

# Nā Hoa Kānāwai

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



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Wolters Kluwer VitalLaw Webinar
- PACE Panel
- Lawyer in the Library
- Get to Know Our Library Staff
- Law Library History
- Did You Know...?
- Dates to Watch
- We Would Love to Hear From You!



## WOLTERS KLUWER VITALLAW WEBINAR

The Supreme Court Law Library will be hosting a Wolters Kluwer VitalLaw webinar on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 9 am HST. Wolters Kluwer VitalLaw is a legal research platform providing trusted content that includes access to 13 Print Titles, 545+ Online Titles, and 25 Practice Areas.

The session is open to all library users from the local legal community and general public and will help users understand how to get the most out of the database. The session will be led by Matt Ruzicka who currently works at Wolters Kluwer as a Customer Success Manager and has been with the company since 2017.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP [here](#).



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## PACE/HLA COMMUNITY PANEL

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, State Law Librarian Jenny Silbiger traveled to Kaua'i Community College to lead a discussion on civic engagement. The panel was hosted by the Hawai'i Commission to Promote and Advance Civic Education (PACE) and the Hawai'i Library Association.

The event, part of the "Laws Make a Difference, and So Can You" speaking series, highlighted the importance of civic knowledge and community participation in a healthy democracy.

The panel featured retired Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald, retired Judge Kathleen Watanabe, and former Kaua'i County Council Member Mason Chock. KCC students submitted questions on topics including executive authority, environmental safety, Native Hawaiian educational opportunities, and the responsibilities of local governments.

The forum was recorded by Hō'ike Kaua'i Community Media and can be viewed online at [Laws Make a Difference — Civic Education Talk Story at Kaua'i CC Library \(May 5th 2026\) - YouTube.](#)

If you wish to read more about the panel, you can do so on the Judiciary's website [here](#). The PACE website also posted their own recap of the event, found [here](#).



Photo courtesy of PACE - from left to right: Jenny Silbiger, Mason Chock, Judge Kathleen Watanabe (Ret.), and Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald (Ret.)

## LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY

On the second Friday of each month from 11:30am to 1:30pm, the Supreme Court Law Library hosts two volunteer attorneys that can provide free limited legal assistance to self-represented litigants with cases in the Family Court.

If you are interested in signing up, you can call the Kapolei Access to Justice Room at 808-954-8290 to schedule an appointment.

# *Nā Hoa Kānāwai*

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## GET TO KNOW YOUR LIBRARY STAFF - MICHAEL DAVIS



Michael Davis joined the library as a library technician in July 2025. He was born and raised in San Diego California. He obtained a Bachelor's in English from University of California, Irvine. Then went on to get a Master's in Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of Montana and a Masters in Information Technology Management from the University of Phoenix. He also graduated with a PhD in English from Western Michigan University.

### **What is a fun fact about you?**

I have lived and worked in over 13 different countries.

### **What is your favorite book?**

I think the novel I've reread the most times is Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. Others close to my heart include *Self-Portraits* (Osamu Dazai), *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (Raymond Carver), *Jesus' Son* (Denis Johnson), *The Great Gatsby*, *The Collected Stories of Isaac Babel*, and *First, Body* (Melanie Rae Thon). But there are too many books and there is too little time.

### **What are three things on your bucket list?**

There are very few things remaining on the implicit list I bucketed in my early 20s. Three decades later, I can say I've done most of the ones that weren't ill-advised and a few that were. Remaining at the bottom of the bucket: I'd like to learn to draw again. I'd like to improve my grasp of certain foreign languages that I can only speak at about third grade level. And I'd like to buy a motorcycle for reasons I cannot presently explain.

### **Most rewarding part of your job?**

I really enjoy working at the library reference desk. It's not an exaggeration to say that I learn something new every time I do it.

### **Where is your dream destination vacation?**

I'd like to spend a month in a small villa on the Amalfi coast, sleep late, read all day, eat luxurious meals, and enjoy the company of a cat.

## LIBRARY STAFF UPDATE

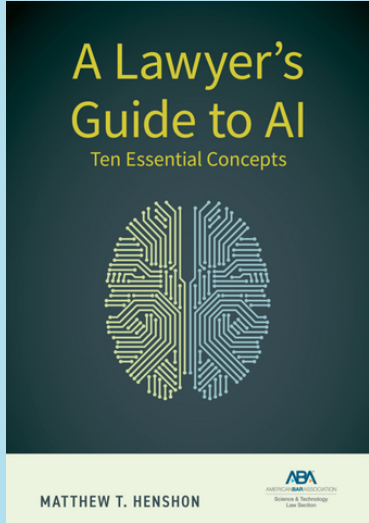
In a previous edition of the newsletter, Maxine Surla was highlighted as one of the library's Student Interns who worked with the library from July to October 2025.

In November 2025, a position opened up and Maxine has now joined the library staff as a library technician in the Technical Services division!

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## New Acquisitions



Henshon, Matthew T. *A Lawyer's Guide to AI: Ten Essential Concepts*. American Bar Association  
[KF 390.5 C6 H46 2026]

"Explains what you need to know about this fast-changing field from both a technological and legal perspective. Understanding the long story of AI will help lawyers know where it's going next."

## Did You Know...

that the patent for the Norwegian Cheese Slicer (Ostehøvel) was filed in 1925? Click [here](#) to learn more!

## Dates to Watch:

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

**King Kamehameha Day - June 11**

**Independence Day - July 3 (Observed)**

**Statehood Day - August 21**

**Labor Day - September 7**

## THE BUDGET FOR THE LIBRARY

Of all the things that the library has had to deal with - not enough space, lack of staff, location challenges - the one thing that has remained constant is the budget problem. Throughout the early days of its life, the library constantly had a budget that wasn't nearly big enough and they needed to get crafty about how to continue getting materials.

Although money was always set aside for the library, it's not until Mary Helen began working that she realized how the budget needed to be much larger for all the work that needed to be done. The main problem was that the library was often using it to either fill in collections they already had or to update them, rarely using it to buy new materials.

In 1962, the library's book budget was \$10,000 and they actually ended up spending \$16,458 but only \$458 was spent on new books. It seems like it was a cycle of the library trying to make sure their current collection was up to date but then by the time they were able to try and purchase new materials, they would either be out of print or more expensive.

Luckily with help from the community who donated books and sponsoring the purchase of different law reviews, the collection slowly grew.



One report said that the Kaua'i Public Library had the same number of books but had a budget nearly 3x the Law Library.

## 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](#)!