

MEMORANDUM

TO: Newly Admitted Attorneys

FROM: Lyn Flanigan
Interim Executive Director

RE: Hawaii Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 6.1: PRO BONO SERVICE

Congratulations are offered once again on your successful passage of the Hawaii Bar Examination, and a sincere welcome is extended to you as a newly admitted member of the Hawaii Bar.

I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of the provisions of Rule 6.1 of the Hawaii Rules of Professional Conduct, which set forth the individual ethical commitment of each active member of the Hawaii Bar. Specifically Rule 6.1 states that “a lawyer should aspire to provide at least fifty hours of pro bono services per year.” This Rule further defines this pro bono service as including: (1) at least 25 hours of direct legal services without fee or expectation of a fee to the poor or to organizations that serve the poor; and (2) 25 hours of direct legal services at no fee or substantially reduced fee to the poor, or needy charitable, religious community, or educational organizations, including those that protect civil rights, civil liberties or public rights, or participate in activities for improving the law or the legal profession. Service to the HSBA, its committees and sections, and participation in HSBA public service projects qualify under the improving the law or the legal profession provision.

In addition Rule 6.1 (c) states: “In lieu of providing 50 hours of pro bono services, a lawyer may exercise his or her desire to provide pro bono services by contributing at least \$500 each year to the Hawaii Justice Foundation, or an entity that provides legal services at no fee, or at a significantly reduced fee, to persons of limited means.”

If you are already employed, it is suggested you contact the pro bono coordinator of your firm or agency, or your immediate supervisor to inquire as to the group’s pro bono policy.

If you are not yet employed, it is suggested that if your schedule permits, you consider providing pro bono legal services. Providing pro bono legal services will allow you to gain supervised “real” legal experience; expand your networking sources in the local legal community; and satisfy the aspirational pro bono service recommendation.

The Access to Justice Rooms located at the Honolulu District Court and the Kapolei Family Court, and Self Help Centers located in the Hilo, Kona, Lihue, and Wailuku court houses are good places to start your pro bono work and begin working with self represented clients.

In addition, the organizations listed below provide pro bono legal services to the poor and will accept volunteers for the provision of legal services, and financial contributions.

American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu HI 96801
Ph: (808) 522-5900

Native Hawaiian Legal Corp
1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1205
Honolulu HI 96813
Ph: (808) 521-2302

Domestic Violence Action Center
P.O. Box 3198
Honolulu HI 96801
Ph: (808) 534-0040

The Hawaii Innocence Project
2585 Dole St., Ste. 206
Honolulu HI 96822
Ph: (808) 956-6547

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law &
Economic Justice (LEJ)
733 Bishop St., Ste. 1180
Honolulu HI 96813
Ph: (808) 587-7605

The Mediation Center of the Pacific Inc
1301 Young St., Fl 2
Honolulu HI 96814
Ph: (808) 521-6797

Hawaii Disability Rights Center
1132 Bishop St., Ste. 2102
Honolulu HI 96813
Ph: (808) 949-2922

UH Elder Law Program
2515 Dole St., Ste. 201
Honolulu HI 96822
Ph: (808) 956-6544

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
924 Bethel St.
Honolulu HI 96813
Ph: (808) 536-4302

Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii
545 Queen St., Ste. 100
Honolulu HI 96813
Ph: (808) 528-7046

Participation in the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) weekly Wednesday Legal Lines Project from 6:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. (telephone information and referrals) is another way to satisfy pro bono aspirational guidelines.

Thank you in advance for your services to the community and the legal profession.

Once again, welcome to Hawaii's legal community!

CC: Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald
Associate Justice Sabrina S. McKenna
Judge Joseph Cardoza (ret), Chair, Access to Justice Commission
Micah Smith, Jenny Silbiger, Co-Chairs, Delivery of Legal Services to the Public (DLSP)