

COMMISSIONERS

Associate Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr. Chair, Access to Justice Commission

Associate Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr. was appointed to the Hawaii Supreme Court in May 2000. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he was an associate judge at the Intermediate Court of Appeals from 1994-2000, a circuit court judge from 1980-1994 handling both civil and criminal cases, and a per diem district court judge from 1979-1980. Before joining the bench, Justice Acoba served as a law clerk to then-Chief Justice William S. Richardson, was a special assistant to the President of the University of Hawaii, served as a deputy attorney general, and was engaged in the private practice of law.

Jill M. Hasegawa, Esq. Vice-Chair, Access to Justice Commission

Ms. Hasegawa is an associate attorney with the law firm of Ashford & Wriston. Ms. Hasegawa is the immediate past President of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, and past member of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Ms. Hasegawa also currently serves as a District Representative for the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, representing District 33 (Alaska and Hawaii), and as a Assistant Council Coordinator.

Puanani Burgess Commissioner

Ms. Burgess is the Executive Director of the Waianae Cost Community Alternative Development Corporation and is a community building facilitator and consultant. As a consultant, Ms. Burgess works with communities, organizations and leadership groups throughout Hawaii, the Pacific and the United States in conflict transformation, with a goal of resolution and community social and economic development.

Rai Saint Chu, Esq. Commissioner

Ms. Saint Chu is the managing attorney and vice president of the law firm, Turbin Chu. She is the current President of the Hawaii State Bar Association, and has served the HSBA in various capacities since she was

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admitted to the Hawaii Bar. Ms. Saint Chu is also one of the founding members of the Hawaii Women Lawyers and Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation.

**Honorable Daniel R. Foley
Commissioner**

Judge Foley was appointed as an Associate Judge to the Intermediate Court of Appeals in October 2000. Prior to his appointment, Judge Foley was a partner for eleven years with the law firm of Partington & Foley where he handled federal and state civil rights cases. From 1984 to 1987, Judge Foley served as the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, and from 1975 to 1983, he was counsel to various Micronesian governmental bodies, constitutional conventions, and organizations.

**State Senator Mike Gabbard
Commissioner**

Senator Gabbard represents District 19, which includes Honokai Hale, Makakilo, Kapolei, Kalaeloa, Royal Kunia, Village Park, Waikele, and portions of Ko Olina and Waipahu. He is currently the Chair of the Energy & Environment Committee and Vice Chair of the Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. He's also a member of the Judiciary & Government Operations and Public Safety & Military Affairs committees. Prior to his career in public service, Senator Gabbard served as a teacher, counselor, headmaster of a private school, and college administrator, among other positions.

**Moya T. Gray, Esq.
Commissioner**

Ms. Gray is the Executive Director of Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii. Ms. Gray has been the chief executive officer of the 27 year-old non-profit legal service provider since 2003. VLSH provides state-wide free legal services and advocacy through volunteer attorneys to children, the homeless, the elderly, low-income people and non-profit organizations that serve similar populations. Prior to joining the VLSH staff, Ms. Gray served as the Director of the State of Hawaii Office of Information Practices, as a hearings officer with the Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office, and was involved in the private practice of law.

Honorable Richard P. Guy
Commissioner

From 1989 to 2001, former Chief Justice Richard P. Guy was a Justice on the Washington State Supreme Court, and he was Chief Justice of that Court from 1999 to 2001. He has been very active in mediation and arbitration issues in the years following his “retirement” from the Washington State Supreme Court. Chief Justice Guy has been an advocate for increased access to justice. His interests have included serving on the Garment Oversight Board in Saipan to assure workers’ rights in the garment industry there. Chief Justice Guy has served as Area Director for a West Africa, Ethiopia, consulting firm. He has been a prosecutor, corporation counsel, and a partner in a major law firm.

Elton Johnson
Commissioner

Mr. Johnson has an abiding interest in the nature of justice, and the importance of public access to the justice system in a democratic society. These are among the matters he has explored during graduate studies in Comparative Philosophy. He has worked as a paralegal in Hawaii for over 20 years, and received the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam Registered Paralegal (RP) credential ten years ago. He is currently employed at Starn O’Toole Marcus & Fisher, where he facilitates the ediscovery aspect of civil litigation matters.

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Commissioner

Ms. Kaina is the recently appointed Executive Director of Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. Ms. Kaina joined LASH in 1999 as a staff attorney on the Island of Molokai, and managed the LASH’s Maui County Offices from 2001-2004, when she was appointed Deputy Director. LASH provides help to individuals and families who cannot afford a private attorney with civil legal needs primarily in the areas of family law, fair housing law, consumer law and public benefits law. Prior to joining LASH, Ms. Kaina did death penalty appellate work through New York University’s Death Penalty Fellowship Program, assisted in the filing of a class action law suit for the sexual harassment of women inmates, clerked for a firm specializing in non-profit housing development and clerked with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation.

Lillian Koller, Esq.
Commissioner

Ms. Koller was appointed as the current Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS) in 2003. Ms. Koller's departmental responsibilities include overseeing the Benefits, Employment and Support Services Division; Med-QUEST Division; Social Services Division; Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division; and Office of Youth Services. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Koller served as a drug court program coordinator for the Second Circuit Court and was responsible for planning, developing, implementing and managing the Maui Court Drug Court Program as a treatment alternative to incarceration for nonviolent substance-abuse felony offenders. In this position, she worked with private and public sector community-based rehabilitative service providers to help clients and their families secure vocational and life-skills training, job placement, food, clothing, shelter, child care, child welfare, protective services and Med-QUEST.

Nanci Kreidman
Commissioner

Ms. Kreidman is the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Action Center (formerly known as the Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline), a position she has filled since 1991. DVAC is dedicated to alleviating the problem of domestic abuse in Hawaii, and to that end, accepts high risk divorce, temporary restraining order and paternity cases. In addition to providing legal services, DVAC provides their client with a full complement of services to assist as a victim navigates the system and moves towards self-sufficiency.

B. Martin Luna, Esq.
Commissioner

Mr. Luna is the administrative partner of the Maui Office of Carlsmith Ball LLP. He is a past president and director of the Hawaii State Bar Association, and a member of the Maui County Bar Association. Mr. Luna is also a past chair and member of the Judicial Selection Commission of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and the past-Secretary of the Hawaii Supreme Court Commission on Unprofessional Conduct & Unauthorized Practice of Law.

Patti J. Lyons
Commissioner

Ms. Lyons has a long history as an advocate for family and children issues, including improving the lives of abused children. She is a current member of the Board of Directors for the Consuelo Foundation, and its past

president from 1990 until 1996. Ms. Lyons has a Masters in Social Work and has been directly involved in the practice and administration of social services since 1961. Prior to joining the Consuelo Foundation, Ms. Lyons help to establish the Advocacy Program and Neighborhood Services Division at Child and Family Services, a non-profit human service agency.

MaryAnne Magnier, Esq.
Commissioner

Ms. Magnier is a Deputy Attorney General with the State of Hawaii Department of the Attorney General. She serves as the Supervising Attorney for the Family Law Division, a position that she has held since March 1997. The Family Law Division handles all state litigation under the jurisdiction of Family Court, such as child and adult protection, guardianships, truancy, adolescent mental health cases, and involuntary civil mental commitment hearings.

Honorable Calvin K. Murashige
Commissioner

Judge Murashige was appointed as a District Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in 1990, and has been handling all family court matters since his appointment. In addition to presiding over family court, Judge Murashige also has been assigned to the Adult Drug Court and the Juvenile Drug Court for the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Prior to his appointment, Judge Murashige was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kauai from 1974 to 1980, and also was in private practice.

Honorable Greg K. Nakamura
Commissioner

Judge Nakamura was appointed as a Circuit Court judge in the Third Circuit in 1994, where he is currently serving in his second term. Prior his appointment, he served as a District Family Court Judge with the Third Circuit, Kona Division from 1990-1994. Before joining the bench, Judge Nakamura worked in private practice in both Hilo and Honolulu and served as a law clerk for the Honorable John Calhoun Lanham and the Honorable Ernest Kubota.

Representative Blake Oshiro – Commissioner

Representative Oshiro represents District 33, which includes Aiea, Halawa Valley, Halawa Heights, Aiea Heights. He is also an associate attorney with the law firm of Alston, Hunt, Floyd & Ing.

Mahealani Perez-Wendt
Commissioner

Ms. Perez-Wendt is the Executive Director for the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, a public interest law firm whose exclusive focus is in Native Hawaiian land, natural resources and traditional rights. Ms. Perez-Wendt has been with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation for over thirty years, and has litigated many landmark cases involving Native Hawaii rights. Ms. Perez-Wendt has served two consecutive appointments as a member of the State of Hawaii Judiciary's Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Board.

Honorable Simone C. Polak
Commissioner

Judge Polack was appointed as a District Court Judge for the Second Judicial Circuit in 2004. Following her appointment, she served on both the family and civil/criminal district court calendars. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Pollack served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui from 1989 to 2004, where she was an attorney with the Appellate Division.

Dean Aviam Soifer
Commissioner

Dean Soifer is the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa, a position he has held since 2003. Prior to joining the administration of the William S. Richardson School of Law, Dean Soifer served as the Dean of Boston College Law School from 1993-1998 and continued to teach at Boston College until 2003. Dean Soifer is a strong advocate of access to justice and has an extensive record of scholarly publications, presentations, and public service activities and he continues to teach primarily in the areas of constitutional law, legal history, legal writing, and law and humanities.

Shannon L. Wack, Esq.
Commissioner

Ms. Wack is an attorney with the law firm of Roeca Louie Hiraoka, LLP. She is the current Chair of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Delivery of Legal Service Committee ("DLSC"), and has been involved with the DLSC since 2006. In addition to the private practice of law, Ms. Wack served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert G. Klein and the Honorable Marie Milks.