

Meet the 2015 HSBA Board Candidates

VICE-PRESIDENT

Nadine Y. Ando:



I am running for the position of HSBA Vice-President and humbly ask that you consider voting for me based upon my background, my experience as an HSBA Director for the past 5 years and my commitment to serve the Bar membership in a way that encourages greater participation and input, promotes openness and transparency in Board actions and effectively advances the tenets of the Bar's mission statement, which is "to unite and inspire Hawaii's lawyers to promote justice, serve the public and improve the legal profession."

Born and raised in Hilo, I graduated from Hilo High School and obtained my B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Hawaii. Following graduation from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1982, I entered private practice with the law firm now known as Carlsmith Ball, doing civil litigation. I joined the firm now known as McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon as a partner in 1989 and in 2007 became a partner in the firm now known as Bickerton Lee Dang Sullivan & Meheula. I have practiced primarily in the commercial litigation area for the past 20+ years and have been listed in Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers.

I have had the privilege of serving as a Director on the Bar Board since 2010 and have served as a member of the Committee on Professional Responsibility & Risk Management since 2012. I am currently a member of an HSBA subcommittee formed to review the process for judicial/executive appointments and serve as an HSBA representative to a Pro Hac Vice Practice Working Group comprised of state court judges, Judiciary staff and the ODC.

As an HSBA member who was not active in the HSBA until I began serving as a Director, I am mindful of the fact that a significant percentage of the membership may have little or limited awareness of the many outstanding programs, activities and projects the HSBA supports or participates in to meet the goals set under its mission statement, or have scant appreciation for the tireless efforts of the many members who serve on Bar committees, as HSBA representatives on commissions, working groups and task forces and as members of the Bar's 17 practice Sections. I seek to explore ways to change that statistic so that greater member engagement and input will be encouraged. I am also aware that for all the good work the HSBA does, there is always a need to reflect, re-evaluate and, where appropriate, make adjustments to meet the changing economic, technological and political climate our members face. I hope to lead the Bar in a manner that is perceived by its members as being responsive to their concerns and needs in a balanced, even-handed way given the many diverse groups our unified Bar is comprised of. I hope to achieve the HSBA's goals as effectively as possible through openness, collaboration and consensus-building. I hope you will see fit to give me that opportunity and vote for me in the upcoming election this September.

David C. Farmer:



As your Vice President, I will work with you and the HSBA leadership to address important issues you have identified and discussed with me, including greater Section influence on the governance of the HSBA through enhanced representation on the Board; reduction of burdensome administrative load and resulting rising membership fees; planning for the reduced operating funds due to the retirement of us Baby Boomers; and Section autonomy and promotion of low-cost, substantive MCLE offerings that the Sections can best provide.

An important matter to weigh in on right now concerns proposed amendments to Rules 17 and 22, Rules of the Supreme Court, which would modify the basis for approving mandatory continuing legal education credits. They are out for your comment through August 26, 2014, with a possible effective date of January 1, 2015. The text of the proposed amendments is available at <http://www.courts.state.hi.us>.

These amendments are, in my view, extremely sensible and will, among other changes, eliminate the distinction between Mandatory Continuing Professional Legal Education (MCPE) and Voluntary Continuing Legal Education (VCLE). They will also, if adopted, emphasize CLE credits in practical substantive practice areas.

I would bring the same sort of common sense and reason to my tenure as Vice-President. I am realistic about the challenges of this position. I have thirty years of experience in various capacities with the HSBA.

I first became an active HSBA member in 1983 and have served on the HSBA Board and its various committees since 1991, including an editor and contributing author with the Hawai'i Bar Journal and my current tenure as a Collection Law Section director and member of the CLE and MCLE Committees. Also since 1991, I have been an active member of the Supreme Court Board of Bar Examiners.

I have been a CLE author and presenter since 1991 and editor/author of four editions of Hawai'i Collection Law Manual and have taught at William S. Richardson as an adjunct and visiting assistant professor.

In my law career, I have been a partner with two law firms; and, for the past 11 years, I have been a solo practitioner with a focus in collection law and bankruptcy. I have also served as a Chapter 11 and a Chapter 7 Panel Trustee.

My education background includes majoring in English lit. at Johns Hopkins University and acting at Carnegie Mellon. Since moving here in 1966, I have received all my degrees from UH: a BFA in studio painting and drawing, an MA in Asian & Pacific art history, and my J.D. from Richardson.

For almost 60 years, I have also followed my passion as a community theatre and professional actor, director and producer in stage, television and film productions. My community service includes currently serving as president of the Screen Actors Guild-AFTRA Local (also a volunteer board).

Anyone honored to be elected must, I believe, dedicate themselves to active listening to and communicating with you, our members. If elected, I pledge to do just that.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana for your support.

SECRETARY

Russ S. Awakuni:



Russ Awakuni manages the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Leeward Oahu office and received his law degree from Loyola Law School. He is a current member of the HSBA Board of Directors, and is a past President, Vice-President and Director of the Young Lawyers Division of the HSBA. His time with the Access to Justice Commission's sub-committee on Overcoming Barriers to Access to Justice since 2009 has fueled his desire to give back to the profession and to bring the board a non-profit attorney's perspective. He hopes to continue to serve as Secretary of the Board.

David M. Jorgensen:



Dave is a Partner in Takitani, Agaran & Jorgensen on Maui. He graduated from OSU and the Northwestern School of Law and was admitted to the Hawaii Bar in 1988. He previously served as Law Clerk for Judge Marie Milks and as a Deputy Corp Counsel after moving to Maui in 1992. Dave's current practice focuses primarily on real estate and liquor license matters and he's on the Boards of several non-profit organizations on Maui. He's married to Molokai girl Terri and has two beautiful daughters, Megan and Amanda. Dave's excited to get back involved with the HSBA Board.

TREASURER

Mark M. Murakami:



Hawaii Bar Admission: 1999. William S. Richardson School of Law: 1999. Military Service: USCG: 1992-2005; USCG Reserve: 2005-present (current rank: Captain). Employment: Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert: 2005-present (Director). Pro Bono: HSBA treasurer: 2014; HSBA director: 2012-2013; Good Beginnings Alliance: 2011-present (Vice President: 2012-present); Access to Justice volunteer: 2012-present; Legal Aid Society of Hawaii pro bono attorney: 2009-present. My primary focus will be to ensure the financial strength of the HSBA and accountability to the members.

William J. Wynhoff:



I have been a member of the bar since 1979. I worked in private practice from 1979 to 2001, concentrating in real estate and commercial litigation. Since 2001, I have been a Deputy Attorney General with the State of Hawai'i, working on environmental and constitutional litigation. I have been involved in various bar and community service activities throughout my career. I hope my experience and perspective will be valuable to address issues facing our members. I want to continue to make the Bar Association relevant and will particularly reach out to my colleagues in the government sector.

DIRECTOR: EAST HAWAII

Geraldine N. Hasegawa:



Having served as an HSBA Director since 2003, I am familiar with the board's responsibilities and the difficult issues it faces. As your director, I have coordinated various CLE and MCPE programs and have consistently pushed for more outreach to the neighbor islands. I am committed to representing the needs and concerns of my East Hawaii constituents and would be honored to continue to serve as your representative.

DIRECTOR: MAUI

Georgia K. McMillen:



I seek election to the Board of Directors to improve HSBA's service to the bar and the public. Thanks for your consideration. I have an appellate and mediation practice. Past and current service to the bench and bar includes: Per Diem Judge, District and Family Courts, Maui; Ninth Circuit Appellate Lawyer Representative; Criminal Justice Act Panel, U.S. District Court Hawai'i; Native Hawaiian Bar, Board of Directors. I'm a graduate of Kamehameha Schools, University of Hawai'i and New York Law School. I was admitted to the Hawai'i bar in 1995, and New York and New Jersey in 1988.

DIRECTOR: OAHU

R. Brian Black:



Since my admission in 2001, I have worked in the private, government, and non-profit sectors. Currently, I serve as Executive Director of the Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest. When I first returned to Hawai'i with my family, I worked for the City and County of Honolulu as a Deputy Corporation Counsel. Before that, I was a litigation partner in the New York office of Hogan Lovells. As a director, I would continue HSBA's efforts to advance the quality and civility of the Hawai'i bar and address the diverse needs of each sector. Mahalo for your consideration.

Cecelia C.Y. Chang:



Cecelia has been privileged to serve as a director for the past two years. Cecelia seeks greater access to MCPE courses for government/small firm practitioners and pro bono credits. She is a prosecutor with civil litigation experience (Goodsill; Corporation Counsel) and a graduate instructor (University Nevada-Reno). Hawaii State Bar Association (Director); Hawaii Supreme Court Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts (At Large); Native Hawaiian Bar Association (Director); Hawaii Women Lawyers (Past Director 2012-2014). 2010 Ola Pono Award; 2009 HSBA-GLS Pro Bono Service Award; 2004 USDOJ National State Coordination Award. J.D.1985, UH.

Steven J.T. Chow:



Partner, The Pacific Law Group. Graduated William S. Richardson School of Law 1981; Adjunct Prof. William S. Richardson School of Law 1998-2004. Member: HSBA (Secretary 1995, Director 2001-present) and ABA. I will work to improve HSBA benefits, increase community education and insure the HSBA is responsive to its membership.

Vladimir Devens:



I have been a member of the bar for the last 26 years. I am in private practice and also serve as chief counsel for SHOPO. This was my second term on the HSBA Board. My primary goal was to make the HSBA more responsive to your needs. I worked on the Judicial Administration committee and co-chaired the CLE committee. My efforts remain focused on how the bar can make things easier on your everyday practice. If re-elected, I will continue to do my best to improve on the things that matter most to you.

Rhonda L. Griswold:



Partner Cades Schutte. Chair Trusts & Estates Dept.; Serves on firm's Management Committee & Attorney Training Committee. 1984 Graduate William S. Richardson School of Law. Former President/Current Director, Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation; Current Director/Secretary of the Hawaii Justice Foundation. It has been a privilege to serve as an HSBA Director since 2010. The HSBA plays an important role in soliciting input from its members and addressing issues that affect our abilities to provide legal services to our clients and others in need. If elected, I will try to ensure that the HSBA is responsive to its members and the community.

Derek R. Kobayashi:



Derek R. Kobayashi is the litigation partner at Schlack Ito and is a 1990 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Derek is in his third term on the HSBA Board and believes that the HSBA must maintain a vital community presence to preserve and enhance the prominence of the legal profession. He is passionate about *pro bono* service and increasing access to justice and serves on the HSBA Delivery of Legal Services to the Public Committee and as a Commissioner on the Access to Justice Commission. Derek also teaches Pretrial Litigation at the law school.

Mark K. Murakami:



I am Mark K. Murakami and was admitted to HSBA in 1987. I am the other Mark Murakami. My friend and colleague, Mark M. Murakami is running for Treasurer. I served on the YLD in my early years. I have been actively involved in a complex real estate practice at Carlsmith Ball LLP for over 25 years. My community involvement includes many years of service on boards such as: BBB Foundation, BBB, Boys & Girls Club (Spalding), and the Committee on Overcoming Barriers to Justice. My experience can be put to good use on the HSBA Board. I humbly ask for your vote.

Alika L. Piper:



I am a founding partner of Klevansky Piper, LLP and a 1997 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I was honored to serve as Treasurer (2013) and Chair of the Finance Committee (2013) of the HSBA, and as Director (2009-2010 and 2012). I have also served as Treasurer and Director of the Bankruptcy Law Section. I am currently a member of the Finance Committee of the HSBA and have served on numerous other committees within the organization. I am hard working, fair and organized, and most importantly, dedicated to the members of our bar association.

David R. Squeri III:



I am a William S. Richardson/ UH Law School alumnus and practicing attorney at Badger Arakaki, LLLC. Having joined the Hawaii Bar mid-career after gaining international business experience in Japan, I also offer account management and project development skills to better support and improve HSBA Board endeavors. Currently, I serve the HSBA as the Business Law Section Chairperson CLE Committee Member. Previously, I have also served as the Litigation Section Chairperson and Business Law Section Vice-Chairperson. To continue supporting the HSBA and its members, I humbly ask for your vote. For more information please see: <http://squeri4hsba.wordpress.com>.