

*This month's family connection features the legacy of the Kashiwas. Although there were four Kashiwas who were members of the HSBA, only Peter (Bar No. 2494) is currently practicing. His father, Genro (Bar No. 264) retired from practicing in 1995. His sister, Janie (Bar No. 5319) no longer practices and has moved on to other pursuits. Genro's older brother, Shiro Kashiwa (Bar No. 263), passed away in 1998.*

*In this issue, we speak with **Genro Kashiwa** (Bar No. 264) and his son **Peter Kashiwa** (Bar No. 2494).*



**GENRO KASHIWA** (Bar No. 264) retired from the practice of law in 1995 after practicing with his brother and son. Genro shares with us about the values his parents instilled in him and his seven siblings while growing up in Hawaii during WWII; and also shares about the legacy of his legal work.

**What influence did your mother have on your education and decision to enlist during WWII?**

I think my mother played a pivotal role in my life, as well as the lives of my seven siblings.

My mother was the most influential in guiding us to choose the right paths for our lives -- I owe so much to my mother. She instilled in all of us the idea of being family strong – to support family members in any way that you could. She was a picture bride from Fukui, Japan, who came to this “foreign” land of Hawaii. My father was a Buddhist minister and also a first generation Japanese immigrant who put down roots in Hawaii – first in Kohala, then in Hana, and finally settling in the heart of the Waiialua sugar cane plantation community. My parents were not rich, but dreamed of higher education for all eight of their children.

The eight children's lives were as my mother had envisioned – siblings helping siblings to strive and achieve in their education and careers.

The two eldest sisters, Edith and Irene, helped support Shiro's education. They worked as teachers, and helped provide tuition fees. It was with their help that Shiro was able to attend law school at the University of Michigan. When his career took off, Shiro in turn helped his younger



Ryuten and Yukiko Kashiwa and their eight children, 1935. 1<sup>st</sup> Row: Yukiko (Mother); 2<sup>nd</sup> Row, left to right, Koro, Shiro, Lester Judy; 3<sup>rd</sup> Row, left to right: Genro, Atsuko, Ryuten (Father), Edith, Irene.

siblings Lester, Atsuko, Judy, Koro, and me. He pulled us up by our bootstraps -- providing guidance and financial support for us to go to college and graduate school. He most certainly had a strong influence on our educational paths as three of us (Lester, Judy, and myself) ended up attending his alma mater, the University of Michigan. Lester became a doctor, Koro became a Professor of Anatomy at University of Washington, and all four sisters became teachers.

As for my enlisting in the Army -- Once again, that story begins with my mother. Although she was a picture bride from Japan who landed in the sugar cane plantation community of Waialua, she quickly adapted to life there and became a community leader. As wife of the town's Buddhist Minister, she served as a community organizer and leader for the church. She valued community service, service to others, and teamwork, and tried to instill that value in all of her children.

When the war started in 1941, I was content to do carpentry work in Kipapa Gulch as my contribution to the war efforts. My father had already been sent to an Internment Camp in New Mexico, but my Mother remained at home in Waialua. In 1943, when she found out about the formation of a group of Nisei (children of Japanese immigrants, who were born and educated in America) combat volunteers, and realized I was still working in Kipapa Gulch, she sought me out and reminded me of my responsibilities. She said, "This is your country, and you should volunteer." This was no suggestion mind you. She was very proactive and actually arranged for my transportation to the Haleiwa Fire Station, where all the boys had gathered to enlist. And so began my active duty tour with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, alongside many other Japanese Nisei combat volunteers.



Shiro Kashiwa, first Federal Judge of Japanese-American descent. Appointed U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, 1972-1986.

### **How did your brother Shiro impact your legal career?**

As soon as I graduated from law school, Shiro once again played a vital role, and asked me to join his law practice. Shiro started his solo practice in the mid 1930's. By the time I joined him in 1950, his practice was well established. Of significance during his private practice was his handling and winning of war reparations cases. During the war, Japanese Buddhist temples had been commandeered by the government and damaged or burned down. Shiro sought and won the return of temple properties and damages for the Buddhist community. Bank assets of the Yokohama Specie Bank had been seized by the government during the war, and many life savings were lost. Shiro successfully fought to get those monies returned.

In the 1950's Shiro really expanded his Japanese client base. Because of his ability to speak Japanese, and familiarity with Japanese culture, he was able to attract many Japan clients. In

our hometown of Waialua, Shiro grew up with the 10 Kameda children who lived in the same sugar cane plantation mill camp. One of the children, Mitsuo Kameda, moved to Japan before the war to play baseball. Mitsuo established many Japanese connections, and many years later in the mid 1950's, referred Japan Airlines, which was interested in beginning flight service to Hawaii, to Shiro. A few years later, on a plane ride home from a business trip to Japan, he met another major client, Kenji Osano, founder of Kokusai Kogyo Company, Ltd., who wanted his company to make investments in hotels in Waikiki. As a result of these ties, Shiro's and my initial law practice focused on Hawaii's growing tourism industry that was really booming in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Shiro's career path moved him into public service in 1959 when he became the State's first Attorney General during statehood. After four years in that position, he returned to our law firm for about seven years, but ultimately got back into public service, this time at the federal level, in 1969, Shiro left Hawaii for Washington, D.C. to become Assistant U.S. Attorney General for the Justice Department, Land and Natural Resources Division where he was instrumental in the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency. He went on to become, U.S. Court of Claims Judge where he specialized in patent law cases, and finally U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Judge. When he left Hawaii, he essentially entrusted all of the clients to me. It was from this early beginning with the Japan client connection that my law practice, and eventually that of my son Peter, was able to flourish.

**How did your experience during your military service with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT influence your career/ education goals?**



Genro Kashiwa (20 yrs old) at Camp Shelby for basic training, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, May 1943

I was 20 years old when I enlisted in the war. I think the war made me grow up fast and learn a few things. When you are that age and thrust into a role of heavy responsibility of being a sergeant, where lives are at stake, you have to hone new skills quickly. In combat situations, you must first be a very perceptive observer of every aspect of a situation, plan a studied approach, and then execute with focus and steady nerves. More importantly, you have to have the trust of your team (your platoon) to successfully execute a plan. It takes teamwork, and you have to know how to be good in that environment.

In this sense, I think my war experience helped me as I applied many of those skills to my law practice.

If I did not serve during the war, I probably would not have been able to afford law school. The GI Bill of Rights funded five years of my education (two years of undergrad, and three years of law school at the University of Michigan).

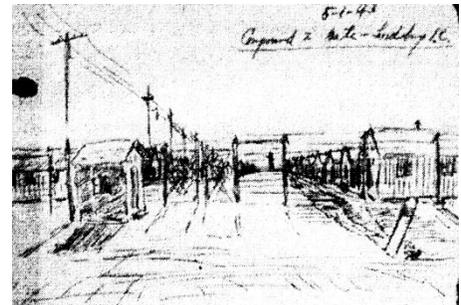


Brothers Lester (left) and Genro in military uniforms, at Univ of Michigan campus, following their visit to Lordsburg Internment Camp in New Mexico to visit their father, Ryuten Kashiwa, Aug 1943

**Your father was sent to an internment camp in New Mexico shortly after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. He remained interned until 1945 when you completed your service for the U.S. military. What impact did that have on you?**

One of my most vivid war memories was seeing my Father from behind the fence of an internment camp, shortly after I enlisted. As a Buddhist minister of Japanese descent in Hawaii, my father, Reverend Ryuten Kashiwa, was one of the first to be picked up by the U.S. military police in 1941 and sent to Lordsburg Camp, an enemy alien internment camp in New Mexico. In August of 1943, I had just completed basic training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi.

My older brother Lester was in Michigan where he was in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medical school with the Army Special Training Program (ASTP). Lester and I decided to meet in New Mexico and visit our father. When we arrived at the camp, we were not allowed to go inside the camp, but just allowed to stand outside. I have vivid memories of the two of us, dressed in full military uniform, speaking to my father through the fence. I'll never forget the feeling. The gravity of my family's circumstances during the war hit me even harder when I found out my mother had passed away the following year (1944) back home in Waiialua, having never seen my father again due to his internment.



Sketch of Lordsburg Internment Camp front gate, in New Mexico 1943. Drawn by George Hoshida, fellow internee.



Sketch of Ryuten Kashiwa at Lordsburg Internment Camp in New Mexico, 1943. Drawn by George Hoshida, fellow internee.

It was the irony of these circumstances that really got me thinking long and hard about my role in the war. No matter what difficulties my father and mother experienced as a result of the war, the bottom line was that they believed their sons should fight for this country. America had provided the Niseis with many blessings and opportunities. We were American citizens and wanted to stand up for and defend American values. I realized I needed to do my best and give my all to the war effort. I fought alongside so many other Nisei boys who thought the same way.

**What do you think is the most important thing you learned from your service that you have passed on to your children?**

I think these values of loyalty and personal integrity that I gained from my war experience helped me tremendously in my law practice. And they are values I hope I have passed on to my children, Peter and Janie. No matter how challenging the circumstances, always persevere, always put whole-hearted effort, come to the aid of others, defend their causes, protect their rights, and help them accomplish their goals.

**You and Peter moved to Goodsill, Anderson, Quinn and Stifel together in 1985. What factors influenced you to join a big firm after 30+ years of practicing on your own?**

In the 1980's our clients' business interests were expanding, requiring more varied legal services than a boutique law firm like ours could provide. I was approaching retirement age, but wanted the practice of the other attorneys in our firm to be on solid ground before I retired. I wanted to be able to sustain our existing client base and meet the increased demands of their growing businesses. Marshall Goodsill offered us the opportunity to do just that, as he invited our entire firm, not just me, to join the Goodsill firm. We readily accepted Goodsill's offer.

During that period, the landscape of Hawaii's industries and business community was changing. I think the Big Five sugar companies that were a large part of Goodsill's practice, were winding down. I think Marshall Goodsill saw an opportunity with us, to have the Goodsill firm participate in the growing tourism industry that our clients were involved in.



***PETER KASHIWA*** (Bar No. 2494) shares with us about how his father and late uncle's legal careers inspired him to help others with "important stuff" and provides some valuable lessons he has learned from his family. Peter has been the Managing Partner of Goodsill, Anderson, Quinn and Stifel since January 1, 2012 and is responsible for the firm's overall practice management and day-to-day operations. He practices in real estate transactions, business and commercial transactions, corporate documentation and immigration issues. Peter served as President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association from 1993 to 1994. Since 1995 Peter has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He also serves as an officer and director in various businesses and community organizations.



**How did your family influence your decision to pursue a career in law?**

My family in general and my father in particular played a huge role in influencing my path towards a career as an attorney.

As a child, I listened to conversations at family dinners that my father and my Uncle Shiro Kashiwa would have concerning legal issues that may have arisen in my father's cases or that my Uncle Shiro was

addressing as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. While I had little idea of what was being discussed, I formed an impression that their conversations were about "important stuff."

As an early teenager, I waited at my father's law office after school to do my homework and to return home with him at the end of his day. I watched and listened to the interactions between the attorneys, secretaries and clients. Without being able to understand the meaning of those interactions, I formed an impression that those interactions were again about "important stuff."

As a late teenager, I worked at my father's law office after school. I delivered documents to offices of governmental agencies, other law firms and clients. I also chauffeured Japan clients between the airport, Waikiki hotels and my father's law office. Although my father reminded me not to look at any documents in his law office as they were all confidential, I looked at a transactional-type of document and was unable to verbalize the dollar amount appearing in it. I wondered whether I could become an attorney, like my father, who could help clients with "important stuff" of this magnitude.

**You have been fortunate to work with your father your entire legal career. What are some of the most valuable lessons you have learned from him? How was it when he retired from Goodwill in 1995?**

What I have learned from my father over the years has been to demonstrate (1) dedication, loyalty and a genuine concern for your clients and their affairs, (2) commitment and integrity to your partners and employees and their welfare and families, and (3) thorough preparation by carefully reviewing the facts and law and meaningfully weighing the relationships between parties and practicalities of business before making decisions and providing advice to clients or colleagues.

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I believe that my father had been planning the transition of his practice and clients to me and my partner for many years before he retired from Goodsell in 1995. The transition was, in my view, so smooth that it went virtually unnoticed by his clients and colleagues.

**What words of wisdom and/or guidance would you have for the new generation of attorneys entering the legal field?**

I think that the new attorneys to the legal industry should (1) understand, respect and learn the best way to work with the differences between each of the “generations” [Traditionalists (born before 1946), Baby Boomers (1946-1964), Generation X (1965-1980) and Millennials (1981-2000)] of the partners, associates and counsel in a law firm, as well as the executives, managers and supervisors in the client company, to achieve common goals, (2) expect over the next few years to experience changes in law firms and in client companies on account of the demographics throughout our communities, and (3) appreciate the need to invest his or her time, as an attorney (without any expectation of receiving immediate returns), with his or her counterparts at client companies in order to better understand the clients’ businesses and issues and to provide more responsive legal services.