

This month's family connection features the King family. **Samuel P. King, Jr.** (Bar No. 1396), his wife **Adrienne King** (Bar No. 1217), their son **Samuel W. King II** (Bar No. 10083), and also the late Judge **Samuel P. King** (Bar No. 276). This family spans from the original 3 digit attorneys to the latest admittees with 5 digit bar numbers!



We first turn our attention to the legacy of the late Honorable **SAMUEL P. KING** (Bar No. 276), who passed away in 2010. Judge King served on the federal bench for almost 40 years and made an indelible impact on the community and all he served. Judge King's legacy is profound and our brief summary cannot do him justice.

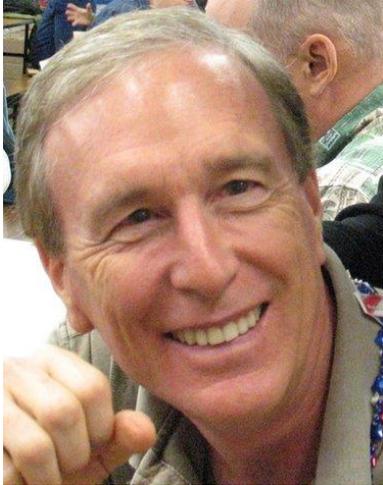
Judge King was born to Pauline Nawahineokala'i Evans King and Samuel Wilder King who served as a territorial delegate to Congress, governor of the territory of Hawaii and a Bishop Estate trustee before he died in 1959. Judge King was educated at Punahou School and receiving both his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University. He was admitted to the Hawaii Bar in 1940, while Hawaii was still a territory.

King was appointed as a state circuit judge by Governor Quinn in 1962 and became known as "the Father of the Family Court" for helping develop the state's modern family judicial system. In 1972, President Richard Nixon appointed King to the U.S. District Court; in 1982, he became a senior U.S. district judge, and continued handling cases on a part-time basis until he passed away in 2010.

Judge King was respected as a fair judge willing to make difficult decisions. He handled numerous challenging and important cases in his lifetime, too many to be listed here. He also published a book with Professor Randall Roth of the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2006 titled "Broken Trust: Greed, Mismanagement, & Political Manipulation at America's Largest Charitable Trust," which received the Samuel M. Kamakau award for Hawai'i Book of the Year in 2007. The book expanded on his earlier essay that had been published in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in 1997, causing the trust to be scrutinized and dramatically changed.

Beyond the scope of his impact on the legal landscape of Hawaii as it transitioned from a territory to a State, King was known as a compassionate and fair man who loved Hawaii and his family.





**SAMUEL P. KING, JR.** (Bar No. 1396) is a partner at King & King located in downtown Honolulu. The firm's main practice areas include Family Law, Criminal Defense and PI cases. King & King also carries on a rich family legacy of legal expertise in Hawaii. Sam Wilder King, Sam's grandfather was a territorial governor in the State of Hawaii from 1952-58, while Sam's father held the position as Hawaii's Federal District Court Judge until his passing in 2010. Sam, Jr. discusses his family's legacy [here](#).

**What was it like being a lawyer in Hawaii with your father on the Federal Bench?**

I always had a lot of good will because I was Judge King's son, and I did my best to be worthy of it.

**Advice to young attorneys**

Every client deserves courtesy and respect. Always be mindful of those who have no voice. The law is a very liberating profession. You can train yourself to do anything you want, not just practice law.



**ADRIENNE KING** (Bar No. 1217) is a partner at King & King, a law firm located in downtown Honolulu where she practices law with her husband Samuel P. King, Jr. Adrienne's personal focus is on family law at this time, but has a wealth of experience as a civil and criminal litigator. She shares with us about her career and family.

**Can you tell us about influential people or events that have shaped your legal career? Did your career path turn out the way you envisioned it would when you came to Hawaii to begin your career?**

Senior year of college, I had no idea what to do with my biology major/chemistry minor degree. My mother suggested I go to law school. That sounded better than looking for some job doing who knows what. I was one of only two women 1st year students. When I walked into my first law school class, with around 90 men sitting there, and I knew I made the right decision. I had an inspirational property professor who taught law as a practical method to resolve issues resulting from human foibles. Second year, I was the lone woman with 4 other young men who secured an internship at the Wayne County Detroit Prosecutor's Office, which experience had a

tremendous influence on my career. It was so real and a bit raw. I learned a lot, basically having been a sheltered Catholic school girl. (I recall one of the older male deputies did not want to show me crime scene photos of bloodless torsos found in a huge drain. I insisted. They looked like mannequins.) I never felt any prejudice from the men I met. They were wonderful. Close to graduation, I wanted to get as far away from Detroit as possible, still stay in the United States and have running water. How I got here is another story, but when I did, again, I felt so accepted by the local people. With my tan, many thought I was part Hawaiian!

After I passed the bar the summer of '72, I started looking for employment because, by then, I really wanted to work. My husband-to-be was interning in the Honolulu Prosecutor's office and since I had interned in the Detroit office, I thought I may as well apply, even though I was not sure that was the type of work I wanted to do. The Prosecutor was Barry Chung. He asked me if my former boss in the Appellate Division of the Wayne County office, Dominic Carnovale, was still losing on the horses! Here I was 4400 miles from Detroit and he knew my old boss! Turns out they went to prosecutor conventions in Reno and they both loved to gamble. Needless to say, I was offered a position, the 2nd woman Barry hired. It turned out to be a perfect fit for me. The men in the office treated me as an equal, never doubted my ability and nurtured my confidence. I was gradually given tougher cases and more responsibility. My work there, and then at the City attorney's office, grounded my career as a trial lawyer.

**You have been a litigator your entire career conducting trials in both civil and criminal matters, now you have chosen to focus more on family law related matters, what made you decide to pursue this area of law?**

It was an easy evolution. I started out in 1972 prosecuting all types of cases, from traffic to murder, and was actually the first woman to try a murder case in Hawaii. I got a verdict as charged. In 1975, I moved to the City Attorney's office, following Barry Chung, whom Mayor Fasi appointed as Corporation Counsel. I was assigned to handle police misconduct cases, working with some of the same men I knew from my days at the Prosecutor's. I also defended the City itself, its departments and employees in various types of lawsuits. When I went into private practice in 1985, it was natural to then defend individuals who were charged with various crimes, murder, rape, assault, theft. Fortunately, I was very successful in all these cases, meaning, I was known for having achieved verdicts or settlements that were totally or more partially in my client's favor. Having dealt with all kinds of people in these types of cases, I found it a more comfortable transition to handling family law cases, most of which had a challenging courtroom component, than drafting contracts or researching esoteric points of law in an office all day long. In court or out of court, I do spend a lot of time counseling people to effectively navigate through what is usually a most difficult period of their life. I have found it very fulfilling work.

**Your entire family is made up of attorneys, you, your husband, one of your sons, your sister-in-law, your brother-in-law, etc. etc.! It must make for interesting conversations, especially with your husband of 40 years. You two have been in practice together since 1985. How does that work?**

We have enough friends and family who are not lawyers so we don't get bored or boring. Sam and I have collaborated on many cases, but it would be a mistake for people to assume either of us knows what the other is doing!



***SAMUEL W. KING II** (Bar No. 10083) is an associate at Case Lombardi in their Real Estate Group. Sam recently joined the firm in 2014 after graduating from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Sam clerked for the Honorable Justice Richard W. Pollack of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i prior to joining the firm and obtained his B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service in 2006, with a major in Middle East Regional Studies. Sam discusses with us...*

**What factors influenced you to attend law school and become an attorney?**

I have always enjoyed a good debate with intelligent people. The legal profession rewards such interest as it often involves extensive deliberations over nuanced details, so the entire profession fit my personality. The event that really pushed me into law was my time working in Iraq as a subcontractor for USAID. I was working on a project to strengthen local government in Iraq with a particular focus on property boundaries. It was during this time that I really began to appreciate the value of property rights and of a functioning legal system generally. My family always taught me to be of service to my community and the law is an area where I can serve society and still make a good living. So when I got back home from Iraq I applied to the University of Hawaii's Williams S. Richardson School of Law. My grandpa in particular was excited for me to go to UH because he thought the faculty and staff had made it into an excellent Law School.

**Your parents are both litigators and your grandfather was a well-respected federal court judge. What made you decide to pursue a more transactional area of law like Real Estate?**

My experience in Iraq and my studies as a whole showed me that property rights are important. I wanted to learn how to protect them and to exercise



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them and Hawaii is an excellent location for this because of the out-sized role property law plays in our state compared to most others. Being involved in property law in Hawaii often means having the opportunity to work on some of the most interesting issues of the day. And property law in Hawaii offers more than enough opportunities to litigate, the telescopes on Mauna Kea being only the latest example, so property law is not all transactional work.

**What were family dinners like growing up?**

They were always a lot of fun because my family would always be discussing some political or news event of the day. I have no doubt that it is because my family always encouraged me to share my opinion and challenged my ideas that the law is such a natural fit for me as a profession.