

e news

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



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



Richardson Prof.
Maxine Burkett to
Biden Administration

PAGE 2



UH Law School
Graduates 109 in
Covid-19 Year

PAGE 6



LSA Legacy Award
Honors Lawrence
And Matsuda '80

PAGE 14



New 'Island Leadership
Lab' To Empower Next
Generation

PAGE 16

ALSO INSIDE:

- 4** Keone Nako'a '15 joins the Biden Administration's Office of Insular and International Affairs
- 18** 2 Hawai'i Innocence Project Cases Make Major News For a Former Schofield Soldier Jailed for Four Decades, and a Man Imprisoned by Mistaken Identity
- 22** The New Miss Hawaii Courtney Choy '21 Will Use Her Law Degree to Fight for Girls and Women
- 25** 11 Richardson Graduates Named to HSBA 2021 Leadership Institute
- 26** Home-Grown Law School Hero Devin Forrest '22 Lauded in National Jurist for Pro Bono Work

- 30** New Associate Dean at Richardson Law Looks To Help Guide School Through Strategic Plan
- 32** Missing Child Center - Hawaii Receives U.S. Department of Justice Award
- 34** Four Richardson Graduates Honored as Emerging Community Leaders by *Hawaii Business Magazine*
- 36** UH Law Library Archivist Receives Grant To Preserve The Chief Justice William S. Richardson Archive
- 38** Susan Serrano '98 Steps into Role As New Director of Faculty Research
- 39** Marilyn Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano '79 Honored

- By Induction into 2021 AVCA Hall of Fame
- 40** Sonja McCullen '02 Confirmed by Senate To Intermediate Court of Appeals
- 41** Law Student Logan Araki '23 Chosen for Inaugural NAPABA Judicial Council Summer Internship
- 43** Law Student Kenneth Go '22 Credits Richardson with Staying Connected to Community

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

Richardson Law Professor Maxine Burkett Tapped for Role in Biden Administration

P

PROFESSOR MAXINE BURKETT has been appointed to a senior position in the Biden Administration, working as a Senior Advisor with the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC). In the role, Professor Burkett will be working with Secretary John Kerry on international climate change issues and negotiations.

Professor Burkett has taught at the Richardson School of Law since 2009, has long served as a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and in 2015 was appointed to serve on the Federal Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment.

“This is welcome news for island communities like ours and

Professor Maxine Burkett



demonstrates how committed the Biden Administration is to building an extraordinary team to tackle the climate crisis,” said Senator Brian Schatz. “Hawai‘i continues to produce national leaders in the climate and energy space that are helping navigate our country and—now in the case of Professor Burkett’s appointment—the entire globe forward.”

An expert in climate law and policy, Professor Burkett has written extensively on climate change issues with a particular focus on climate justice—developing policy tools to address climate change impacts on frontline communities in the United States and around the world.

“The University of Hawai‘i is immensely proud of Professor Burkett’s appointment and we recognize the importance of having such a gifted and experienced professional step into this critical role,” said UH Mānoa Provost Michael Bruno. “Maxine’s knowledge and passion have inspired and informed so many of our students, and this knowledge and passion will now be put to use on a grand scale to address one of the greatest crises of our time—climate change.”

Professor Burkett also was on the vanguard of providing real-world policy tools to local governments over a decade ago as the Director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy, providing early climate adaptation related documents, programs, and model policies for communities in Hawai‘i and other Pacific Island nations.

“The University of Hawai‘i and the William S. Richardson School of Law are leading the way in finding solutions to a most pressing issue facing humanity,” said Camille Nelson, Dean of the Richardson Law School. “In 2009 we tapped Professor Burkett to help develop cross-sector solutions

to climate change and develop a new model, and now she will be taking that island knowledge and experience into international discussions. We’re incredibly proud of this appointment, and look forward to having her return to the classroom with even more knowledge and expertise after her role in the Administration.”

“We’re incredibly proud of this appointment, and look forward to having her return to the classroom with even more knowledge and expertise after her role in the Administration.”

Professor Burkett will be taking a leave of absence from Richardson Law School during the appointment with the State Department, and stepping down from several local and national boards including the Blue Planet Foundation, The Climate Museum, Elemental Excelsator, and the Global Greengrants Fund.

“As someone born in an island community in Jamaica, as an immigrant to the United States, and now raising my children in an island community here in Hawai‘i, I’m very excited to bring these perspectives to the table as 21st century climate policy is developed,” said

Professor Burkett. “It is time to treat the climate crisis like the emergency it is and I’m proud to be joining an Administration that is restoring our international standing on climate issues, and being crystal clear that equity must be part of all climate solutions.”

Professor Burkett’s appointment is not the first for a UH Richardson Law-related faculty. Shalanda Baker, a recent professor of energy law at Richardson, was recently nominated by the Biden Administration to serve as the Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the Department of Energy. Hawai‘i was the first state in the nation to pass a 100% renewable energy mandate in 2015.

The Office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, formed by Executive Order 14008 issued on January 27, 2021, is led by Climate Envoy and former Secretary of State Kerry, and is closely integrated with the State Department’s climate diplomacy team. The SPEC office, including Professor Burkett in her appointed role, will support the envoy in leading diplomatic engagement on climate change, exercising climate leadership in international fora, and ensuring that policies regarding climate change are integrated into all elements of the Administration’s foreign policy-making processes. ❖

Keone Nakoa '15 joins the Biden Administration's Office of Insular and International Affairs

R

RICHARDSON LAW SCHOOL ALUM Keone Nakoa '15 is one of the newest additions to the Biden administration.

As Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, Nakoa joins the office which oversees the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

"The territories are an integral part of the fabric of America, and the freely associated states, while independent countries, are uniquely interwoven with the United States in terms of a shared history, ongoing partnership, and a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," said Nakoa in an email.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Nakoa is part Native Hawaiian and now lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Stephanie Lee — also a '15 Richardson grad.

He is 1 of 5 appointees announced by the administration and will add to the Interior's diverse political team, with 70 percent identifying as women and over 60 percent as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous or people of color).

I look forward to working with the Office of Insular Affairs team and leadership from the insular areas and the freely associate states to fulfill our trust and insular responsibilities...

Prior to his appointment, Nakoa served as the Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), advocating for the Native Hawaiian community while working with Congress and federal agencies. As part of the OHA, he has spoken on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander affairs, working to raise awareness of inequities faced by the community,

including in health, education, housing, and the criminal justice system.

Nakoa also worked as a speechwriter for the late Sen. Daniel Akaka and later clerked for the Chief Judge of the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals. He practiced law in Honolulu, specializing in corporate governance and commercial litigation.

Some of the major issues on the administration's agenda include climate change, honoring indigenous communities, safeguarding America's public lands and waters, and creating jobs in a clean energy economy.

"I look forward to working with the Office of Insular Affairs team and leadership from the insular areas and the freely associated states to fulfill our trust and insular responsibilities through efforts to strengthen economic and health capacities in the territories, fulfill U.S. Compacts of Free Association obligations, and address climate resilience, conservation, and clean energy deployment," said Nakoa.

The Richardson alum has a bachelor's degree in biological anthropology from Harvard University and completed MBA and J.D. degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. ❖

Keone Nakoa '15



UH Law School Graduates 109 in a Year That called for Courage and Resilience

T

THE UH LAW SCHOOL graduated 109 law students in May, with Hawai'i Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald challenging them to "always seek justice" as they go forward in their careers, and Dean Camille Nelson praising them for their fortitude, courage and steadfastness through this most difficult of times – a global pandemic.

"As attorneys we are called upon to live those ideals," Recktenwald continued, reflecting back on the student pledge he administered three years ago in the Hawai'i Supreme Court chambers as the graduates began their law school careers. The pledge commits each student to guard legal, civil and human





rights, to approach responsibilities with integrity, professionalism and civility, and to advance the interests of those they serve before their own.

“You are the future leaders, the voices for justice and the rule of law,” Dean Nelson told the graduates. “You belong to what is likely one of the most resilient, hard-working, determined, committed, dynamic, and flexible generations that we have witnessed in decades. You have had to adjust, focus, re-focus, pivot, help others ... and study, not just any curriculum, but a

“You are the future leaders, the voices for justice and the rule of law.”



law school curriculum in the midst of it all! This is tremendous. Take a moment to bask in your accomplishments and exhale. If you can make it through all of that, I am convinced that you can do pretty much anything you set your hearts and minds to.”

The commencement was live-streamed on YouTube, with deans and speakers gathered at the William S. Richardson School of Law for a video that also included shots of each graduate celebrating at home with friends, family, champagne, balloons, babies and pets.

As well, the ceremony included Mahalo messages from graduates, thanking not just their loved ones, but their classmates and professors for the







tremendous support they received.

In addition to the virtual ceremony May 16, 36 law graduates joined a hybrid walkthrough in their commencement regalia in the evening of May 13 at Bachman Hall, where they had photos taken with Dean Nelson in front of the Bachman Hall mural. By providing both a virtual and hybrid choice, the UH team offered several options for 2021 graduates.

Those options for law graduates included listening to commencement speakers during the live-streamed ceremony, including: Professor Nicholas Mirkay who was chosen by graduates as the faculty speaker; Kaulu Lu'uwai speaking for the JD class; Hoku Chun speaking for the Evening Part-Time Program; Samraansh Sharma speaking for the LLM class; and Judge Barbara 'Bebe' Richardson (Ret.) presenting the class. Graduate Gloria Palma was MC, Professor Kapua Sproat narrated the historic overview of Richardson Law School's founding which opened the program, Kahikino Noa Dettweiler-Pavia chanted the oli, and Professor Troy Andrade played 'Hawaii Aloha' on the ukulele.

The commencement included: 103 with JD degrees, including 95 in the Full Time Program, and 8 in the Evening Part-Time Program; 5 with LLM degrees; and 1 with an SJD degree. The LLM students hailed from the Solomon Islands, Japan, Korea, and India as well as the U.S. ❖

LSA Legacy Award Honors Professors Mari Matsuda '80 and Charles Lawrence for Their Work

R

RICHARDSON PROFESSORS Mari Matsuda '80 and Charles Lawrence (emeritus) have been honored by the Law & Society Association with the prestigious Legacy Award. It is given annually by the 57-year-old association to those whose contributions “significantly helped to develop the association through sustained commitment to the association’s mission and legacy, extensive service, or scholarly publications that made a lasting contribution to the association,” according to the LSA website.

The impact of both Matsuda and Lawrence’s work is highlighted on the LSA awards pages:

Mari Matsuda

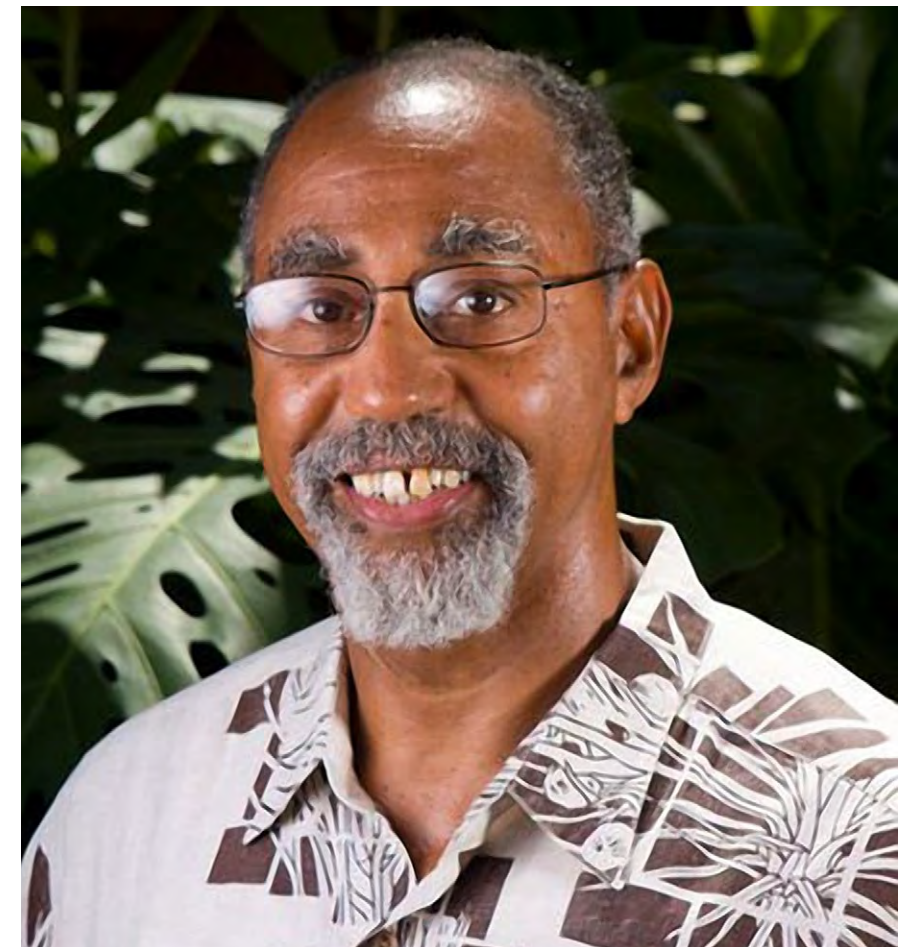
From her earliest academic publications, Professor Matsuda has spoken from the perspective and increasingly used the method that has come to be known as critical race theory. She is not only one of its most powerful practitioners, but is among a handful of legal



scholars credited with its origin. Her first article, “Liberal Jurisprudence and Abstracted Visions of Human Nature,” published in 1986, boldly—albeit respectfully—took on liberal legal philosopher John Rawls’ theory of justice and in doing so announced her own philosophical orientation. Matsuda concludes her piece with an idea that informs much of her work in subsequent years: “There is, as Rawls suggests, a place called Justice, and it will take many voices to get there.” The voices she has in mind are the voices that have been left out, “outsider” voices speaking

“There is, as Rawls suggests, a place called Justice, and it will take many voices to get there.”

as individuals and as members of their communities of origin, voices of subordinate peoples. Voices from the bottom, Matsuda believes—and critical race theory posits—have the power to open up new legal concepts of even constitutional dimension. Paradoxically, bringing in the voices of outsiders has helped to make Matsuda’s work central to the legal canon. A Yale Law School librarian ranked three of her publications as among the “top 10 most cited law review articles” for their year of publication. Judges and scholars regularly quote her work.



Professor Charles Lawrence

Charles Lawrence

Professor Lawrence joined the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2008 from Georgetown. He began his teaching career at the University of San Francisco in 1974, was a tenured professor at Stanford and Georgetown, and has visited several other schools, including Harvard, Berkeley, UCLA, and the University of Southern California. Professor Lawrence is best known for his prolific work in antidiscrimination law, equal protection, and critical race theory. His most recent book, *We Won't Go Back: Making the Case for Affirmative Action* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997), was co-authored by Professor Mari Matsuda. Professor Lawrence received

the University of San Francisco School of Law’s Most Distinguished Professor Award; the John Bingham Hurlburt Award for Excellence in Teaching, presented by the 1990 graduating class of Stanford Law School; and the Society of American Law Teachers national teaching award. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by Haverford College, and Georgetown University, most recently. In December of 2019, he also received an honorary Doctorate from Nelson Mandela University in South Africa. He served as a member of the District of Columbia Board of Education and on many other public interest boards. ❖

New Island Leadership Lab Launched At Law School to Empower Hawai'i's Next Generation of Leaders

A NEW ISLAND-FOCUSED LEADERSHIP LAB training future legal and business leaders at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law will launch this Fall. The Island Leadership Lab (Lab) is the result of a unique collaboration between law school alumni, Law School leaders, and volunteer "Leaders in Residence" who will share insight gained over decades of service with law students about to embark on their careers.

Increasingly, law school graduates find themselves exercising leadership outside law firms and courtrooms. Richardson Law has several generations of graduates who have founded businesses, become non-profit executives, and dozens have been elected to political office. Richardson Law graduates exercise leadership in multiple roles in many sectors across society, but legal education has traditionally focused exclusively on the role of lawyers within the legal arena.

In this unique seminar, William S. Richardson School of Law Dean Camille Nelson will be joined by several Leaders in Residence to provide an immersive leadership experience grounded in a curriculum specifically developed to prepare next-generation leaders for success. The seminar will feature candid conversations and case studies with established local and national leaders, including former Mayor Kirk Caldwell '84, Catherine Ngo, President of Central Pacific Bank, Kenji Price, Partner with McDermott Will & Emery LLP and former United States Attorney for the District of Hawai'i, and Kellye Testy, President and CEO of the Law School Admission Council, all of whom will serve as inaugural Leaders in Residence.

The Lab is the brainchild of Law Dean Nelson, and came into fruition through close collaboration with a group of Richardson Law alumni and the support of the Hawai'i Leadership Forum.

"The Island Leadership Lab pilot program is designed to train our future state leaders upstream, and give our students the tools to succeed as leaders before they leave our doors," said Nelson. "The Lab provides a leadership curriculum anchored in actual case studies and will foster serious conversations with high level leaders who want to invest in the next generation."

Leaders in residence represent a diverse cross-section of perspectives and experiences in the financial, public, legal, business, and non-profit sectors. The leadership curriculum for the Lab is based on a successful model created by the Hawai'i Leadership Forum—the Omidyar Fellows. Omidyar Fellow and Richardson Law alumni Josh Stanbro helped facilitate the Lab creation. Led by Omidyar Fellow and attorney Noelani Kalipi,

several Omidyar Fellows will share their training, and facilitate applied learning opportunities as a part of this Lab. Upper year law students have the opportunity to enroll in the one-semester pilot program which will begin in October, 2021.

"While Richardson Law students will be the direct beneficiaries of this program in the near term, given the high ratio

"While Richardson Law students will be the direct beneficiaries of this program in the near term, given the high ratio of leaders who graduate from our Law School, we expect that the entire state will benefit from the Island Leadership Lab in the coming decades."



Former Mayor Kirk Caldwell '84, Catherine Ngo, President of Central Pacific Bank, Former U.S. attorney for Hawaii Kenji Price, and Kellye Testy, President and CEO of the Law School Admission Council as 'Leaders in Residence'

of leaders who graduate from our Law School, we expect that the entire state will benefit from the Island Leadership Lab in the coming decades. As such, we hope to be able to secure support for the program beyond the pilot year," added Nelson. "The pilot semester will demonstrate what an ongoing, endowed 'Island Leadership Lab' could provide for the state on an ongoing basis."

Classes will be held in four-hour

blocks on Saturdays from October 16th through November 20th, enabling enrollment by both day and evening students.

The seminar will highlight contemporary leadership issues including dimensions of leadership, diversity, equity and inclusion, difficult conversations, courageous leadership, facilitation training, and collaborative problem-solving. The Lab will feature small group interactions that build leadership skills and share tools

that will be used by students during their law school studies, upon graduation, and across their entire careers.

"Hawai'i faces huge challenges and opportunities in the coming decades," said Nelson. "This is a joint effort by our alumni, leaders who want to give back in our community, and local partners to create an in-depth experience deep enough and real enough to meet those issues head-on." ❖

Two Hawai'i Innocence Project Cases Make International News

THE HAWAII INNOCENCE PROJECT has two cases that made national and international news. In the first, the team hopes to prove the innocence of Clifford Hubbard, who has been imprisoned for almost 40 years for a crime he was accused of when he was a soldier stationed at Schofield Barracks. In the second, they are championing Joshua Spriestersbach, who was wrongfully arrested and imprisoned in the Hawaii State Hospital in a case of mistaken identity.

Hubbard has steadfastly maintained his innocence, and Spriestersbach – who was imprisoned for two years and eight months after a supposed parole violation – repeatedly protested that they arrested the wrong man.

In Hubbard's case Hawai'i Innocence Project Attorney and Associate Director Jennifer Brown and volunteer attorney William Harrison gave oral arguments in early July before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, asking that DNA evidence be allowed in his case under the Innocence Protection Act ("IPA").

At issue was whether DNA testing should be allowed under the IPA. The U.S. District Court in Honolulu had ruled that the statute does not apply to Hubbard because he was convicted by a military tribunal and not a federal court. Despite HIP's appeal, in early August the 9th Circuit panel upheld the District Court decision, but also called on Congress to alter the statute to include service members.

The 9th Circuit panel expressed dismay that military personnel are excluded from the DNA statute in the IPA, and urged Congress to correct this disparity that does not allow members of the U.S. military who have been convicted in a court-martial to have the same opportunities as civilian prisoners in seeking DNA testing that could exonerate them.

The Innocence Protection Act's "text creates the bizarre and unjust result that service members convicted by courts-martial are less able to obtain DNA testing than other categories of prisoners, federal or state," said the opinion by Judge Michelle Friedland, that was concurred with by the panel's two other judges.

"I urge Congress to remedy this unfairness by amending the IPA to explicitly provide service members convicted by courts-martial the same avenues for post-conviction DNA testing afforded to other prisoners," continued Friedland in her opinion. "This disparity is entirely inconsistent with the respect usually given to veterans."

Kenneth Lawson, co-director of the Hawai'i Innocence Project, told the Associated Press that in the wake of the 9th Circuit's decision, the Innocence Project will ask for help from Hawaii's congressional delegation, as well as asking for a larger 9th Circuit panel to evaluate the case.

"If that doesn't work," he said, "the only option left is to seek clemency from the president."

"The evidence the MPs had pointed to the two men who went AWOL, but instead Mr. Hubbard was charged."

Lawson said Hubbard had been convicted on scant evidence, including the testimony of a supposed witness who changed his story multiple times. The crime involved the attempted sodomy and murder of the teenage son of a Colonel.

"We believe that we have an excel-

Clifford Hubbard





Joshua Spriestersbach

lent case of actual innocence and believe that DNA testing will definitively prove that Mr. Hubbard had nothing to do with the crime for which he is incarcerated, and that he is actually innocent,” Lawson said in an email.

The Hawai‘i Innocence Project has been working on Hubbard’s case for a number of years.

“From the time we received his first correspondence, over 10 years ago, Hubbard’s case was one that we

were immediately drawn to because it was obvious to us that Mr. Hubbard was innocent and had never received a fair trial,” said Lawson. “Mr. Hubbard had already been incarcerated for 30 years when we started working on his case. We realized that he had been wrongfully convicted on junk science (microscopic hair analysis) and that the two main suspects who were connected to the crime scene went AWOL from base right before his trial. Hence, Mr.

Hubbard never received a fair trial.”

Lawson said it’s not known exactly what DNA evidence remains. The HIP motion that went to the 9th Circuit panel said that investigators had collected several pieces of physical evidence from the crime scene. Those items included the victim’s socks and a shirt cut from his body. Both could be DNA tested, according to the HIP motion.

There was a co-defendant in the case, Thomas Spindle, and he was the

one who found the body, said Lawson. When the military police asked Mr. Spindle for his alibi for that night, he mentioned numerous people who may have seen him - including Mr. Hubbard who was at the barracks that night. Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Spindle were not friends but lived at the barracks together.

“They had no real evidence that Mr. Hubbard was involved in this crime whatsoever,” said Lawson. “The MPs had found a handprint located near where the body was found, but that hand print matched one of the men who went AWOL during Mr. Hubbard’s trial. That was the only real evidence that the MPs had, but somehow they did not arrest him.”

The second man, Joseph Courtney, who also went AWOL before Mr. Hubbard’s trial, gave many inconsistent statements about where he had been that night, said Lawson. In the trial the MPs introduced hair from Mr. Hubbard’s laundry bag to argue that the hair was Mr. Spindle’s to show that Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Spindle were friends and therefore argued that they had committed the crime together, said Lawson.

“The evidence the MPs had pointed to the two men who went AWOL,” said Lawson, “but instead Mr. Hubbard was charged.”

Both of those men are now deceased, said Lawson, but it would still be possible to compare their DNA evidence from relatives. Lawson said there is no way to know what DNA evidence still exists because the U.S. District Court would not hear HIP’s case which is why HIP had appealed to the 9th Circuit.

* * *

In the second case, the Hawai‘i Innocence Project is investigating the treatment of Mr. Spriestersbach who was wrongfully arrested for someone

else’s crime, and incarcerated at the Hawaii State Hospital, despite insisting and showing proof he was not the other person. Mr. Spriestersbach, who was houseless at the time, and who also suffers from mental illness, was waiting for food outside a Honolulu shelter when he fell asleep.

“He was awakened by an HPD offi-

“I urge Congress to remedy this unfairness by amending the IPA to explicitly provide service members convicted by courts-martial the same avenues for post-conviction DNA testing afforded to other prisoners. This disparity is entirely inconsistent with the respect usually given to veterans.”

cer and booked, for what Mr. Spriestersbach assumed was a violation of the state’s sit/lie ban,” said Lawson in an email. “Unfortunately, that was not the case. HPD had mistaken Mr. Spriestersbach for someone else - Thomas Castleberry - who had an outstanding warrant for a probation violation. Mr. Spriestersbach denied being Mr. Castleberry, and provided his identifying information to HPD, but was booked as Mr. Castleber-

ry nonetheless.”

Over the course of the next two years and eight months, Mr. Spriestersbach told HPD, Department of Public Safety officials at OCCC, his numerous public defenders, his psychiatrists, and staff at HSH that he was not Mr. Castleberry and that he had not committed the crimes they were incarcerating him for, said Lawson. During that time he was also heavily medicated, said Lawson. It was only when a hospital psychiatrist finally listened and an HPD officer compared Mr. Spriestersbach’s and Mr. Castleberry’s booking photographs and fingerprints that he was released, said Lawson.

The Hawai‘i Innocence Project is seeking to clear Mr. Spriestersbach’s record and seek redress for his wrongful arrest and incarceration, said Lawson. HIP has filed a Rule 40 post-conviction petition to clear his record.

Lawson said he hopes this will bring systemic change to how mental health cases are handled in the State “so that we can prevent more people like Mr. Spriestersbach from being wrongfully incarcerated for someone else’s crime.”

Lawson said Mr. Spriestersbach is still wrongfully associated with the name Mr. Castleberry and fears being arrested for any of Mr. Castleberry’s crimes.

An Associated Press story noted that none of those involved in Mr. Spriestersbach’s arrest and detention would speak about the case. But the AP story did quote his sister in Vermont, where he is now living, who had been looking for her brother for 16 years after he disappeared on the Big Island. The family had moved there with her brother when her husband was stationed in Hawai‘i.

The AP story said he is now afraid to leave the acreage where his sister lives. “He’s so afraid that they’re going to take him again,” she is quoted as saying. ❖

The New Miss Hawaii Courtney Choy '21 Will Use Her Law Degree to Fight for Girls and Women

Courtney Choy '21 receives her diploma from Dean Camille Nelson



C

COURTNEY CHOY '21 grew up going to court with her mother, a court interpreter, when childcare wasn't available. She'd watch the action from the benches at the back of the courtroom, or the witness waiting room, or the area where jurors waited. As a social worker, her father also regularly worked with the court system.

"I grew up in that environment, and saw how they used their talents and skills to help others, and I felt it was right to lend my voice to that too," says Choy who was crowned Miss Hawaii 2021 within days of receiving her JD diploma from Richardson Law School.

"I grew up shy and not always speaking out," Choy continued, "but law school helped me find my voice."

Choy's voice as Miss Hawaii – and as a newly minted lawyer – will be used

to speak out on behalf of women and girls – to empower them, and build their belief in themselves.

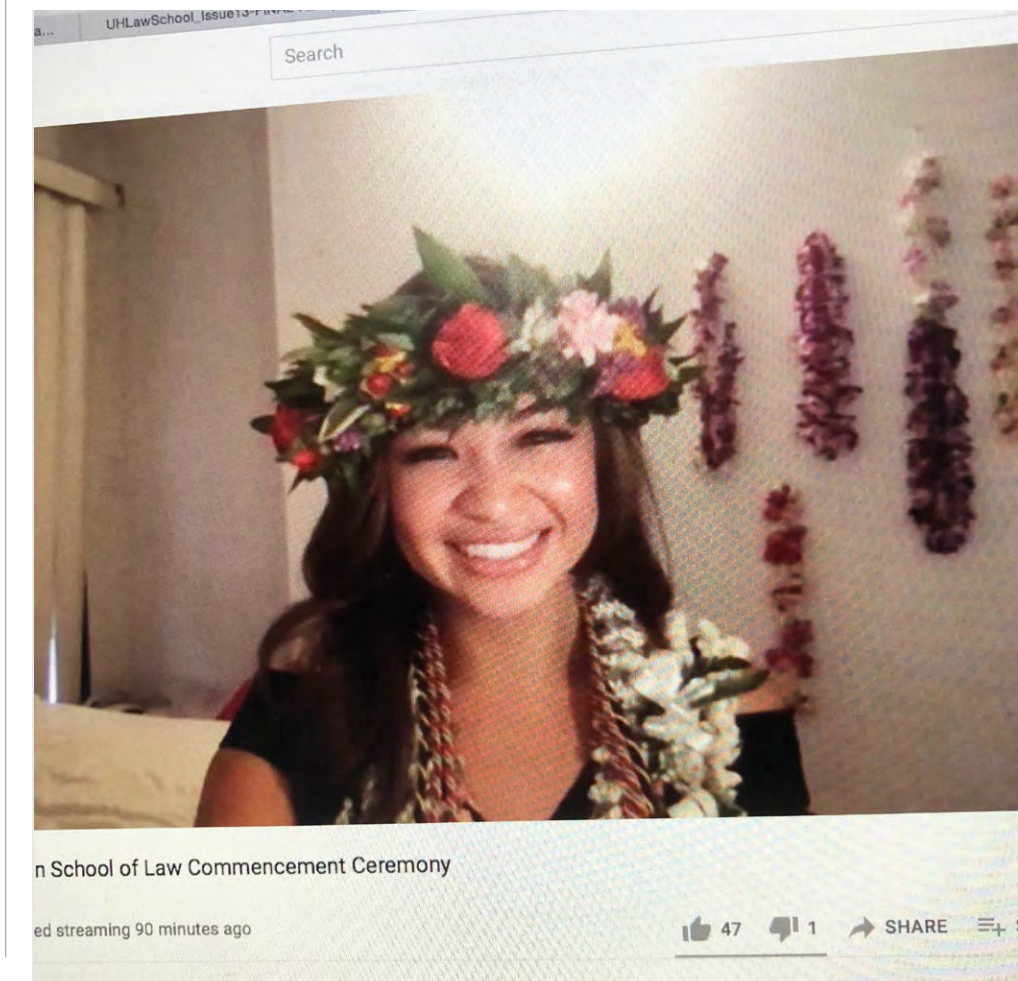
"I went into law school with that mindset – I'm here to serve Hawai'i. I can't give up. I have to be this person for another child out there who is struggling," says Choy. "When I was younger I struggled so much with self doubt and confidence and learning to embrace who I was becoming. I want to reinforce that trust in yourself, and hard work, and perseverance will pay off. I want to bring that kind of confidence to girls of all ages – to work hard and never give up."

"We are delighted for Courtney and

her family. I know that she will use the access and reach granted by her Miss Hawaii crown to continue to do great things," said Dean Camille Nelson.

As the new Miss Hawaii, Choy's social impact initiative of women's empowerment is what she learned through her own struggles. It's an issue she also saw firsthand during her *pro bono* service at Richardson Law School working in the Domestic Violence Division of the City Prosecutor's office.

The *pro bono* program is an integral part of the academic program at Richardson, and fosters in law students a lifetime professional commitment to public service. While enriching their





legal education, it also encourages law students to provide a portion of their 60 hours of commitment to persons of limited means or organizations that serve such persons. The program – initiated by law students themselves back in 1991 – recognizes the long tradition in the legal profession to serve the under-privileged and to ensure legal access for all.

“Looking at the issues surrounding domestic violence generally, that opened my eyes to how much injustice and challenge our state and nation face when it comes to women,” says Choy. “I want women to feel strong and empowered and never feel they have to compromise themselves in any situation.”

Although law was not something Choy had envisioned for herself early on, she remembers well the day at the Children’s Discovery Center during

“I grew up shy and not always speaking out, but law school helped me find my voice.”

grade school when she settled herself behind a formal desk where children could pretend to be judges.

“I wore the robes and had the gavel,” she says of the photo that recorded that moment.

Years later during law school, she visited the Hawai’i Supreme Court with

the Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity at Richardson, and sat behind the desk reserved for the Chief Justice as a friend took her photo.

As for her future, Choy says there’s nothing off the table, and she relishes the year ahead, living her commitments, and even continuing to take boxing lessons.

“I like to joke that ‘I can fight for you in court and out of court,’” she says with a laugh. “It’s about giving girls a chance. There is so much opportunity out there if people will believe in you.” ❖

Courtney Choy is helped by her parents, Donna Peake and Anthony Choy, prepare for the graduation ceremony at Bachman Hall.

11 Richardson Graduates Named to HSBA 2021 Leadership Institute

E

ELEVEN WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON School of Law alumni were chosen as 2021 Leadership Institute Fellows by the Hawaii State Bar Association.

The Richardson graduates were among a total of 16 fellows this year, and were chosen competitively for this prestigious program.

They are attorneys with between three and 15 years of experience who have demonstrated leadership skills, high ethical standards and a commitment to public service.

They include:

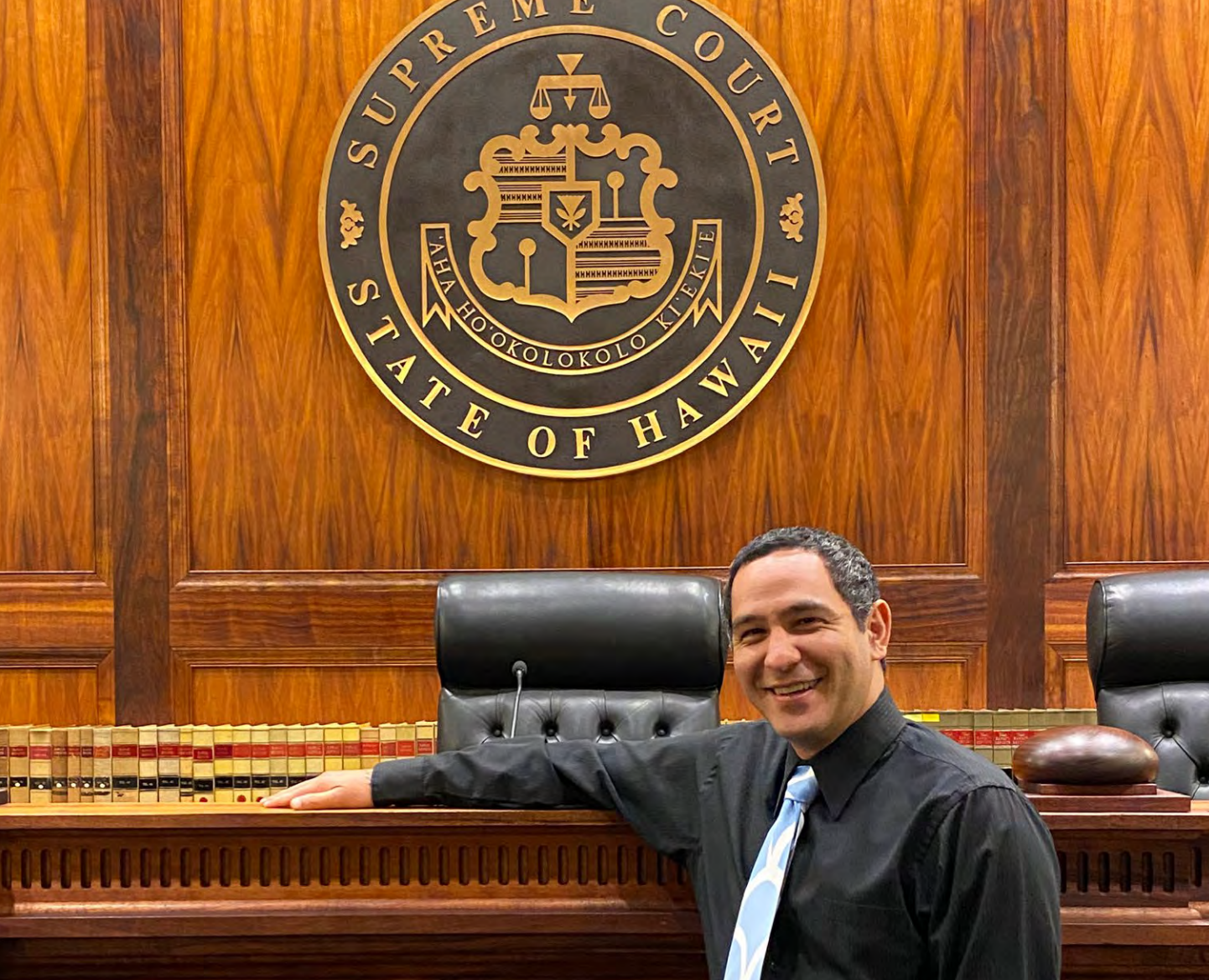
- Malia I. Alexander '17 staff attorney, Maximum Legal Services Corp.
- Tristan S.D. Andres '13, partner, Deeley King Pang & Van Etten
- Matthew S. Dvonch '08, special counsel to the prosecuting attorney, City and County of Honolulu
- Ashley K. Obrey '09, staff attorney/legal practice administrator, Native Hawaiian Legal Corp.

- Maile Osika '12, senior managing associate, Dentons US LLP
- Kimberly A. Torigoe '12, deputy prosecuting attorney, County of Kauai
- Jessica Christen (Jaycee) M. Uchida '16, staff attorney, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Kourtney H.L.M. Wong '17, associate attorney Hosoda & Bonner LLLC
- Sommerset K.M. Wong '14, senior policy analyst, Kamehameha Schools
- Jason S. Woo '06, attorney at law, Jason Woo, Attorney at Law, LLC
- Lisa M. Yang '15, associate attorney, Watanabe Ing LLP

The institute includes bringing an outstanding list of speakers to the leadership gatherings, including distinguished judges and attorneys who share their insights, experiences and values that enabled them to achieve personal and professional goals.

The Leadership Institute also provides mentorship for these emerging leaders, helps them segue into leadership positions, offers networking opportunities within the profession, and helps them gain insight into Hawai’i’s diverse legal communities, according to its 2020 final report.

“The institute includes bringing an outstanding list of speakers to the leadership gatherings, including distinguished judges and attorneys who share their insights, experiences and values ”



Home-Grown Law School Hero Devin Forrest '22 Lauded in *National Jurist* for Pro Bono Work

ABOVE: Devin Forrest '22

D

DEVIN FORREST GREW UP in Kaua'i's lush green valleys around Hanalei, helping out in family taro fields as a youngster, and thriving in the rich culture that binds the island's north shore community tightly together.

So when the devastating floods of 2018 hit those farmers – destroying crops and traditional water flow – he

knew he had to help.

That *pro bono* help – both before and after Forrest had applied and was accepted at the William S. Richardson School of Law – has been recognized nationally in the Spring 2021 issue of *National Jurist* magazine. Forrest is one of four *pro bono* heroes profiled from law schools across the country for the hundreds of hours of free legal assistance they provided in their communities.

“After the floods, the farmers found that where the water comes from was state land,” said Forrest, “and they would need an easement but needed research on how old the system was. They had always cleaned it and always

“It wasn’t until it was destroyed that they needed help with the water.”

managed it. Forever. It wasn’t until it was destroyed that they needed help with the water.”

With a Masters degree in Hawaiian language from the University of Hawai‘i in Hilo, and family members still deeply involved in taro farming, Forrest volunteered his expertise to translate old documents to validate the rights of the farmers to the water supply. His translations in the Spring of 2019 helped lay the legal groundwork for an easement and water lease that would give them perpetual future access to their lo‘i kalo irrigation system.

Those documents show that the close-knit families historically cultivated



taro on approximately 100 acres in the northern valleys, and have been working this land using traditional methods for hundreds of years.

“You can’t get exact dates but you can estimate from when the chiefs were ruling,” said Forrest. “The farming areas were being used and an irrigation system created. We don’t know the exact date but we know there was farming in that area at least in 1500.”

Professor Kapua Sproat, director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the UH Law School, was already offering legal assistance to her home community on Kaua’i and the farmers of the Wai’oli Valley Taro Hui in particular, and she helped facilitate Forrest’s involvement. He has continued to provide hundreds more hours of help as part of his Clinical work at Richardson. That help has been invaluable, says Sproat.

“Devin’s efforts epitomize what we seek to do at Ka Huli Ao. Through our law clinics, for example, we bring together students, community, and decisionmakers to work in partnership on behalf of our natural resources and our Indigenous culture and lifeways that are dependent upon them,” said Sproat. “This is the best case scenario where ‘Ōiwi like Devin and me can take Western knowledge and legal skills in particular home to the communities where we were raised to ensure that our cultural practices can survive the transition to a modern era. This has been transformative for Devin and the rest of the clinicians, and we are incredibly proud of what we have been able to accomplish together,” explained Sproat.

Law Dean Camille Nelson is also proud of what students like Forrest offer in passion, energy, and expertise to their communities as part of the clinic and *pro bono* programs at the Law School.

“It is always inspiring to see the impact of what you have been learning in

action. Devin’s efforts demonstrate the transformative potential of experiential learning, and Ka Huli Ao is also to be thanked for guiding this opportunity,” said Nelson. “Devin’s ability to combine his experience, education, and passion exemplifies the tremendous impact Richardson lawyers have throughout Hawai’i, and beyond.”

“Through our law clinics, for example, we bring together students, community, and decision-makers to work in partnership on behalf of our natural resources and our indigenous culture ...”

When this Clinic project started in the Spring of 2019, Forrest hadn’t yet decided whether to pursue a law degree or a doctorate, but the research led him to recognize that having a legal background was invaluable. As he delved into the history, he also applied to Richardson and was accepted.

Searching through old Hawaiian newspapers, the State Archives, the Māhele documents of 1800s, family inheritance records, and working with

OHA researcher Wahine Tong, Forrest was able to help trace the system back to the 1500s.

Forrest said it was important to read documents in their original Hawaiian, rather than the few English translations that had been done. Often, he said, the meaning wasn’t completely accurate, especially with the subtle double meanings of some Hawaiian words and expressions.

With a report on the genealogy and history completed by OHA, and now environmental compliance in its final stages, Forrest expects that documentation for a longterm water lease will be submitted to the Board of Land and Natural Resources some time this summer.

He says it’s critically important that the water lease be approved. “If farmlands disappear they will be replaced by million dollar homes. This is not what this place is about. This is the character of the north shore. We’re country. We sustain ourselves via the land. We’re not dependent on outside resources. The lifestyle was perpetuated because we could survive and thrive on this lifestyle.” ❖



New Associate Dean at Richardson Law Looks To Help Guide School Through Strategic Plan

A

AS THE WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW wrapped up one of the most challenging years of its existence, it headed into a new year with a new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, major plans in motion to reevaluate and strengthen the curriculum, and begin remaking the school in a dynamic growth image to enhance its national stature.

“There is always more you can do, and more impact you can have,” said Professor Nicholas Mirkay, who took over June 1 as the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and will help guide a strategic planning process started by Dean Camille Nelson at Richardson Law.

“It’s a constant work in progress and that was CJ’s vision – to continue making more and more progress. We’re not just a law school,” continued Mirkay. “We’re a legal resource for the community. That’s one of the challenges – to keep that going – that hallmark. We need to make sure that we continue that tradition.”

With Dean Camille Nelson complet-



ing her first year at the school’s helm, there is already a new week-long Business Boot Camp program she spearheaded to offer students real life business and financial skills, whether or not they choose to focus on those fields of law. Mirkay expects that program to continue and grow, and applauds the legal community for its participation in the week of teaching.

“This highlights what our bench is

in the business area,” says Mirkay who praised Professor Charles Booth for planning the program and reaching out to the legal community and other faculty to teach. “It offered an informative and open dialogue with the students.”

Professor Daniel Barnett, who stepped into the Academic Affairs associate deanship a year and a half ago, has returned to the critically important

role of Director of Legal Writing which is a core area of the Law School curriculum. Traditionally the Academic Affairs Associate Deanship is just a two-year commitment from a faculty member who returns to teaching afterward.

“It’s been an honor to serve in this role,” said Barnett, “and personally it has been incredibly rewarding, as well as stressful.” Barnett said the challenge of helping guide the school through a year of COVID, virtual classes, and not seeing students in person, was difficult for everyone.

With Richardson Law just a few years away from its 50th anniversary, and seeing the retirement of a number of long-time faculty members, the strategic planning process underway strives to re-calibrate the school for a new era of legal training, for a world where lawyers lead in myriad sectors, where the pace of technological innovation has quickened, and a profession in which diversity, equity and inclusion are a core part of law’s future. Richardson is already one of the most diverse law school’s in the nation, but Barnett said there is a constant need to “evaluate efforts of inclusion that support a diverse population so that all can be successful.”

“We’re going through a strategic planning process and we’re going to come out on the other side with some very exciting changes,” he said. “It’s a very exciting time for Nick, and I feel the energy. Combine that with being creative and thoughtful and coming up with some real interesting changes to our curriculum, and the hiring we have to do, sets us up well for the next 10 or 15 years.”

Barnett said that one of the challenges is replacing retiring faculty at a time when budgets are tight. But there are already plans for visiting professors to join the faculty when the new semester begins.

“The visiting model doesn’t just fill in gaps, it’s an exchange of ideas,” said

Barnett. “They’re a huge benefit to both schools to do that. You learn a tremendous amount and you bring that back to your own institution. It will help bring new ideas and fresh energy to the Law School as we go through a period of intense hiring.”

As Barnett faced the challenge of COVID he put together a task force at Richardson which offered training for managing virtual classes, and helped guide students and faculty through the year. “The task force was a huge undertaking,” said Barnett. “I wanted everyone to see what we were facing and everyone chipped in. The amount of support we got was tremendous.”

Dean Nelson is grateful for Barnett’s energy and vision stating, “I wish to thank Associate Dean Dan Barnett for his indefatigable service. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with someone as brilliant, wise, kind, and generous, especially in the face of the unprecedented challenges and changes wrought by the pandemic.”

In welcoming Associate Dean Mirkay into the role, Nelson thanked him for serving as the Law School’s Director of Faculty Research, and continued, “In this role he has worked tirelessly to enhance our recognition of, and support for, faculty research and writing. He has organized numerous book events, panels, and presentations furthering our intellectual life. Additionally, he has supported the external recognition of faculty scholarly excellence through his work on launching Kaukehakeha (at the highest level), our new e-blast celebrating our faculty scholars whose legal expertise, scholarship, and contributions are recognized both locally and nationally. Before joining the Richardson Law faculty in August 2017, Nick Mirkay was Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Planning and Professor of Law at Creighton University School of Law. He began his career in legal academia at the Delaware Law School

of Widener University. Professor Mirkay has primarily taught tax and business law courses in his 18 years in legal academia, including Federal Income Tax, Trusts and Estates, Nonprofit Organizations, Business Associations, and State and Local Taxation. He has received outstand-



Professor Daniel Barnett

ing faculty awards at all three law schools at which he has served! In addition to being an exceptional teacher, Nick is also a prolific scholar and dedicated institutional citizen.”

As the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Mirkay will also be working to support the various teaching methodologies being offered, in person, online, and H.O.T. Mirkay explains: “It’s called ‘HOT-Here Or There.’ It’s a hybrid environment where you have the option of some in-class or you can choose completely online. We have retrofitted several rooms to have that technology – teaching people in person with an online component at the same time. Three rooms will be done in time. That’s the priority – to upgrade the technology overall. You can space students in those large rooms. But knowing the university is now requiring students to be vaccinated if they’re going to be on campus, it’s to be determined how that will ripple down to the classrooms.” ❖



Kaleilani Grant and
Amanda Leonard '11

Missing Child Center — Hawaii Receives U.S. Department of Justice Award

PHOTO: COURTESY HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER

“There is no greater priority than safely recovering missing children and reuniting them with their families and caregivers.”

T

THE MISSING CHILD CENTER – Hawaii – run by Amanda Leonard '11 and Kaleilani Grant – has been honored by the U.S. Department of Justice with its Child Protection Award.

The center is a specialized criminal justice program that's affiliated with the State Department of the Attorney General. It has been involved in handling cases including family and nonfamily abductions, missing children, and endangered runaways as well as other missing children.

Leonard is center coordinator and Grant is assistant coordinator, and their work has assisted law enforcement in the recoveries of 180 children between November 2019 and November 2020.

They joined the center in 2018, and before they were part of the operation the center had only recovered nine missing children, according to a story in the *Star-Advertiser*.

“There is no greater priority than safely recovering missing children and reuniting them with their families and caregivers,” Leonard told the *Star-Advertiser* in a recent article about the award. “It is our responsibility to do everything we can at the local, state, and federal levels to protect this vulnerable population of children from abuse and victimization.”

Leonard is the clearinghouse manager and the state's Maile Amber Alert coordinator, and Grant is involved with handling matters of human trafficking. The center partners with law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, and other groups to locate children and return them to their legal guardians.

Leonard and Grant were honored in commemoration of National Missing Children's Day, and had been selected from more than two dozen nominations nationwide.

This is not the first time the two center employees have been honored. They were also involved in “Operation Shine the Light” last October. It was a partnership between the center and the Hawaii Internet Crimes Against Children task force, law enforcement plus several nonprofit organizations. That effort was able to find five teenage runaway foster children, including three that were victims of human trafficking.

State Attorney General Clare Connors noted in a news release that both Leonard and Grant are “incredibly deserving” of the award. “The Missing Child Center Hawaii earned this remarkable commendation through the dedicated efforts of Amanda and Kalei,” noted Connors. “I am both proud of and inspired by their commitment to keeping Hawaii's children safe.” ❖

Four Richardson Graduates Honored as Emerging Community Leaders by *Hawaii Business*

F

FOUR GRADUATES OF THE William S. Richardson School of Law were honored this past spring as young community leaders as part of the 2021 “Twenty for the Next Twenty” cohort in the March issue of *Hawaii Business* Magazine.

The four include:

- * Jamie Cheng '02, Director of Commercial Operations at American Savings Bank.
 - * Khara Jabola-Carolus '15, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.
 - * Summer Kaiawe '11, attorney and partner Watanabe Ing.
 - * Rachel James '19, attorney, Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.
- Additionally, James is pictured on the magazine's cover (at right).

Law Dean Camille Nelson said the professional journeys of these Richardson graduates highlights the many fields available to graduates with legal



Rachel James '19

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAWAII BUSINESS MAGAZINE

expertise, and is a testament to the exceptional education they received at the UH Law School.

She said, “It is wonderful to see them soar as leaders in their respective fields. They are each having a profound impact through their dedicated leadership and service. They are inspired and inspiring.”

The magazine focused on the impact of what the young leaders have already accomplished, as well as the work they will continue to do over the decades to come.

For Jamie Cheng the magazine noted that she had led her team of a dozen commercial bankers at American Savings Bank to move quickly to land loans for small businesses as part of Congress' Paycheck Protection Program. Within a few weeks the team had “handled 4,100 loans, secured \$370 million in federal funds and saved an estimated 40,000 Hawai'i jobs,” said the magazine story.

“Whenever something scares me I know I just have to do it,” said Cheng of life challenges. “One of the most frightening things was leaving law the first time and starting my own business. But I said, ‘If I don't do it I'll never do it, and I will look back and be sorry.’”

Khara Jabola-Carolus has been a fierce advocate for women. “She led efforts during the pandemic to distribute

laptops to single mothers and created a state feminist economic recovery plan in collaboration with community members,” points out the magazine.

Additionally, she helped pass legis-

“Whenever something scares me I know I just have to do it.”

lation to allow individuals to designate their gender as “X” on their driver's licenses and for people convicted of prostitution to have their convictions erased if they met certain requirements.

She also helped pass legislation to prohibit employers from asking about applicants' pay histories and to codify Title IX into state law.

Rachel James has focused her efforts on ensuring success for the state's clean energy goals by 2045. “In her new role as an attorney with the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission,” notes the magazine, “James helps guide the agency in regulating local utilities and

pushing them to meet the state clean energy goals.”

As a member of Richardson's Evening Part-Time Program James worked full-time as a project manager for the Hawai'i Center for Advanced Technologies while working on her law degree.

James is also involved in a number of other endeavors, including volunteer coaching for the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders. In that role she works with high school students developing community projects. She also mentors them to become leaders “with character and compassion and critical thinking,” she said. She is also vice president of the Hawai'i People's Fund board.

As an attorney with a mixed practice that includes business litigation, land use, and intellectual property, Summer Kaiawe's, work has attracted outside attention, noted the magazine. “Super Lawyers named her to its Rising Stars list each year from 2017 to 2020.”

She has also served in multiple positions with the Hawaii State Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, including as secretary, vice president, and president.

“I view an attorney as someone who can solve problems and help people and companies to find solutions,” said Kaiawe. “It's a rewarding career.” ❖



Jamie Cheng '02



Khara Jabola-Carolus '15



Summer Kaiawe '11



UH Law Library Archivist Receives Grant To Preserve The Chief Justice William S. Richardson Archive

T

THE UH SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY

Archives Manager, Ellen-Rae Cachola Ph.D., has received a grant to preserve and make accessible the papers of Chief Justice William S. Richardson, the founder of the Law School that bears his name.

The grant is from the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This collection documents Richardson's family and early history, World War II military service with the 1st Filipino Infantry, government services with the Democratic Party, appointment as the Lieutenant Governor of Hawai'i, and his position as the 16th Chief Justice of Hawai'i's Supreme Court.

Richardson also served as a Bishop Estate Trustee. In addition, Richardson collected papers related to the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy, community efforts seeking to protect lands and waters from destruction and

exploitation, and research on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island cultures.

These papers are significant because they document what Richardson was able to contribute to advance Native Hawaiian civil rights. Richardson's judicial opinions embodied his vision to care for the islands' environment, which was important to Native Hawaiian cultural practices, and for the benefit of the general public who live in Hawai'i.

Dr. Cachola states, "Richardson had a political purpose rooted in his ancestry as a Native Hawaiian, while having a vision that Hawai'i could become a transformative place in partnership with its multicultural and globalized society. I think this vision was very much part of his founding vision of the Law School."

Dr. Cachola will use the grant funds to hire an archival assistant, as well as supplies for archival storage and preservation. Her goals are to process the papers for long-term preservation, and to generate a finding aid for the collection on the law library's searchable archival website archives.law.hawaii.edu. A public event will take place towards the end of the grant cycle to announce how to access the collection. ❖



Archives Manager Ellen-Rae Cachola

“Richardson had a political purpose rooted in his ancestry as a Native Hawaiian, while having a vision that Hawai'i could become a transformative place in partnership with its multicultural and globalized society.”

Susan Serrano '98 Steps into Role As New Director of Faculty Research

SUSAN SERRANO '98, Associate Director of the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, has been named the new Director of Faculty Research at Richardson Law. Serrano takes over from Professor Nicholas Mirkay, who was named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She will also continue as associate director of Ka Huli Ao.

"Susan is an exemplary scholar," said Dean Camille Nelson. "Her research and scholarly work focus particularly on the impacts of U.S. colonialism on Native and territorial peoples. Susan also publishes in the areas of critical race theory, Native Hawaiian rights, civil rights, Puerto Ricans and U.S. law, and implicit bias. She is an Executive Editor of *Native Hawaiian Law: A Treatise* (MacKenzie, Serrano & Sproat eds., 2015). That volume is the most comprehensive collection of Native Hawaiian law, and offers a profound explanation of its role in the state's judicial system."

Serrano's most recent publications include: *A Reparative Justice Approach to Assessing Ancestral Classifications Aimed at Colonization's Harms*, 27 *Wm. & Mary Bill of Rts. J.* 501 (2018); *Elevating the Perspectives of Territorial Peoples: Why the Insular Cases Should be Taught in Law School*, 21 *J. Gender, Race & Just.* 309 (2018); and *Dual Consciousness about Law and Justice: Puerto Ricans' Battle for U.S. Citizenship in Hawai'i*, 29 *Centro J.* 164 (2017). She is currently publishing an article in the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* on the U.S. territories and environmental justice (forthcoming 2022).

"I'm thrilled and honored to assume this new role to support our faculty engaged in scholarly work," said Serrano. "Richardson faculty members are leading scholars and internationally recognized experts on a wide range of legal topics. Their scholarly books and articles advance the understanding and development of the law, and it's very important to recognize that work and promote it widely. I look forward to supporting my colleagues as they continue to produce excellent research, and to help ensure that it is shared with the legal community and beyond."

Before joining Ka Huli Ao, Serrano was a Staff Attorney at the Asian Law Caucus in

"Richardson faculty members are leading scholars and internationally recognized experts on a wide range of legal topics."



Susan Serrano '98

San Francisco, California. She was also the founding Research Director of the Equal Justice Society, and served as the Thurgood Marshall Fellow at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. Before joining the Lawyers' Committee, she clerked for Associate Justices Robert G. Klein and Mario R. Ramil of the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

Serrano graduated from Richardson, serving as the Articles Editor for the University of Hawai'i Law Review during her legal education, as well as winning the Trina Grillo Award for Best Student Paper in Critical Race Theory for her article, *Rethinking Race for Strict Scrutiny Purposes: Yniguez and the Racialization of English Only*, 19 *Univ. Hawai'i L. Rev.* 221 (1997). ❖

Marilyn Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano '79 Honored By Induction into 2021 AVCA Hall of Fame

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S Marilyn Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano '79, who earned a law degree at the William S. Richardson School of Law, as well as being a legendary UH volleyball player and coach, has been inducted into the American Volleyball Coaches Association's 2021 Hall of Fame class.

"When she took the court in 1972 as part of the first Rainbow Wahine women's volleyball team, Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano began what has been a decade's-long love affair with both the sport and her school," said the AVCA announcement.

"Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano was selected in the administrator category," continued the announcement. "The former Rainbow Wahine volleyball player served as UH's Senior Woman Administrator and associate athletics director for nearly three decades, and was an instrumental figure in collegiate indoor and beach volleyball on both a local and national scale."

Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano has credited many of her opportunities - including being able to attend Richardson Law School and achieving a law degree - to the Title IX federal act that was championed by the late Hawai'i Congresswoman Patsy Mink. Title IX outlawed gender discrimination in federally-funded educational institutions, opening a new world of opportunity for women.

Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano was a member of Richardson's fourth graduating class, a time when classes were still held in temporary buildings in the Quarry. "I got the other side of Title IX also," she has said in an interview. "I had athletic opportunity and then I had an opportunity to go to our Law School."

Throughout the three decades during which she was involved with UH volleyball she was instrumental in elevating it to the national stage - not only in terms of popularity and competitiveness, but also media coverage.

"The Rainbow Wahine program consistently ranked atop Division I schools in attendance, and Hawai'i was the first school to have its home matches televised," noted AVCA's announcement. "During that period, UH began charging admission, and women's volleyball became a revenue-generating sport. Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano, who was inducted into the UH Circle of Honor in 2017, also oversaw the addition of five women's sports at the school."

The AVCA announcement noted that the work she did as part of a number of NCAA committees allowed her impact to be magnified on a national level. One recent example was her tireless efforts to help beach volleyball gain NCAA championship status.



Marilyn Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano '79

The announcement quoted UH Athletics Director David Matlin in honoring Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano for her many accomplishments. "Beach volleyball would not exist at the University of Hawai'i without Marilyn Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano; in fact, it is easy to argue the sport would not exist in the NCAA without her," said Matlin.

"As a prominent member of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics, Marilyn helped jump-start beach volleyball, then known as sand volleyball, from an emerging sport to the NCAA's 90th championship sport within a record four years," added Matlin.

Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano is the third member of the UH 'ohana to gain this important distinction, and joins Deitre Collins-Parker (2008) and Dave Shoji (2010). ❖

Sonja McCullen '02 Confirmed by Senate To Intermediate Court of Appeals

G

GOVERNOR DAVID IGE'S APPOINTMENT of Sonja McCullen '02, Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, has been confirmed by the Hawai'i State Senate.

McCullen, a former social studies, Hawaiian studies and Hawaiian Language teacher at Wai'anae High School from 1994 to 1999, earned her J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2002.

During her nearly five years at Wai'anae High School, McCullen also created curriculum and instructed classes in Hawaiian culture. She is of Native Hawaiian ancestry.

The seeds of her legal career began while she was still teaching at Wai'anae High.

"I remember seeing a lot about the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and their work to uphold rights to Hawaiian Homelands," she said in an email. "I was impressed with this calling of using the law to help people, which encouraged

me to apply to law school and see where that may lead.

"Without Richardson Law School, including the predecessor of the Ulu Lehua program that encourages opportunities for non-traditional law students, I would not be here today."

In making the appointment, Gov. Ige said: "Sonja McCullen possesses the legal skills, knowledge and temperament to serve the people of Hawai'i on the Intermediate Court of Appeals."

McCullen has served in her role as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Appellate Division for a combined 11 years. Previously, she worked as an investigator for the Crime Victim Commission, was a staff attorney for United Public Workers, a judicial education specialist for the State of Hawai'i Judiciary, and law clerk for the Honorable Paula A.



Sonja McCullen '02

Nakayama on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Her experience clerking, she said, was especially influential in inspiring her passion for appellate work.

But she also credited her years as a teacher as a formative experience.

"My career as a teacher gave me lifetime lessons in communicating and collaborating with colleagues, and understanding the importance of community," said McCullen, adding that Richardson also taught her important lessons about community.

"Our Law School community was about camaraderie, not competition. Another important lesson I learned at Richardson was on the role of law to the broader community: how the law reflects our highest principles as a society, which in Hawai'i includes our unique history, perspectives, and values."

McCullen earned a B.A. in Liberal and Hawaiian studies from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, as well as a professional diploma in secondary education. She fills the vacancy left by the retirement last October of Associate Judge Derrick H.M. Chan. She was among six nominees for the Intermediate Court of Appeals on a list submitted to Governor Ige by the state Judicial Selection Commission.

McCullen is married to Isaac Moriwake, a 1998 Richardson graduate, and they have a 15-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter. ❖



Law Student Logan Araki '23 Chosen for Inaugural NAPABA Judicial Council Summer Internship

RISING SECOND YEAR LAW STUDENT LOGAN ARAKI '23 was chosen to receive the Inaugural National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Judicial Council Summer Internship, competing with students from law schools across the country. Over the summer Araki interned with Associate Justice Sabrina McKenna '82 of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, becoming familiar with some of the larger issues in the state and having a front row seat on how they are adjudicated.

ABOVE: Hawai'i Supreme Court Associate Justice Sabrina McKenna '82, Logan Araki '23, and NAPABA President-Elect Sid Kanazawa.

“Judges outside of Hawai‘i vetted applications from across the country and selected Logan to receive this award,” said Trisha Y. Nakamura ’06, Director of Career Services and Professional Development at Richardson. “This was not surprising as Logan epitomizes some of the best qualities of a Richardson student: professionalism, hard work, and care for community. Logan is the incoming president of the Advocates for Public Interest Law and is already working hard to connect his classmates with public interest groups.”

Nakamura also praised NAPABA’s commitment to diversity as well as investing in young talent.

Associate Justice McKenna ’82, said Araki made concrete contributions through his legal research and memoranda, and was able to receive much feedback.

“Judicial internships are a wonderful way for law students to learn about how judges actually interpret and apply the law they study in law school, to learn effective lawyering, and to play a real part in evaluating legal issues and make recommendations on legal issues being addressed by judges,” said Justice McKenna by email. “Judicial internships teach law students about how the law actually works in practice and how judges evaluated cases.”

Additionally, said McKenna, “Logan was not only able to work on actual cases before the court, he also was able to observe appellate oral arguments and trial court proceedings and attend the Access to Justice Conference and otherwise increase awareness of access to justice issues. He was also able to learn about state constitutionalism, various issues concerning remote legal proceedings, and even heard from a Ukrainian judge about their judiciary.”

Araki said he was honored to receive the internship and that the lessons he learned were an education

in themselves.

“This summer internship opened doors to career paths that I did not previously believe would be an option, and gave me the tools necessary to make informed decisions on my career,” said Araki by email. “This internship provided me with the opportunity to put the foundations of law that I had learned in my 1L year into actual prac-

“This summer internship opened doors to career paths that I did not previously believe would be an option, and gave me the tools necessary to make informed decisions on my career.”

tice. Over the summer I learned how to become a more efficient and practical legal writer. Through trial and error, I acquired specific techniques and strategies in my legal research, which in turn resulted in me becoming more logical and coherent in my analysis of the law.

“Justice McKenna is an extremely knowledgeable and passionate mentor, and she made me aware of the specific issues that impact our community,” he

said. “She taught me about topics such as the importance of equal access to justice, the power of the court system in upholding societal values, and many more. Her lessons and the discussions that we had over the summer reaffirmed my sense of pride and commitment to the legal field.” ❖

Law Student Kenneth Go '22 Credits Richardson with Staying Connected to Community



R

RICHARDSON LAW SCHOOL STUDENT KENNETH GO '22 was featured in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* in an article highlighting student leadership and the voices of youth in the public sphere.

Go was featured in the editorial, “5 Questions With...Kenneth V. Go,” this September in the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*. As the founding writer for the “Raise Your Hand” column printed on the first Sunday of every month, he has worked with high school students to prepare their editorials for publica-

tion for the last five years.

He had once interned for Center For Tomorrow's Leaders (CTL), a Hawai'i-based nonprofit organization devoted to youth leadership development established in 2003. CTL's programs holds leadership development courses for public schools in Hawai'i. When the organization was looking to restart a student column with the *Star-Advertiser*, the nonprofit tapped him (Kenneth has a B.A. in English from UH) to help with the editorial, "Raise Your Hand," from its planning stages in 2015. It launched in March 2016 and continues its monthly series today.

"I remember I helped write the first editorial for the column. I was just really drawn to help elevate other student voices," said Go. "Because the *Star-Advertiser* had such a wide audience, students would have the opportunity to share their work, an editorial on the level of other journalists and professionals."

The writers whose voices Go helped cultivate for the column? Public and private high school students. The young columnists would pitch ideas or submit a thesis that Kenneth would help them edit and write. Coverage would include opposing viewpoints on a number of topics, such as a pros vs. cons editorial on issues like gun control, freedom of speech, and defunding the police. The column gave a platform for youth voices and illuminated their perspectives on numerous issues in the public sphere.

So what brought Kenneth Go to Richardson Law School?

"What led me to Richardson specifically was—I thought about where I wanted to practice, and which law school would prepare me to be a lawyer in Hawai'i for my community," Go said. "I didn't see any other school come close with helping me feel connected."

The future lawyer credits Richard-

son with preparing him not only for practicing locally in Hawai'i, but also emphasized a strong sense of community and character.

"I had little to no exposure to the law before law school, so when I think of Richardson, it's not only about getting a great education on the law, but it's also teaching me how to be a lawyer specifically in Hawai'i. To me that means how you conduct yourself, how you interact and how you care about your community. It's not just knowledge, but it's about who you are," said Go.

It seems that his efforts have not gone unnoticed. Go said that he was recently notified by the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) Young Lawyers' Division that he would be honored with the Liberty Bell Award at the HSBA Bar Convention on October 15. According to the Young Lawyers' Division, the Liberty Bell award "recognizes a non-lawyer who has made significant efforts to promote and foster a better understanding, appreciation, and respect of government, the legal system, and the role of law in our society."

As for what kind of law he is interested in practicing? Although Go has ruled out criminal law, he is passionate about drawing upon his researching and writing skills. "I definitely want to practice civil litigation, but I'm not sure which areas. I really want to use my skills to advocate for others is what it comes down to." ❖

...it's also teaching me how to be a lawyer specifically in Hawai'i. To me that means how you conduct yourself, how you interact and how you care about your community. It's not just knowledge, but it's about who you are."

son with preparing him not only for practicing locally in Hawai'i, but also emphasized a strong sense of community and character.

"I had little to no exposure to the law before law school, so when I think of Richardson, it's not only about getting a great education on the law, but it's also teaching me how to be a lawyer specifically in Hawai'i. To me that means how you conduct yourself, how you interact and how you care about your community. It's not just knowledge, but it's about who you are," said Go.

It seems that his efforts have not gone unnoticed. Go said that he was recently notified by the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) Young Lawyers' Division that he would be honored with the Liberty Bell Award at the HSBA Bar Convention on October 15. According to the Young Lawyers' Division, the Liberty Bell award "recognizes a non-lawyer who has made significant efforts to promote and foster a better understanding, appreciation, and respect of government, the legal system, and the role of law in our society."

As for what kind of law he is interested in practicing? Although Go has ruled out criminal law, he is passionate about drawing upon his researching and writing skills. "I definitely want to practice civil litigation, but I'm not sure which areas. I really want to use my skills to advocate for others is what it comes down to." ❖