

# Patsy Mink

CHAIR OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

ESTABLISHING THE PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK



# Undaunted Courage

Honoring a pioneer that changed Hawai'i, the United States, and the world.



## MINK CHAIR OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

To honor Mink, the William S. Richardson School of Law is establishing a special faculty position called an endowed chair. An endowed chair is generally named for an exceptional individual as an enduring legacy to that person's vision, leadership, and generosity. Here, the endowed chair will provide a Law School faculty member with consistent funding to advance instructional programs, to develop new research ideas, to fund students' work, and to create programming that directly honors Patsy Mink. Linking Mink to this special position at the Law School broadens and extends her remarkable legacy. It promises that her courage, insight, and persistence will be carried into the future by the selected professor through her or his scholarly speaking and writing, teaching and inspiring students, and service to communities still struggling for justice. The endowed chair also will ensure sustained support for the Mink Legislative Fellowship and the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program—two projects of the law School that embody Mink's vision of access, equality, and justice.

# P

**PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK'S** story is an American story. Although born in a small plantation village in Hawai'i, and raised during a time when her race and gender foreclosed better opportunities, Mink was not afraid to challenge the status quo. During World War II, Mink, like all other Japanese Americans, was declared an enemy of this nation. But, that did not deter her drive for equality and her love of her country. She would overcome racial and gender discrimination and become the first Japanese American woman admitted to practice law in Hawai'i. With the admiration and support of the people, Mink would be elected to the Hawai'i legislature and subsequently to the United

States House of Representatives, where she was the first Asian American woman and woman of color to serve in the United States Congress. Over the course of her illustrious career in public service, Mink pushed for deep societal changes. From advocating for the expansion of public access to government information to ensuring the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the nation, Mink's legacy has touched the lives of all Americans. Perhaps Mink's greatest achievement was her advocacy



“An American trailblazer, Patsy Takemoto Mink helped build a nation that lives up to its promise, and her example challenges us to make progress in our time.”

—PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



PHOTOS: COURTESY STAR- ADVERTISER



**FIGHTING AGAINST INJUSTICE**

In January 2001, Mink protested against the disenfranchisement of African American voters in the 2000 presidential election.

# Title IX

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

**WITH THESE** thirty-seven words and despite significant resistance, Patsy Mink changed America. This law transformed America's schools and universities by prohibiting educational institutions from receiving federal funds by discriminating on the basis of gender in admissions, recruitment, financial aid, housing, and athletics. Because of Title IX, today, the ratio of women law school graduates in the United States approaches fifty percent, and about one third of American lawyers and judges are women. To honor Patsy Mink's profound and successful efforts to bring gender equity to education, Congress renamed Title IX as the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.



PHOTO: COURTESY DEV O'NEILL

for passage in 1972 of Title IX which guarantees equal federal support for women in both academics and athletics. In 2014, and because of her tremendous contributions to the United States, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Mink the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.



It is easy enough to vote right and be consistently with the majority. But it is more often important to be ahead of the majority and this means being willing to cut the first furrow in the ground and stand alone for a while if necessary."

—PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK



## EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME



**ACCESS**

► "What you endure is who you are, and if you just accept it and do nothing, then life goes on. But, if you see it as a way for change, life doesn't have to

be this unfair. It can be better, maybe not for me—I can't change the past—but I can certainly help someone else in the future so they don't have to go through what I did."

**EQUALITY**

► "So long as there remain groups of our fellow Americans who are denied equal opportunity, and equal protection under the law; so

long as they are deprived of their basic right to vote—we must remain steadfast—'til all shades of man may stand side by side in dignity and self-respect to truly enjoy the fruits of our great land."

**JUSTICE**

► "We have to build things that we want to see accomplished, in life and in our

country, based on our own personal experiences... to make sure that

others... do not have to suffer the same discrimination."



PHOTO: COURTESY STAR-ADVERTISER; GWENDOLYN MINK

# Mink Legislative Fellowship

Funds from the endowed chair will be used to support the Patsy Takemoto Mink Legislative Fellowship, which provides opportunities for law students to spend time in Washington, D.C.



► **THE MINK LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP**—established by law students in 2003—honors the values and integrity of Congresswoman Mink’s life work by providing a Richardson student with a stipend to work for one of the members of Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation. Through this unique opportunity, students gain first-hand knowledge of national policymaking and carry on Mink’s legacy.



“This Mink Fellowship is a life-changing experience that sets a new standard of excellence and opens doors for budding leaders who are committed to public service in Hawai‘i.”

—**STACEY GRAY**  
*Mink Legislative Fellow*

“

The Fellowship changed the course of my life and my pursuit of social justice. I often thought of what Mrs. Mink had done and would have done if she were available for counsel. Her work was often my guide, and it continues to be my guide today.”

—**VAN LUONG**  
*Mink Legislative Fellow*



## Ulu Lehua Scholars Program

Funds from the endowed chair will also be used to support the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program.

**IN 1974**, the Law School created what is now known as the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program as a manifestation of the school’s commitment to make legal education accessible to members of legally underrepresented and underserved groups in and beyond Hawai‘i. Each year, the Law School admits up to twelve students who have overcome adversity, have demonstrated leadership potential and commitment to social justice, and who have academic records that evince

the persistence, dedication, and intellectual ability needed to succeed in law school and become members of the bar. Every cohort of Lehua Scholars represents Hawai‘i’s socioeconomic and ethnic diversity and also usually includes several participants from the greater Pacific. Over 300 Richardson graduates—many of whom are accomplished lawyers, judges, legislators, scholars, and community leaders—have launched their legal careers from the Lehua Program.

“

We have a shared moral purpose and a shared sense of justice for those most vulnerable.”

—**KELLI LYMAN**  
*Ulu Lehua Scholar*



**ROCKYNER HADLEY**  
*Ulu Lehua Scholar*

“I grew up in Kitti, Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia, and I am the first in my family and the first Pohnpeian in a very long time to go to law school. Because of the Lehua Program, and like Patsy Mink, I feel like I am able to pave a path for others to follow and thrive.”



**LU‘UKIA NAKANELUA**  
*Ulu Lehua Scholar*

“Never in their wildest dreams would my people have imagined that one of their own would be standing amongst the privileged, learning the skills necessary to effectively advocate on behalf of Maoli value systems and social justice. The Lehua Program made that possible.”

“For the first time, I was given a voice and the opportunity to make a real difference.”

—**SHERILYN TAVARES**, *Mink Legislative Fellow*





***PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK  
CHAIR OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE***

William S. Richardson School of Law

For additional information about your gift or how to  
structure future gifts, please contact:

Kathleen Hogarty, Executive Director of Development  
808.956.8395 | [Kathleen.Hogarty@UHFoundation.org](mailto:Kathleen.Hogarty@UHFoundation.org)