

This month's interview features Philip H. Lowenthal (Bar # 945) along with his two sons, Benjamin (Bar # 9945) and Jacob (Bar #8645), of the Law Office of Philip H. Lowenthal located in Maui. With bar number extensions to match and a strong woman at the helm of the firm's daily smooth operations, the Lowenthals' share with us the formula to their success.



Philip H. Lowenthal, a graduate of UC Berkeley shares with us his thoughts on a family-run law firm and what has worked for him to be a successful Civil and Criminal attorney and panel speaker on such topics.

You have several years under your belt for handling Civil and Criminal cases. Please tell us a little bit about what sparked your interest in this practice area?

I have a deep lifetime commitment to Rule of Law as the best way to resolve disputes.

Your law practice is located on Maui and both your sons Ben and Jacob work alongside you. Please share with us the perks of having a family-run law firm?

- Communal tie rack.
- Car pool
- My ideas are always challenged
- With wife/mom office manager, I am allowed to give input on important issues (if succinct)
- If I behave I may get my own bank PIN number.

Photo inset (L-R): Jacob, Philip, Caroline, and Benjamin.



If there was one piece of advice that has rung true for you in both your personal and professional life, what would you tell us it was?

- When in doubt, take the high road.
- Be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.
- Many things are more important than money.

You have served as an expert panel speaker and lecturer in the area of Public and Criminal Defense. What advice would you give to others who wish to be experts in their area of practice?

If given the opportunity, teach.



Benjamin Eleu Lowenthal, a graduate of H.P. Baldwin High School in Maui, San Francisco State University, and University of Kansas School of Law shares with us a little bit on work life balance and merging passions.

Is there an early memory that you can trace back to that piqued your interest in the profession of law?

Nah. My dad didn't talk to us about his cases all that much and I never saw him in court when I was a young boy. In fact, I think the first time I saw him in court was when I was second chairing him at trial. I went to law school so I could read and write with more precision. I always noticed that my dad was really good at pithy and particular prose.

We see that you maintain a blog covering Hawaii Legal News and that you have a bachelor's degree in Journalism. Tell us a little bit about merging your two passions, Journalism and the Law?

I like learning new things. Good reporting requires you to leave the newsroom, cultivate sources, interview people, do the research, and put it all together in a clear and coherent way. Being a trial lawyer calls for almost the same thing. You got to get out of the office, go to the scene, interview folks, and then put it all together in the courtroom in a way that everyone can quickly understand. That's the fun part.

Walk us through a typical day of yours. It must be a busy one considering you're a Trial and Appellate attorney, blogger, and you serve on several non-profit boards.

There isn't a typical day at work. Every day at the office usually has a surprise in store be it a buried gem of an appellate issue in a voluminous record, a new twist while investigating a case, a big ruling at court, or arguing with my brother about who forgot to turn off the coffee machine. I try to maintain the blog on weekends when I have time to read new cases and think about them before just throwing something on the Internet.



Jacob Kalei Lowenthal, a graduate of University of Hawaii, Manoa and University of Kansas School of Law talks with us about family, Kansas and his thoughts on law school success.

Are family conversations a bit more interesting now that you work alongside your father and older brother?

There was yelling before, and there is yelling now. But now we cite cases.

I noticed you and your brother Ben graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law. Any particular connection to the school or maybe the state?

Other than it being cheaper than attending UH Richardson School of Law, no. Oh, and we both love corn and basketball.

Photo inset (L-R): Ben, Philip, and Jacob.

As a recent law school graduate, what are some words of wisdom you would share with current law school attendees or those looking to pursue law school?

The legal market has become saturated, meaning that getting a job after law school is incredibly difficult, even for those in Law Review or the top 10 percent of the class. So think a lot about whether you want to actually be a lawyer, because you're incurring \$100,000 in debt. If you do go, better be 1st in your class or you may end up working for your family (which isn't so bad as long as your Mom is office manager).

