

Biographies of the candidates in the election for the 2021 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 16, 2020.

VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



Rhonda Griswold

I am truly honored to be asked to run for Vice President of the Hawaii State Bar Association. I was so fortunate to find my way to Hawaii 40 years ago, to find a welcoming ohana at the William S. Richardson School of Law (Class of 1984!), and to find a law firm (Cades Schutte) that has encouraged me to be

back to the community.

And throughout my career, the HSBA has been there. As a young lawyer, I was active in the Young Lawyers Division consumer education committee, writing “ask-a-lawyer” columns and answering phone lines for consumer legal questions. As a young mother, I was a member of the first-ever HSBA quality of life committee where we tried to foster more family-friendly policies for law firms. At Cades, I championed our firm’s first paid family leave policy and part-time work policy. While such policies are the norm now, they were not the norm then.

Later, I served as Chair of the Probate and Estate Planning Section and of the Elder Law Section of HSBA. The HSBA sections provide a tremendous opportunity for lawyers in particular specialties to share their knowledge, provide input to potential changes in the law, and promote collegiality.

I also had the privilege of serving as an HSBA Director from 2011 to 2018. As a Director, I saw first-hand the broad scope of the work that HSBA does to help our profession, from providing free legal research databases and notary services, to providing input on potential changes to the laws that affect our profession, to interviewing and obtaining confidential input from the legal community on potential judges, to promoting access to justice and civic education (especially the Courts in the Community program).

I have also had the privilege of serving on the Hawaii Women’s Legal Foundation (former President), the Hawaii Justice Foundation, and the Cades Foundation. Such involvement has not only given me an opportunity to help critical legal service providers (such as Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii) and women and children in need, but has allowed me to work with passionate and committed lawyers whom I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to know.

Finally, at Cades Schutte, I have co-chaired our Attorney Training and Development Committee for more than 30 years and served for several years on our firm’s Management Committee. I understand the challenges faced by young lawyers in the early stages of their careers and the challenges of lawyers seeking to maintain a profitable practice while providing cost-effective quality legal services and maintaining a reasonable work-life balance.

As professionals and as a society, we are now facing unprecedented and uncertain times. I will do my best to help the HSBA and the attorneys it serves to weather this storm and to help our community and each other.

TREASURER CANDIDATE



Alika Piper

I am a founding member and partner of Klevansky Piper, LLP, with a practice focusing on bankruptcy and business litigation. I am a 1997 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I also have a degree in Accounting. Currently, I serve as a Hawaii Lawyer Representative for the Ninth Circuit

Judicial Conference. As a past HSBA Director, Treasurer, and member of its Finance Committee, I would be honored to serve again as Treasurer for the HSBA and would work diligently to serve Hawaii’s legal community in these challenging times.

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.



Michael Cashman

As a third-generation lawyer, my family has a proud tradition of community service. My father and grandfather were state court judges, and I attended West Point and served a decade in the infantry before attending law school in 2001. Prior bar and community service

includes: two-term delegate; chair, international law committee; general counsel, consumer law section; 15 years on ethics, professional responsibility and practice and procedures committees; chair of three non-profits; and officer of two alumni organizations—presently serving the WPS-HI and HIANG. I practice business law and estate planning and will work to expand HSBA active membership and networking opportunities.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: MAUI



Jacob Lowenthal

As Maui Director for the previous term, I brought Maui's views and voice to the table so our concerns and needs were met. I assisted in the process of judicial selections resulting in HSBA recommending top tier candidates for Hawaii's judiciary including Maui. I advocated for 2nd Circuit Judiciary

improvements which were eventually approved of within the Hawaii Legislature. Through my position, Maui's needs are being heard. For my second term, I intend to further my commitment to Maui attorneys to improve our 2nd Circuit legal community and to ensure that our voice continues to be heard. Vote for me!

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: OAHU



Tristan Andres

I am a partner at Deeley King Pang and Van Etten. Admitted in 2013, my practice focuses on insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. I am the current Chair of the HSBA's Insurance Coverage Litigation Section, where my efforts focus on bringing experienced speakers to broaden the section's

knowledge of current insurance litigation issues and resources. My volunteer activities include community outreach insurance seminars and publications, Junior Judges, and Courts in the Community. I am excited for the opportunity to serve as a Director, with the goal of expanding community outreach and legal services in these challenging times.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: OAHU (continued)



Steven Chow

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 since 2012 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. To that end, I co-chaired a committee that surveyed and reviewed the HSBA's mission and services to improve our organization. I also served on the Judicial Administration Committee and as a Group Leader in last year's Bench-Bar

Conference. Civil justice reform was discussed at length along with proposals relating to discovery, pretrial and settlement conferences to eliminate what many consider to be nonproductive requirements. If given the privilege to serve another term, I will continue to do my best for you.



William Harrison

As a 1981 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law, I strive to give back to the community in diverse ways. I am a founding member and current lecturer and supervising attorney with the WSRSL, Hawai'i Innocence Project. I am a member of the Supreme Court Permanent Penal Rules Committee and

the HSBA Committee on Judicial Administration. Among other committees and commissions, I served as chairperson of the Hawai'i Judicial Selection Commission. I previously served as a HSBA Oahu Director from 2011-2012 and presently from 2019-2020. I would humbly ask for your vote once again!

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: OAHU (continued)



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 six years, I worked with General Counsels to reconstitute the Corporate Counsel Section. I have also served as HSBA Treasurer for the past two years.

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 Nominating 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.