges and leads. ❖

Henderson Huihui '20 Awarded Prestigious National Legal Rights Fellowship to Work with Native Hawaiian Legal Corp.



Henderson Huihui '20

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HENDERSON HUIHUI '20 has been awarded a prestigious national “Design-Your-Own Fellowship” by the nonprofit Equal Justice Works in Washington, D.C. Huihui will join a cohort of 76 Fellows from across the country working on projects they have designed themselves.

He is the first William S. Richardson School of Law student to receive this competitive and creative fellowship.

Huihui, who has served as a law clerk with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, will research the rights of the beneficiaries of the Department of Hawaiian Home Land (DHHL). Through the Fellowship, he will continue his NHLC work for two years, also sponsored by an anonymous benefactor.

“My project will focus on the common issues faced by DHHL beneficiaries, including lease cancellations, foreclosures, successorship rights, and complex administrative regulations that beneficiaries often navigate alone and without the benefit of legal and other support and advocacy,” said Huihui.

“I hope to assist not only those who have a homestead but even those who are on the waitlist, or those eligible but have yet to apply,” he added.

Huihui said he hopes to empower DHHL beneficiaries by advising them about their legal rights and about procedures that relate to homesteading opportunities, as well as by providing direct legal service, advocating for policy reform, and fostering community partnerships and collaboration.

“We are incredibly proud that Henderson is joining our Equal Justice Works community as the first-ever Fellow from Hawai‘i,” said Aoife Delargy Lowe, Director of Law School Engagement & Advocacy at Equal Justice Works, in an email message. “Henderson’s commitment to Native Hawaiian families is a testament not only to him, but to the Richardson Law School that nurtured his passion for public service and equal justice.”

“We are proud of Henderson’s accomplishments and warmly congratulate him on winning such a competitive fellowship,” said Trisha Y. Nakamura, Director of Career Services and Professional Development at the Law School. “As a Fellow, Henderson will connect with Equal Justice Fellows across the United States, thereby achieving a national platform for his talent, our Richardson Law community, and important Native Hawaiian issues.”

Summer L.H. Sylva, Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC), said she is delighted to welcome Henderson back as a 2020 EJW Fellow. He will join the

“We are proud of Henderson’s accomplishments and warmly congratulate him on winning such a competitive fellowship.”

NHLC team in September.

“Henderson’s passion for and demonstrated commitment to NHLC’s work and mission—a just Hawai‘i, guided by Hawaiian values, customs, and ways of knowing—endeared him to all on staff as a 2019 Summer Law Clerk and then as a Spring 2020 Extern,” said Sylva in an email message.

She added, “His fellowship project’s focus on providing comprehensive outreach and advocacy to Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust speaks volumes about Henderson’s aloha for his community and the value he places on public service. We look forward to the positive impact his work will have on our underserved communities.”

Equal Justice Works collaborates with community partners that sponsor Fellows who work within specific communities on diverse needs. Founded by law students in 1986, the nonprofit has created opportunities “for lawyers to transform their passion for equal justice into a lifelong commitment to public service,” according to EJW’s website.

The website also notes that on average each fellow serves 297 clients during his or her fellowship, and that 85% of the fellows remain in public service positions across the nation. The nonprofit has offered more than 2,000 fellowships in its 34-year history. ❖