



Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission  
sponsors the

## 2025 HAWAI'I ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE

### "CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD CIVIL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL"

Friday, June 20, 2025

William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i  
2515 Dole Street, Classrooms 2 and 3

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast; registration
- 8:40 - 9:00 **Welcome: Dean Aviam Soifer** (ret.) and **Robert LeClair**, co-emcees  
**Hon. Joseph E. Cardoza** (ret.), Chair, Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission,  
former State of Hawai'i Second Circuit Chief Judge
- 9:00 - 9:40 Keynote speaker: **Hon. Mark E. Recktenwald**, Chief Justice, Hawai'i  
Supreme Court
- 9:40 - 10:00 Break
- 10:00 - 11:45 **"Civil Access to Justice for All - A Continuing Conversation"**  
**[Judge Cardoza (facilitator), Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, Justice  
Simeon Acoba** (ret.), **Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge Daniel Foley**  
(ret.), **Rep. Della Au Belatti**] This session will discuss insight into the  
establishment of the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, accomplishments, the  
impact of federal developments, and future goals.
- 11:45 - 12:45 Light lunch
- 12:45 - 2:00 Afternoon concurrent workshops:
1. **"Building Disaster Resilience by Addressing Heirs' Property"**  
**[Sharla Manley, Devon Haia, W. Keoni Shultz, Debbie Tanakaya]** Owners of heirs'  
property must navigate many legal issues, including unique problems that arise after a  
disaster. This session will examine strategies to help families to: establish paper title to such  
property, which may involve several generations; manage their lands collectively; and use cost-  
effective tools to facilitate inter-generational transfers of land.
  2. **"Strengthening Housing Stability Through Early Eviction Mediation"**  
**[Clyde Namuo (moderator), Judge Jeffrey Crabtree** (ret.), **Bevanne Bowers, Roberta  
Hickey-Gómez]** This session will discuss the early eviction mediation program on Oahu and  
more recently on Maui through Act 202 and its impacts.

3. **“Access to Justice for Workers”**

**[Isis Osborne (moderator), Jeremy O’Steen, Nelson Salvador, Lisa Grandinetti]** This session will explore how Hawaii’s workers, both union and non-unionized, access to the legal system for issues such as wage theft, workplace safety, and discrimination in the workplace.

4. **“Elder Law, Special Needs, and Access to Justice”**

**[James Pietsch, Scott Suzuki]** This session will provide updates on issues in elder law and related issues in disability law, including financing long-term care and special needs trusts.

5. **“Immigration Crisis”**

**[Corey Park (facilitator), Liza Ryan Gill, Stephanie Sevilla, Neribel Chardon]** From day one of his presidency, Donald Trump began imposing numerous draconian measures as part of his promised immigration “reforms,” including blocking asylum seekers from the U.S.; purporting to end constitutionally mandated birthright citizenship; and beginning mass deportations without due process. A panel of experienced Hawai‘i immigration experts will discuss how these policies have impacted immigrants and others in Hawai‘i.

2:00 - 2:15 Break

2:15 - 3:30 Afternoon concurrent workshops:

6. **“Family Courts and Access to Justice”**

**[Judge Dyan Medeiros, Judge Courtney Naso, Judge Robert J. Brown, Judge Andrew Park, Judge Darien Ching Nagata]** This session will offer an overview of the Volunteer Settlement Master Program (“VSM”) including information about new policies and updates to the program. The VSM program uses volunteer attorneys to help divorcing spouses and unmarried couples with children settle their custody and financial disputes.

7. **“New Approaches to Civil Access to Justice”**

**[Heather Lusk (facilitator), Aphirak Bamrungruan, Dina Shek, Judge Thomas Haia]** This session will explore pathways that increase access to civil justice such as medical-legal partnerships, cultural and linguistic services, and justice navigation. Discussions will include recent legislation, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court inclusion statement in March 2025, and emerging best practices to help overcome barriers.

8. **“Are You Being Replaced? Innovations in Access to Justice”**

**[Judge Joseph Cardoza (ret.) (facilitator), Justice Vladimir Devens, and Matthew Stubenberg]** This session will discuss initiatives for civil access to justice, including the use of artificial intelligence.

9. **“Restorative Justice and Special Education”**

**[Rep. Della Au Belatti (facilitator), Judge Kirstin Hamman, Kathryn Mayer, Chastity Imamura]** This session will start with a brief introduction to special education law in Hawaii IDEA 101 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) for attorneys. Presenters will then explore how restorative justice might play a role in creating a more efficient system and better outcomes for families.

3:35 - 4:15 **Plenary: “Charting the Course Toward Civil Access to Justice For All” Calvin Pang (moderator), Aviam Soifer, Robert LeClair, Rachel Figueroa, Senator Karl Rhoads**

4:15 “Hawai‘i Pono‘i”