

Biographies of the candidates in the election for the 2020 HSBA Board follow. Ballots will be distributed in early September, and election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting at the Bar Convention on October 11, 2019.

VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



Levi Hookano

I am humbled and honored to be nominated as a candidate for HSBA Vice-President and ask for your support. I believe in the servant-leadership model, and pledge to support our members and foster the highest standards of the practice of law. The more we develop our attorneys to succeed the stronger we will be as an organization, profession, and as members of the community.

I began my service with the HSBA while still a law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law by volunteering at Bar events. I continued serving the Bar as a director for the Young Lawyers Division from 2007 until 2011 when I served as YLD President. I also had the honor of serving on the boards of various other law related organizations such as the Government Lawyers Section, briefly serving as its chair in 2012, Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii, the Access to Justice Commission Law School Committee, and the Hawaii County Bar Association. I have also served as the Director of Programs for the HSBA from 2012 - 2018, planning CLE programs, the Bar Convention, the Law Day Golf Tournament, and coordinating staff for the Annual Dinner.

After joining the Bar in 2006 I served as the Legal Specialist for the Office of the County Clerk in Hilo where I advised the Clerk and members of the County Council. I also had the opportunity to serve as the attorney for the decennial county Charter Commission. Following my time in Hilo I moved back to Honolulu to assist the William S. Richardson School of Law with their professional development program before moving on to serve as the Director of Programs for the HSBA. Currently I am working as a civilian attorney with the Army at Schofield Barracks.

In the spirit of service, in 2009 I decided to serve our State and Country by joining the Hawaii Army National Guard as a judge advocate. Since that time, I have worked alongside many of Hawaii's finest women and men, trained with our partners in Singapore, advised our Servicemembers stationed in Kwajalein, and assisted Soldiers in exercising their rights before the government.

As a graduate of the first HSBA Leadership Institute Class, I feel it is my obligation to continue to serve the legal community and give back as many opportunities as it has given me. I pledge to work diligently with the neighbor island bar associations, our legal service organizations, the judiciary, the community, and all of you to ensure the HSBA is an organization that we can all be proud of. I humbly ask for your vote.



Shannon Sheldon

Thank you for your time to consider me for Vice President of HSBA.

I am a partner of the firm McKeon Sheldon Mehling LLLC with offices in Maui and Honolulu. I have practiced civil law on Maui for thirteen years, initially as an associate with Paul Johnson Park & Niles, before launching my firm. I was admitted to the Hawaii State Bar in 2003 while an associate at Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing. I commenced my law career practicing intellectual property in California in 2001. I am also licensed in North Carolina and as a patent attorney before the U.S. Patent Office.

I am an active member of HSBA. In 2017 and 2018, I served on the Board of Directors for HSBA as the Director for Maui. From 2008 to 2011, I was a director of the Maui County Bar Association and was President in 2010. In 2011, I participated in the Hawaii State Bar Association Leadership Institute. I currently serve on an HSBA Board committee tasked with investigating and perhaps changing the HSBA Board's process for judge renewals. I am also a Court Appointed Special Advocate in the Second Circuit where I volunteer my time to be the voice of children with unfortunate family situations.

Over the years, I have helped coordinate the Courts in the Community programs on Maui, participated in Law Week, and taught high school students the Ready for the World program on Molokai and Maui.

Outside of work, I teach Business Law and International Business Law at University of Hawaii Maui campus and serve on the Board of Directors for the Applied Business & Information and Technology program at University of Hawaii to mentor students. I have brought to UH Maui World Intellectual Property Day in conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Organization to teach college students intellectual property law principles.

I have also served as Chair and director of Maui Humane Society and Chair of Community Council of Maui. In my spare time, I spend time with my two daughters and husband, Ben Lowenthal.

I am interested in again serving on the HSBA Board to assist with the many tasks important to our community -- improving the access to justice programs, vetting new judges, refining a system for judge renewals, providing useful CLEs for attorneys, helping with the Judiciary's budget concerns, and providing HSBA services and information to attorneys on all islands.

I believe I have the skills and experience to help lead HSBA. My law practice focuses on assisting for profit and non-profit corporations with governance and operations, including attending meetings and advising on parliamentary procedure, which is a skill useful as Vice President of HSBA. I enjoy public speaking and working with a variety of people with different viewpoints.

Although I reside on Maui, our firm has clients on all islands, and I am frequently on Oahu. I was privileged to work with such talented, friendly directors and staff when I served on the HSBA Board, and I hope to have that opportunity again.

TREASURER CANDIDATE



Paul Naso

My experience and communication skills suit me well for this position and will benefit the board and the membership. For 20+ years, I have worked as counsel in both transactional and litigation worlds. I previously worked with start-up companies in the textile industry. From 2008 to present, I have served as General

Counsel for HEMIC. I have been an active member of HSBA's committees, and for the past three years, worked with my fellow corporate and general counsel to reconstitute the Corporate Counsel Section of the bar. I love what I do and enjoy the challenge of solving problems together.

SECRETARY CANDIDATE



Russ Awakuni

I manage the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Leeward Oahu and Windward Oahu offices and I received my law degree from Loyola Law School. I am currently the Secretary to the HSBA Board of Directors. My time as an officer and a past director of the Board fuels my desire to give back to the profession and to bring a non-profit

attorney's perspective to policy choices, judicial nominee vetting, and operational decisions. I hope to continue to serve as Secretary of the Board.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: KAUAI



Craig De Costa

I was born and raised on Kauai. I was admitted to the bar in 1996. My interest in serving as Kauai's director comes from having served in the position for two years starting 2009 after being appointed to fill a vacancy. I am a member of a small firm on Kauai, a former member of a solo firm, and a former government attorney. A vast majority of Kauai attorneys are currently practicing in one of these situations. Therefore, based on those experiences, I can best represent Kauai members' interests on the HSBA Board.



Justin Kollar

Admitted to the Hawai'i Bar in 2007. Former law clerk for ICA Judge Dan Foley. I have served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (2008-2009), Deputy County Attorney (2009-2012), and since 2012 as Kauai's Prosecuting Attorney. Kauai Bar Association President, 2011. Member of the Access to Justice Commission SRU

Subcommittee, the HSBA Committee on Lawyer Well-Being, 2016 Penal Code Review Committee, and Hawai'i Board of Examiners. Fellow, 2010 HSBA Leadership Institute and 2018 Pacific Century Fellows. President, Kauai Rural Health Association. I gratefully work to advance our profession and would be humbled to represent Kauai's legal community on the HSBA Board.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: KAUAI (continued)



Mauna Kea Trask

I graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2004, and was admitted to the bar in November of 2005. Over the course of my career I have served as the Kauai Bar Association President and participated in community outreach services through the Young Lawyers Division and volunteering at the Kauai Self-Help Center. If elected as the Kauai Director I will focus on improving relations between the legal profession, the public and the various branches and instrumentalities of government. Lawyers are critical in protecting our democratic institutions and we must work to ensure their continued existence and integrity.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: OAHU



Rebecca Copeland

I am a solo appellate practitioner. During my three terms as an Oahu Director, I had the pleasure to assist in the coordination of local attorneys as part of the Hawaii Supreme Court's Courts in the Community Program. I am also the Co-Chair of the Hawaii Judiciary's Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts, a Board

Member on the Hawaii Justice Foundation, and a Member of the Hawaii Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism. In 2011, I founded the HSBA's Appellate Section, and served as the Section's Chair for two years. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the HSBA's diverse membership.



Jessica Domingo

I am currently serving my second term as president of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association and am a 2016 HSBA Leadership Institute (LI) Fellow. I have been a Deputy Public Defender for the past five years representing indigent clients. Through my experiences I have gained valuable skills in communication and advocacy that have strengthened my commitment to serving the community. I hope to serve as a representative on the HSBA Board so that I may continue to be involved in the discussion and efforts of how we, as attorneys, can do our part to make sure justice is accessible to everyone in our community.



Kristin Izumi-Nitao

I am the Executive Director of the Campaign Spending Commission. Previously, I worked at the Attorney General's Office in the Administration Division advising the Employees' Retirement System, and the Criminal Justice Division as the administrator for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. I was also a deputy prosecutor and a law clerk for the Supreme Court Chief Justice and a circuit court judge. I am a graduate of Punahou School, Wellesley College, and Santa Clara University School of Law. I am active in the community and would like the opportunity to serve another term on the HSBA Board.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: OAHU (continued)



Jeen Kwak

A 1996 graduate of the WSRSL, I have been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu for over 22 years. Having served as an Adjunct Professor for the Prosecution Clinic, participated in mock trials for HPD Citizens Police Academy, Court Interpreter Workshop and UH Law clinics, and as a member to the State Highway Safety Council, Supreme Court Committee on Court Interpreter and Language Access, and Special Committee on Judicial Performance, my experience with issues and needs of the attorneys, the judiciary and the public would make me a valuable addition to the Board.



Mark K. Murakami

I am Mark K. Murakami and was admitted to HSBA in 1987. I have been actively involved in a complex real estate practice at Carlsmith Ball LLP for over 30 years. I was elected to the Board in 2015 and am serving in my second term. I have actively participated in many committees of the HSBA, and am currently working on some exciting projects with my other Board members. I would like to see these efforts through, by seeking election to a third term as an Oahu Director of the HSBA. Please vote for me.



Ralph O'Neill

Improving the efficiency of the legal system and maintaining the high standards of our profession are important aspects of how we serve the community. Clients are looking for fair and cost-effective results. Preservation of not just the right but the practical availability of jury trials is very important to me. I have been involved in civil and maritime litigation in state and federal courts for over thirty years, and have been a partner in two litigation firms. I have been licensed in Hawai'i since 1988 and in California since 1998.



George White

I currently serve as a Staff Attorney with the Office of Council Services in the City and County of Honolulu, and have been a HSBA member since 2009, following graduation from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Having previously served as the Kauai Director for the Young Lawyers Division Board, I truly appreciate the critical value and importance of the various programs, services, and outreach the HSBA undertakes to benefit its legal community and our community at large. I look forward to the opportunity to continue supporting these efforts and actively engage our fellow members, in whatever way possible.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATE: WEST HAWAII



Carol Kitaoka

I am the HSBA Director for West Hawaii (2006-present); West Hawaii Bar Association Member (1995-present; President 2003-2005); HSBA Civic Education Committee member (2011-present); Hawaii State Bar Foundation Director (2017-present). Before the new Keahuolu Courthouse opens later this year, I plan to get input from WHBA members to ensure that the Self-Help Center and attorney rooms at the Courthouse have the equipment and resources needed for the attorneys. I will continue to bring CLE classes and ethics trainings to West Hawaii attorneys and to promote civic education through essay contests, poster contests, and courtroom visitations. Thank you for your continued support.

HSBA/ABA DELEGATE



Trejur Bordenave

I have served as the HSBA YLD vice-president in 2016, and president in 2017. After my term concluded with the HSBA YLD Board, I served as the HSBA YLD delegate to the ABA House of Delegates ever since. I humbly ask for your support in order to continue my service in the ABA HOD. I believe there is much more work to be done, and my desire to serve and the time I spent serving in these last two years gives me the experience I need to keep the momentum moving in the right direction. Thank you for your time and support!



Leslie Hayashi

I have been involved with the ABA since the 1980s, starting with the ABA-YLD, then Judicial Division and now its Standing Committee on Public Education and Law Library of Congress Advisory Commission. I have personal relationships with ABA leadership, including officers, members of the Board of Governors and leaders of sections and divisions. Having served as a judge, hearing officer, executive director of a non-profit organization, in-house counsel, and partner in a large law firm, I understand and will work hard to meet the needs of all Hawai'i practitioners.