

MINUTES  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING

'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawaii  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Jodi Yi called the meeting to order at 1210 p.m. with a quorum present. The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Officers Present

Jodi Yi  
Nadine Ando  
Howard Luke  
Russ Awakuni (videoconference)  
Mark M. Murakami

HSBA Staff

Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
Iris Ito  
Debra White (videoconference)  
Christina Bae (videoconference)

Directors Present

Cecelia Chang  
Steven Chow  
Rebecca Copeland  
Vladimir Devens  
Rhonda Griswold (phone)  
Geraldine Hasegawa  
Kristin Izumi-Nitao  
Derek Kobayashi  
Kai Lawrence  
Georgia McMillen  
Mark K. Murakami  
Alika Piper  
Ryan Hew

Others Present

Judge Ronald Ibarra  
Jeffrey Ng  
Other Members of Hawaii County  
Bar Association

Board Members Absent

Carol Kitaoka<sup>x</sup>  
Lisa Munger

<sup>x</sup>Excused Absence.

- B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to approve the minutes of the Board meeting on April 28, 2016.
- C. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Treasurer Mark M. Murakami briefly explained the HSBA dues and Supreme Court entity fees structure. He reported that HSBA is in a good financial state, and that while HSBA dues will remain the same going into 2017, fees for the Disciplinary Board may increase.
- D. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Patricia Mau-Shimizu reported on the following items:
- Bar Convention - To accommodate neighbor island HSBA members who may wish to attend, the early bird discount for Neighbor Island members will be increased to \$50, and the start time for the CLE seminars will be 9:00am (instead of 8:30). ABA President Linda Klein will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon.
  - Annual Dinner - Will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hawaii Convention Center. Chief Justice Ronald Moon will be roasted and the Hawaii State Trial Judges Association will be the primary beneficiary. Other beneficiaries are: Girls Court, Neighbor Island Self-Help Centers/Desk, and Access to Justice Rooms (at Honolulu District Court and Kapolei Court).
- E. **YLD PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - YLD President Ryan Hew thanked the Hilo attorneys for volunteering their time on YLD projects. He noted the success of Law Week activities statewide and reported that Moanalua High School, winner of the State competition, did well at the national level. He also stated that the YLD is planning more activities on the Neighbor Islands.
- F. **JUDGE RONALD IBARRA** - After an introduction by Vice President Howard Luke, Judge Ibarra gave an update on activities in the Third Circuit.
- Statistics on Court Cases and Court Calendar - the number of cases in criminal and civil cases in District and Circuit Court have mostly decreased, except for a 20% increase in miscellaneous cases.
  - Statistics on the Hope Program (Waimea), the DUI Calendar, and the Court-Annexed Arbitration Program were also provided.
  - Self Help Center in Hilo and Self Help Desk in Kona are doing well.
  - Two Third Circuit Court judges will retire this year.
  - Local Bench/Bar Meetings - Judges and attorneys meet on a quarterly basis.
  - Kona Courthouse - Bid has been awarded to general contractor Nan, Inc. with a fall 2016 groundbreaking and anticipated 2019 occupancy.
- G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None.

## H. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Proposed Amendment to Rule 17(g)** - The Board discussed the proposed amendment and the likely reason it is being proposed. It was noted that in 2015 there was an urgent need to amend Rule 1.2(d) of the Hawaii Rules of Professional Conduct so that attorneys assisting companies attempting to establish medical marijuana dispensaries would not be subject to ethical violations.

**Action taken:** A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to support proposed amendments to Rule 17(g) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii that would allow the Court, in exigent circumstances, to shorten the 90-day comment period for proposed rule amendments.

2. **Board Vacancies on Legal Aid Society of Hawaii**

**Action taken:** A motion was made, seconded, and carried without opposition to adopt the Nominating Committee's recommendation to appoint/reappoint the individuals listed below to three-year terms beginning July 1, 2016. The following board members recused themselves from voting on this item: Howard Luke, Russ Awakuni, Mark K. Murakami, and Mei-Fei Kuo.

- Joanne Grimes (reappointment)
- Ian Jung (reappointment)
- Andrew Levin (reappointment)
- Arsima Muller (new appointment)
- Thomas Otake (new appointment)

3. **Judicial Appointment Process** - Noting the recent and upcoming appointments to the Third Circuit bench, HSBA Director Steven Chow described the HSBA's judicial appointment process. He briefly described the procedures of the Board, and the judicial nominees' interactions with the Board.

### 4. **Bench-Bar Forum**

Director Chow, who also serves as Judicial Administration Committee Co-Chair, reported that Bench-Bar Forums will be held in 2016 in place of the Bench-Bar Conference where judges and attorneys will discuss issues affecting the Bench and Bar in the State courts, and possible solutions.

H. **ADJOURNMENT**

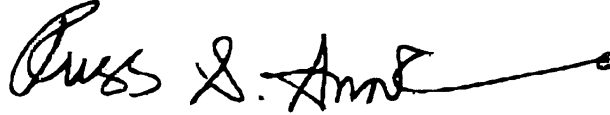
The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Submitted by:



Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
HSBA Executive Director

Approved by:



Russ S. Awakuni  
HSBA Secretary