

Biographies of the candidates in the election for the 2023 HSBA Board follow. Ballots will be distributed in early-mid September, and election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting at the virtual Bar Convention on October 14, 2022.

VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



Mark M. Murakami

I am running for Vice President because I would like to help our association navigate a return to normalcy following the pandemic and bridge the generational transition of our membership. I will also advocate for needed investment into our courtrooms, especially Kaahumanu Hale. I promise to be a good steward of HSBA's finances.

I was born on Maui and raised in Kailua where I graduated from Kailua High School. I am a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and have served the U.S. Coast Guard for thirteen years on active duty and recently retired after thirteen years in the Reserve. I was admitted to the Bar in 1999 after earning my degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law. After graduation, I served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Coast Guard where I handled criminal and civil litigation, as well as various maritime and international law issues. I have worked in private practice at Damon Key since 2005 and became a "partner" in 2008. My practice is primarily civil litigation, with an emphasis on real estate, land use, eminent domain, and probate/trust disputes.

From 2012 to 2016, I served on the HSBA Board as an Oahu Director, then as Treasurer. I have served on several non-profit boards and am currently on the board of "I'm a Bright Kid Foundation" which focuses on musical theater and the arts. I serve as a CAAP arbitrator for First and Second Circuits and volunteer in the self-help room at the Honolulu District Court every year. I also have represented, Hawaiian Home Lands' beneficiaries in trial court and on appeal on a pro bono basis.

SECRETARY CANDIDATE



Lanson Kupau

Admitted to HSBA 1992. Served as Family and District Court judge and witnessed first-hand the dedication and compassion that the Judiciary staff and judges place in each matter before them. Previously worked with the most talented attorneys and staff at the Public Defender's Office, Reinwald O'Connor & Playdon, Kobayashi Sugita & Goda, Rush Moore. Currently, board of director of Hale Kipa and Damien Memorial School; continue to volunteer at non-profit organizations. Presently, a partner of Bronster Fujichaku Robbins with a focus on civil litigation. If elected, I will do my very best to uphold the standards of the HSBA and the

honored members who have served before me.

TREASURER CANDIDATE



Alike Piper

I am a founding member and partner of Klevansky Piper, LLP, with a practice focusing on bankruptcy and business litigation. I graduated from the University of Hawaii with a BBA in Accounting (1994) and a Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law (1997). I am listed in Chambers and Partners as a leading lawyer in Bankruptcy/Restructuring in Hawaii. I am the current Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, and a past Director of the HSBA. I would be honored to serve again as Treasurer and would work diligently for Hawaii's legal community in these challenging times.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATE: EAST HAWAII



Geraldine Hasegawa

Having served as an HSBA Director for many years, I am familiar with the board's responsibilities and the difficult issues it faces. During my tenure as a director, I have coordinated CLE programs and have pushed for more inclusiveness of neighbor island attorneys. As chair of the Transitioning Lawyers Committee, I have worked to provide critical information to our members. The HSBA has continued to increase its webcasting seminars and has made positive changes to address neighbor island issues. I am committed to representing the needs and concerns of my East Hawaii constituents and would be honored to continue to serve as your

representative.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: MAUI



Naomi Kusachi

I am an associate at The Law Offices of Jan K. Apo practicing personal injury law. I was admitted in 2013 and have been practicing in Maui since 2016. If elected, I will advocate for

and represent the interests of all attorneys on Maui, as well as ensure that the HSBA continues to play a positive role for all members and residents. I will be committed to attend all board meetings and will make it a priority to be present and involved in all board activity on behalf of all Maui HSBA members and our community.



Jacob Lowenthal

I am a trial attorney on the island of Maui and a co-founder and managing partner of Lowenthal & Lowenthal. I currently serve as Hawaii State Bar Association's Maui Director. I previously served as the President for Maui

County Bar Association. I am also a federal delegate for the U.S. District Court of Hawaii and a board member for the Hawaii Association for Justice. I was born and raised on Maui and in my free time enjoy playing guitar and spending beach days with my wife and two kids.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: OAHU



Steven Chow

2022-current, Partner, Fukunaga Matayoshi Ching & Kon- Herrera; 1995-2021-Owner, The Pacific Law Group. Graduated William S. Richardson School of Law 1981; Adjunct Prof.

William S. Richardson School of Law 1998-2004. Member: HSBA (Secretary 1995, Director 2001-present) and ABA. I will continue to work to improve HSBA benefits, increase community education and insure the HSBA is responsive to its membership. I have been the co-chair of the Judicial Administration Committee from 2012-2020 which coordinates the annual Bench-Bar Conference and Forums that brings together members of the HSBA Bar and the judiciary to discuss topics and issues to help improve the judicial system.



Vladimir Devens

My goal while serving on the board has been to make the HSBA more responsive to your needs. I co-chaired a committee that surveyed and reviewed the HSBA's mission and services to improve our organization. I

also co-chaired the Judicial Administration Committee which organized last year's Bench-Bar Conference. Implementation and transition to the new civil reform rules and Covid procedural changes to court proceedings and jury trials were discussed at the conference along with retaining certain remote options favored by practitioners post-Covid. If given the privilege to serve another term, I will continue to do my best for you.



Ronette Kawakami

1985 graduate William S. Richardson School of Law; 1986-1987, Law Clerk to Honorable Marie Milks; 1987-2013, Deputy Public Defender, State of Hawai'i; 2013-2021, Associate Dean for Student Services, WSRSL. HSBA Director and Secretary, 2000-2004; 2006-2014; Judicial Selection Commission, 2015-2021; Lecturer in Law, WSRSL. Current community work: Saturday morning breakfast preparation for the houseless at St. Elizabeth's church, Kalihi. I believe my multi-decade experience as an attorney, legal educator/administrator, HSBA Director and Secretary, and JSC Commissioner, provide a range of institutional knowledge, and a strong foundation for understanding the complexities of legal education, and issues facing the legal community and the Judiciary.



Erin Kobayashi

I am an attorney at Kleintop & Luria, LLP and practice in the area of family law. I currently serve as an Oahu Director of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) and Treasurer of Hawai'i Women Lawyers (HWL). Now, more than ever, the HSBA has a significant role to play in serving and supporting its members and encouraging programs that provide and expand access to legal services for the community. I am seeking re-election to advance these and other efforts that serve to fulfill HSBA's responsibility to its members.



Paul Naso

The strength of any governance board is the competence and diversity of its members. Differing perspectives are good and ensure problems and challenges are resolved on the merits. I believe my unique experience and perspective benefit the board and its membership. Perspective: As a General Counsel, I balance both legal and business interests, often serving as a liaison between competing interests to find common ground if possible, but to ultimately solve problems. Experience: For over seven years, I worked with General Counsels to reconstitute the Corporate Counsel Section. I currently serve as a HSBA Board Director and a past Treasurer.



Zale Okazaki

I have presently served 2 terms on the HSBA board and am running for a third. I have served as fundraiser chair for at least ten years and presently serve on the Awards Committee. I am also on the Hawaii Women Legal Foundation Board and the Friends of the Family Specialty Courts Board. I am a partner of the law firm Chong Nishimoto Sia Nakamura & Goya and have practiced since 1990.



Ellen Swick

I am a member of the HSBA's business law, litigation, and probate and estate planning sections. I focus my practice in the areas of commercial litigation and bankruptcy, representing lenders, secured creditors and debtors in various industries. As the former President and Treasurer of the Hawai'i Bankruptcy Bar Association (HBBA), I have helped lead the HBBA in furthering its mission by coordinating and hosting a variety of CLE events, including the planning of a national symposium in 2020 (postponed). I am also currently serving as Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Honolulu, Pau Hana Chapter.