



Nā Hoa Kānāwai

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



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



From left to right: Michael Davis, Mark Skirmstad, Joely Alt, Jenny Silbiger, Marlene Cuenco, Zhenya Zhang, and Maxine Surla

FROM THE LAW LIBRARY

Our newsletter title incorporates 'ōlelo Hawai'i with the phrase "Nā Hoa Kānāwai" which translates to "Friends of the Law." Mahalo to our King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center friends and colleagues who diligently helped us with this translation. We want to be intentional about including and encouraging our colleagues and the public to learn more about 'ōlelo Hawai'i, the native language of where we live, learn, and conduct legal research. If you're interested in learning Hawaiian language, check out [this KSBE article](#) with suggested resources.



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PARTNERING WITH OUR LOCAL LIBRARY COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

The Supreme Court Law Library presented an updated legal information research training to both the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) and the Hawai'i Library Association (HLA). The theme for both sessions was *Legally Speaking: Return of the Reference Low-Down When You're Not a Lawyer*. State Law Librarian Jenny Silbiger and Public Services Librarian Marlene Cuenco partnered to share their combined 35 years of knowledge and expertise with legal research.

On Friday, September 19, a one-hour session via Zoom was offered to all librarians of the Hawai'i State Public Library System which encompasses 51 branches. The presentation included an overview of how laws are created, a case study on marriage equality, guidance and tips on legal reference and legal services, and addressing 'real life' legal questions received by participants at their respective public libraries.

Additionally, Jenny and Marlene collaborated to present an enhanced 70-minute session at the Hawaii Library Association's 2025 Annual Conference on Friday, November 14, 2025. Members from academic, government, HSPLS, and special libraries were able to attend the presentation.

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface with a presentation slide. The Zoom window at the top displays five participants: Jessica Caniglia, Kelly Yamamoto - HLA, Jenny Silbiger (State Law Librarian), Marlene, and Susan Clark. The presentation slide has a white background with a teal graphic on the right side depicting a stack of books and an open book. The slide title is "Legally Speaking: The Reference Low-Down When You're Not a Lawyer". Below the title, it says "Presented By" followed by "Jenny Silbiger, State Law Librarian" and "Marlene Cuenco, Public Services Librarian". At the bottom, it reads "Hawai'i Supreme Court Law Library".



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STUDENT ASSISTANTS, INTERNS, & VOLUNTEERS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Nov. 2008 - Nov. 2012

Andrew Dolder works at Disneyland as an Area Supervisor and is currently pursuing a marketing degree.

"It was a great growth opportunity and work experience."

Feb. 2013-Apr. 2014

Jessie Van Epps

June 2014 - August 2015: Library Technician

Sept. 2015 -Apr. 2018: Student Assistant

Chelsea DeMott started as a Library Technician but then became as student assistant as she went back to school to pursue a graduate degree.

Jun. 2018 - Aug. 2022

Kapri Tulang-DeSilva is a 3L student at UH Richardson School of Law and a Ph.D. candidate in Education Foundations, Transformative Education.

Jan. - May 2020

Connie Chang, a former volunteer, works as a Knowledge Management Research Analyst at Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt, P.C.

Spring 2019

Suzie Collins currently works for the City and County of Honolulu in the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney.

Spring 2023 - August 2023

TJ Buckley currently works at DLA Piper as a market intelligence analyst.

"The experience with you at the SCLL was a key factor in getting me an interview and in ultimately landing me a job."

Sept. 2020 - Sept. 2021

Omar Amin Jr.
Volunteer

Jul. 2025 - Oct. 2025

Maxine Surla is the newest addition to the Law Library staff as a Library Technician for the Technical Services division.

Sept. 2023 - May 2024

Quinne Uchida works as a researcher for the 2025-2026 Honolulu Charter Commission while also attending UH Richardson School of Law.

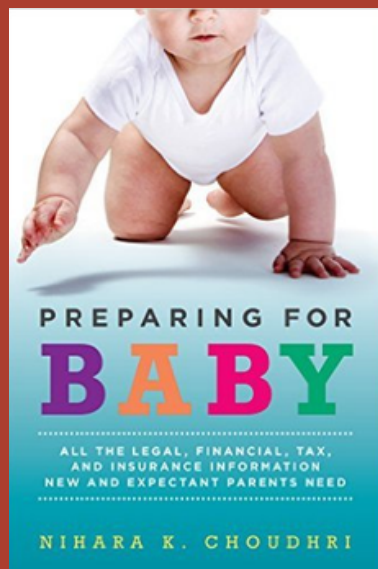


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New Acquisitions



Choudhri, Nihara K.
Preparing for Baby.
American Bar Association
[KF 505 C48 2015]

"All the legal, financial, tax, and insurance information new and expectant parents need."

Did You Know...

that by the 1880's, there were over 80 different time zones across the US? 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

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 19

Presidents' Day - February 16

LIBRARY POLICIES

For a long time, the library existed as a place that was mostly used by Judiciary staff. However, when they hired librarians, they were able to extend to include public use.

The opening hours of the library were much different than compared to today. At the time, the library was open 365 days a year. There were also quite different circulation procedures.

In 1961, a person borrowing a book only had to sign the book out. In the records, there was no indication on how long the book could be checked out for. However it was not uncommon to have patrons either keep the books for much longer than the initial borrowing period or to not have them return the books at all.

In addition to the lax circulation policies, the library also allowed attorneys to have keys to the library so they could use the library past closing hours. There's no recorded date as to when that practice stopped, but it was mentioned that many attorneys were reluctant to give up that privilege.

While keys were no longer given out, in 1981 a card reader was installed for the library door and Supreme Court Justices and Circuit Court Judges were given access to the library after hours.



In 1964 the library switched to being open only Monday-Friday.

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](#)!