



Nā Hoa Kānāwai

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Hawai'i Supreme Court Law Library (SCLL)



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**Happy
Holidays!**

FROM THE SUPREME COURT LAW
LIBRARY





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What was your favorite thing that happened in the library this year?

"Re-opening of in-person 'Lawyer in the Law Library'/satellite Kapolei Access to Justice Room, where volunteer attorneys provide free legal advice on family law matters to the public <3"

"Providing patron access to court documents on library computers through the eCourt Kokua kiosk"

"Restarting Lawyer in the Library through the Kapolei Access to Justice Center"

"We added new electronic resources/databases to our collection"

What was the most challenging thing that happened in the library in 2024?

"Switching most of our Federal Depository Library (FDL) titles from print to digital access"

"The lack of AC in the library (edit: it was fixed!)"

"Introduction of commercial and legal generative AI tools into the legal research sphere and leveraging these tools in a prudent, thoughtful, and informative manner"

"Our library windows were vandalized and the shutters were broken"

YEAR IN REVIEW

What do you like best about working in the library?

"Serving the needs of the public who often feel lost in pursuing justice through the courts"

"When you can tell that you've really helped a patron get the help that they needed"

"I love working with our amazing library staff and connecting our library patrons with the information they need."

"Our staff"

WITH THE LIBRARY

If you could change one thing about the library, what would it be and why?

"Stop people from throwing things through our windows!"

"Not a thing!"

"If I could wave a magic wand: it would be that anyone who was reading the legalese explanation of a legal topic could immediately understand and apply the information to their current challenge that they may be facing. :)"

"Finish all outstanding projects/problems. Like the damaged flooring by emergency exit door (Millilani St. side); remove long koa benches temporarily stored in library, fix all non-functioning light fixtures; finish alarm/security system they started to install; etc."



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JUDICIARY STAFF SPOTLIGHT: TOUKTA WONGSE-ONT

From August to December of this year, the library had the pleasure of working with Toukta Wongse-ont. Originally coming from the Family Court, she has returned to her position at Family Court (now enjoying an easier commute from home to office!😄).

Toukta was born in a refugee camp in Thailand and her name means “doll” in Lao. She was raised in California but lived in both California and Hawai'i growing up. She attended Chaminade University of Honolulu and earned her Bachelor's degree with a double major in Politic and Historical Studies and English. Currently, she's taking classes at Kapiolani Community College in Paralegal Studies.

What was your first paying job?

My first paying job was a library assistant position at the University of Pacific in Stockton, California.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is “Pat-a-Rice, A Laotian Pat-a-cake”, which I wrote, based on my grandmother and our love of sticky rice. It's a multicultural twist on the classic “Pat-a-Cake” nursery rhyme that takes the staple of sticky rice into a different and “sweet” level.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy creating different crafts-recycling, reusing and repurposing items. I also enjoy writing short stories, nature writing and poetry. Here's a poem I wrote:



Wild Wedding Dress Hunt

I emerged from my winter gloom,
And burst through the doors in full, spring,
bloom.

Fresh new season of love and life,
Cherry blossom that wants to be a wife.
Pearls of perfection, sequins that shimmer,
A dusting of petals, layers of glimmer.
Women ran through the store and attacked racks
of dresses,
Ravenous...ready...pouncing wolves making
messes.
Sweatin' girls and stressed salesmen, scattered
and swirling,
Whirling and twirling,
I spun 'round and around...until I found...the
perfect wedding gown!

DISTRICT COURT FIELD TRIP

In November, State Law Librarian Jenny Silbiger took library staff members Joely Alt and Shekinah Marlin to the District Court to get a glimpse into daily court room proceedings.

While there, they were able to look at the courtrooms for Civil Motions, Civil Pretrial Conferences, Traffic and Criminal Pretrial Conferences, Custody Cases, and Traffic and Criminal Trials. When asked about their experience, Joely Alt said “Seeing the public defenders handle all the cases was astounding. I had no idea how they handle all the different cases.”

While there, Deputy Chief Judge Melanie May graciously spent time with the library staff to shed light on the day-to-day schedule of the District Court. She showcased the many moving parts that make the day run smoothly for everyone in court. “Something I learned during the trip is how concise yet settled it is between a judge, plaintiff, and defendant at the District Court” says Shekinah Marlin.

If anyone is interested in seeing the justice system in action, the District Court calendars are often quite busy, but are open to the public for viewing. Litigants appear either in-person or by Zoom (sometimes done by using the library's District Court Remote Hearing laptop!).



Left to right: Jenny Silbiger, Joely Alt, Shekinah Marlin, and Deputy Chief Judge May



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New Acquisitions



Cwik, Cynthia H.

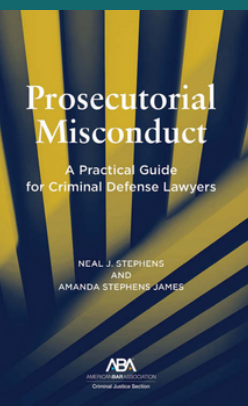
Artificial Intelligence: Legal Issues, Policy, and Practical Strategy.
American Bar Association.
[KF 390.5 C6 2024]

Articles from over 40 leading figures in law, this book explores AI's place in the legal world.

Stephens, Neal J.

Prosecutorial Misconduct: a practical guide for criminal defense lawyers. [KF 9640 S72 2024]

Discover how to identify prosecutorial misconduct in every phase of a criminal case.



History of the SCLL: State of the Collection

Despite having no librarian for nearly the first 100 years of existence and the trouble it had with getting funding with no staff to advocated for it, the library collection still managed to grow throughout that time.

In reports written by the Chief Justice of the time, money would be allocated to the library but each year it would decrease. There were even some years where no money was put aside at all!

Even with these setbacks, the collection continued to accumulate and it quickly outgrew the room that it was in. At least during two points in those first 100 years, the Judiciary had to lend out and transfer books to other libraries. Especially those that were in poor condition so they could be tended to.

Here is a look at how the collection grew from the inception of the library to when the first librarian was hired.

1874- 3,000 volumes

1883- 2,445 volumes

1889 - 3,000 volumes

1892- 4,349 volumes

1895- 4,835 volumes

1900 - 6,157 volumes



1906 - 7,750 volumes

1911 - 11,836 volumes

1916 - 13,200 volumes

1938 - 22,038 volumes

1940 - 22,970 volumes

1942 - 23,729 volumes

Did You Know...



that the "Ghostbuster Ruling" is the reason that when selling a house, you may be required to disclose violent acts were committed on the property? Click [here](#) to learn more!

Dates to Watch:



The Library will be closed in observance of the following Hawai'i State holidays:

Christmas Day: December 25

New Year's Day: January 1

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 20

Presidents' Day: February 17

We Would Love to Hear From You!



Do you have something you'd like to share? Your thoughts and suggestions would be greatly appreciated! Send us recommended ideas for articles or content to be included in future issues. We also welcome any tips on how we can improve our newsletter and your reading experience. Tell us [here!](#)