



## **“ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE TIME OF COVID”**

2021 Hawai'i Access to Justice Conference  
Friday, June 25, 2021

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Michelle D. Acosta** is the Deputy Chief Court Administrator for the First Circuit, overseeing court operations and services. She previously served as Chief Innovations Officer and Special Assistant to the Administrative Director of the Courts. As Chief Innovations Officer, Ms. Acosta worked on several technology projects for the Hawai'i State Judiciary aimed at increasing access to the courts. This includes the Small Claims Online Dispute Resolution pilot project. Prior to joining the Hawai'i State Judiciary, she served as the executive director of Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i and as a commissioner with the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission.

Representative **Della Au Belatti** is a graduate of Princeton University and the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i. She is a practicing attorney with the Law Office of Eric A. Seitz and is currently serving her eighth term as the Representative of State House District 24 (Makiki, Tantalus, Papakolea, McCully, Pawaa, and Manoa).

Representative Belatti served as the chair of the House Committee on Health from 2013 to 2017 and is now the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives. She is a member of the Women's Legislative Caucus and the House-appointed Commissioner to the Access to Justice Commission. In her role as a Commissioner on the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, Representative Belatti has been a champion for promoting legislation that improves and ensures access to justice and provides funding for indigent legal services.

**Katie Bennett** is the lead mediator of Family Mediation Hawai'i, a mediation and collaborative law firm helping families through difficult transitions. She assists parents in reaching child-focused settlement agreements that allow divorcing and separating families to move forward without litigation. As a mother of three children, Ms. Bennett understands the toxic effects sustained parental conflict can have on kids. With a background in family law, social work, family systems theory, child welfare, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, child development, and other areas impacting children and families, Ms. Bennett has the expertise to assist families as they navigate the complexities and pitfalls of co-parenting from separate households. In addition to her private practice, she regularly mediates for the O'ahu Child Welfare Mediation Program at the Ronald T.Y. Moon Judiciary Complex in Kapolei.

Ms. Bennett received the Hawaii Access to Justice Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service in 2014 and the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter Social Justice and Advocacy Award in 2015. She holds a Juris Doctor and a Master of Social Work from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology and economics from Occidental College in Los Angeles, and is a graduate of Punahou School.

**Taylor Brack** is currently the Law Fellow at the Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic, which is a live-client clinic available to students enrolled at the William S. Richardson School of Law. As a Law Fellow, Ms. Brack assists in the Clinic's dual mission of training future attorneys in the practice of immigration law and meeting the legal needs of vulnerable immigrants living in Hawai'i. As a law student, she did policy advocacy work with the Medical-Legal Partnership focused on issues involving the Micronesian community. During her 2L summer, she received the Chris Iijima Fellowship to work at the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center providing direct legal services to immigrant victims of trafficking and domestic violence.

**Mateo Caballero** is the principal attorney of Caballero Law LLC, focusing his practice in civil rights and liberties, employment law, and general legal services for socially conscious startups and non-profits. Before launching his own practice, Mr. Caballero was the Legal Director of the ACLU of Hawai'i, where he managed their impact litigation docket on a wide range of civil rights and liberties issues, including free speech, disability rights, privacy and technology, due process, and equal protection. At the ACLU, he defended and advanced the civil rights and liberties of everyone in Hawai'i, but particularly of those most marginalized by the legal system and society, including people experiencing homelessness. He is a lecturer on civil rights and liberties at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa at the William S. Richardson School of Law and earned his law degree from Harvard Law School in 2007.

Judge **Joseph E. Cardoza** (ret.) serves as the Chair of the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission. He also serves as Chair of the Commission's Task Force on Paralegals and Other Non-Lawyers and the Commission's Task Force on the Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Prior to his retirement from the bench, he was the Chief Judge of the Second Circuit and a Circuit Court Judge.

**Rebecca A. Copeland** is a District Family Court Judge for the First Circuit. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Hawaii Judiciary's Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts, a Hawaii Justice Foundation Board Member, and on the Access to Justice Commission's Committee on Increasing Pro Bono Services. As a member of the AJC pro bono service's Committee, she also served as Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on the Appellate Pro Bono Project, which was approved as a permanent program by the Hawaii Supreme Court in 2017. Prior to joining the Family Court, Judge Copeland was a solo appellate

practitioner and a Per Diem First Circuit District Court Judge. Judge Copeland also previously worked for the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General in the Appellate Division, Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert, and several appellate court judges including Intermediate Court of Appeals Judge John S.W. Lim. She also founded and served as a prior Chair of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Appellate Section and served several terms as a HSBA Board Member. She continues to assist the HSBA as a liaison, as needed, for the Hawaii Supreme Court's Courts in the Community Project.

**Tom Farrell** is the founder and managing attorney of Farrell & Perrault, a six-lawyer firm concentrating in Family Court litigation. In 2002, he became the first, and to date the only attorney in Hawaii to be certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy as a specialist in family law.

Mr. Farrell was admitted to practice in 1980 and spent the first fifteen years of his career as a Deputy Attorney General, where he represented the welfare department, the prison system, the Medicaid program, and the Child Support Enforcement Agency. In 1995, he entered private practice with Coates & Frey and began his own firm in 2007.

Mr. Farrell also served in the Army Reserve as an intelligence officer and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. He retired as a Colonel with almost 30 years of military service.

He is a graduate of Punahou and the University of Hawai'i, received his law degree from Santa Clara and a master's degree from the U.S. Army War College. A strong supporter of legal services to the indigent, he has been a Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i volunteer attorney for over two decades, served two terms on its board, and was recognized by the Access to Justice Commission in 2018 as an outstanding pro bono volunteer.

Judge **Nancy Gertner** (ret.) is a graduate of Barnard College and Yale Law School where she was an editor on The Yale Law Journal. She received her M.A. in Political Science at Yale University. She has been an instructor at Yale Law School, teaching sentencing and comparative sentencing institutions, since 1998. She was appointed to the bench in 1994 by President Clinton. In 2008, she received the Thurgood Marshall Award from the American Bar Association, Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, only the second woman to receive it (Justice Ginsburg was the first). She became a Leadership Council Member of the International Center for Research on Women the same year. In 2010, she received the Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award. In 2011, she received the Massachusetts Bar Association's Hennessey award for judicial excellence, and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Brandeis University. In 2012, she received the Arabella Babb Mansfield award from the National Association of Women Lawyers, and the Leila J. Robinson Award of the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts. She has been selected to receive

the Margaret Brent Women Lawyer of Achievement from the American Bar Association Commission on the Status of Women in the Profession in August 2014. She has been profiled on a number of occasions in the Boston Globe, the ABA Journal, Boston Magazine, and The Wall Street Journal. She has written and spoken widely on various legal issues and has appeared as a keynote speaker, panelist, or lecturer concerning civil rights, civil liberties, employment, criminal justice and procedural issues, throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. She was recently appointed to the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States to analyze debates for and against Supreme Court reform.

**Henderson Huihui** is an Equal Justice Works fellow and Staff Attorney with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. A fourth-generation Waimānalo homesteader, he was awarded a two-year national Equal Justice Works fellowship to address the issues and concerns of homesteaders and advocate on their behalf. The objective of his fellowship is to provide direct legal services, advocate for policy reform, and foster community partnerships and collaboration. He also provides direct representation to Native Hawaiians in matters involving Hawaiian Home Lands lease disputes, government entitlements, land title and land use law. Mr. Huihui received his degrees from William S. Richardson School of Law (J.D., Native Hawaiian Law Certificate, 2020) and University of Hawai'i at Manoa (B.A., Political Science, 2017).

**Nalani Fujimori Kaina** is executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. A Kamehameha Schools, Macalester College, and NYU School of Law graduate, she began her career as an attorney on Moloka'i. She is an Omidyar Fellow, named 20 for the Next 20 by Hawaii Business, and a PBN Business Leader of the Year finalist. She is a director with the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, a commissioner on the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, and the immediate past president of the board of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation. She also chairs the Hawai'i State Advisory Committee to the US Civil Rights Commission and was a past president of Hawaii Women Lawyers.

**Janet Kelly** joined the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i in 2001. She helped to establish the Homeless Outreach Program in 2002 and continues to provide civil legal services to persons experiencing homelessness through outreach and on-site locations around Oahu. She also helped to establish a Medical Legal Partnership Program in 2017 with Waimanalo Health Center, and in 2021 with Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center and with Ohana Health Plan. She is an active member of Partners in Care, a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

Ms. Kelly has also served as the Vice Chair and as the Organizational Development Chair of Partners in Care. She has presented at the 2013 National

Legal Aid and Defenders Association Conference on Strategic Partnerships to End Homelessness and has received the 2014 Outstanding Women Lawyer of the Year Award for her work with persons experiencing homelessness from the Hawaii Women Lawyers organization. Ms. Kelly is a 1999 graduate of the Seattle University School of Law.

**Wookie Kim** is the Legal Director at the ACLU of Hawai'i, where he works to defend people's civil rights and civil liberties through litigation, lobbying, public education, and other forms of advocacy. Among the issues, he works on are the criminalization of poverty, policing, reproductive freedom, gender equity, mass incarceration, and freedom of expression. He is also a Lecturer in Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Before joining the ACLU of Hawai'i, Mr. Kim was an associate at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Yale College. In his free time, he trains for and competes in 100-mile trail races.

**David Kauila Kopper** is the Director of Litigation at Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation ("NHLC"). He began serving the Native Hawaiian community in 2010 as an NHLC staff attorney assigned to intake duties and has since gone on to lead impact litigation on behalf of individuals, families, and communities. Much of his practice focuses on holding the state and local governments to their trust obligations towards Native Hawaiians. He has substantial experience litigating Hawaiian entitlement program disputes, including those arising under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and its implementing rules. He has also litigated multiple lawsuits aimed to protect the exercise of traditional and customary practices on Mauna Kea. Currently, he represents clients in various matters relating to Native Hawaiian rights law, including historic property and burial site preservation, government leases and programs, administrative law and due process rights, protection of traditional and customary practices, and land title and historical native land claims. He has substantial experience before all of Hawai'i's courts and various administrative bodies. Mr. Kopper received his degrees from William S. Richardson School of Law and Arizona State University.

**Robert J. LeClair** graduated cum laude in 1971 from Harvard Law School. He is the founder of the Paralegal Program and served as the Department Chair of the Kapi'olani Community College Legal Education Department from its inception in 1974 through his retirement December 31, 2006. From 2003, he has served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Justice Foundation, is an active member with the National Association of IOLTA Programs and has served on its national Board of Directors.

Mr. LeClair was the originator and host of the live TV program *You and the Law in Hawaii* from 1995 through 2006, hosting more than 300 live TV shows. He also developed a series of national training videotapes for paralegals which have been used in several hundred paralegal programs. He has been the

recipient of numerous community service and excellence in teaching awards. In 2008, he was named an Honorary Lifetime Member for his service to the American Association for Paralegal Education and in 2015 received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i.

**Heather Lusk**, MSW, is the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center, which works to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. Ms. Lusk has over twenty-five years of experience dedicated to reducing health disparities and stigma as it relates to HIV, viral hepatitis and other chronic conditions linked to substance use. As a Board member of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition and Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii and as chair with Partners in Care, she works to support systems integration and the intersection of mental health, substance use, homelessness, chronic health conditions, and the criminal justice system. Ms. Lusk was appointed to the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission in 2019.

**Clarissa Y. Malinao** was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Seattle University and a law degree from Whittier Law School. She was a former law clerk to the Honorable Marcia J. Waldorf (Ret.) and the Honorable Michael A. Town (Ret.). She was a former Deputy Public Defender and is currently in private practice focusing on criminal defense and some family law matters.

Ms. Malinao was a former Re-Employment and Community Service Work Program volunteer attorney with Volunteer Legal Services of Hawai'i. She currently serves as a Lawyer Delegate to the United States District Court, District of Hawai'i and is a HSBA representative member to the Commission on Professionalism and Co-Chair of HSBA's Diversity Equality and the Law Committee. She also serves as a Board of Director member of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyer's Association. Ms. Malinao has served as Independent Grand Jury Counsel in the First Circuit State of Hawai'i from 2018-2019.

In August 2019, she was appointed Per Diem Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit State of Hawai'i presiding over both civil and criminal matters. She is a recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Pro Bono Attorney Honoree and a 2020 HSBA Leadership Institute Fellow.

**Melanie May** is the Deputy Chief Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. Since her appointment to the bench in 2011, she has presided over civil, criminal, and traffic cases, and has served as the DWI court judge.

Judge May currently serves on the Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts, the District Court Civil Rules and Forms Committee, the Operational Solutions Committee, the Standing Committee on Innovations, Technology, and Self-Represented Litigants, the Access to Justice Commission Pro Bono Initiative Task Force, and the HSBA committee on Delivery of Legal Services to the Public.

**Angelina Mercado** is the Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In her nonprofit career, Ms. Mercado has worked to address the root causes of poverty and trauma on the lives of women and children, first as a volunteer for Wahine Moving Forward, a financial literacy program for survivors of domestic violence, then as the Director of Advancement for Hawaii Children's Action Network, a movement for children.

Ms. Mercado has also served on the Board of Directors of the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii, the Vice President of Communications for the Junior League of Honolulu, and most recently, the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force.

Prior to moving to Hawaii, Ms. Mercado worked in various sectors of top tier firms within the financial industry in New York City. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Connecticut College.

**Angela Kuo Min** is the current Executive Director for Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii ("VLSH"). VLSH provides free legal services to the low and moderate income community of Hawaii in: family law, estate planning, collections, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant, collections, various district court matters, veteran benefits, and license reinstatement programs. Ms. Min manages and oversees the operations, programs and financial management of VLSH. Ms. Min also serves as a commissioner on the Access to Justice Commission and chairs the Access to Justice Commission – Committee on Increasing Pro Bono Services.

Ms. Min is licensed to practice law in Hawaii and California (inactive). Prior to joining VLSH, she was a civil litigator with Case Lombardi and Pettit. Her previous work experience includes teaching undergraduate and paralegal courses, family law and estate planning (private practice), clerking with the City Attorneys' Office in Santa Ana and former legal extern with the U.S. Department of Justice- U.S. Attorney's Office in California.

**Ashley Kaho'omino'aka Kai'ao Obrey** is a Legal Practice Administrator and Staff Attorney at the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation ("NHLC"). She worked as an NHLC staff attorney from 2010 to 2015 and rejoined the litigation team in 2020 after serving as a land asset manager at Kamehameha Schools. Her work at NHLC has included representing clients before courts and administrative bodies on issues related to: the protection of cultural resources and iwi kūpuna, traditional and customary practices, as well as the natural resources critical to those practices; the enforcement of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' trust responsibilities, and the application of laws allowing for the amendment of clients' birth certificates to correctly document their genealogy to qualify for, among other things, DHHL leases. Notably, Ms. Obrey's advocacy resulted in DHHL rule amendments that allow for the

submission of DNA test results in lieu of vital records to satisfy blood quantum requirements. She was also part of the legal team that secured a unanimous Hawai'i Supreme Court decision requiring an archaeological inventory survey for the entire 20-mile Honolulu rail project route to avoid or, at minimum, mitigate negative impacts to historic and cultural sites. Ms. Obrey received her degrees from William S. Richardson School of Law and Pepperdine University.

**Deja Ostrowski** is a Staff Attorney with the Medical-Legal Partnership Hawai'i ("MLP"). Ms. Ostrowski's practice with MLP addresses the complex social determinants of health that impact well-being. Through legal clinics, legal advocacy and representation, and advocacy academies for patients and community health center staff, she partners with people experiencing housing insecurity, exiting incarceration, and living with physical and mental disabilities to address legal and systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality. Ms. Ostrowski also serves as the O'ahu Representative on the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Ostrowski has over a decade of community lawyering experience, working previously in public policy at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, representing victims of domestic violence in family law matters, civil rights enforcement, and impact litigation with Hawai'i Appleseed Center and Lawyers for Equal Justice. Ms. Ostrowski holds a Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a B.A. in Mathematics from Occidental College. She is the co-founder of Hawai'i Strategy Lab, a community data collaborative.

Professor **Calvin Pang** joined the law faculty in 1994. He previously worked at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i where he managed the Wai'anae branch office before moving to the main office in Honolulu where he worked on public entitlements and family law issues. He also spent a year at the Poverty Law Center in Orange County, California. Just prior to joining the faculty, he was a staff attorney at the Law School's Elder Law Program.

A retired Peace Corps volunteer, Professor Pang teaches courses that concern the family and its members. He also co-directs the law school's experiential learning program.

Professor Pang participated in the working group that recommended the formation of the state's Access to Justice Commission. He recounted this in a 2011 article entitled *Paying Rent: The Access to Justice Movement During the Moon Years* in volume 33 of the University of Hawai'i Law Review.

**Corey Park** is a retired attorney who practiced in the areas of commercial and real estate litigation, including with the law firm Paul, Johnson, Park and Niles. He previously worked for legal services offices in Detroit, Michigan, San Francisco, California, and Honolulu, and served as an assistant and adjunct professor of law at what is now the William S. Richardson School of Law. He is the current board president of The Legal Clinic, which provides legal services to



low-income immigrants in the State of Hawai'i. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Hawai'i and his J.D. degree from the University of Michigan.

**Kathryn "Katie" Ranney** is the Special Programs Coordinator for the Mediation Center of the Pacific, a not-for-profit corporation that serves over 7,000 people annually through direct mediation and dispute resolution processes that enable people to resolve a broad array of disputes. She coordinates training, outreach, and special program management – including online dispute resolution, landlord-tenant, and the Kupuna Pono program for elder mediation and family conferencing.

Katie Ranney has been involved with conflict management and resolution for 15 years. Her work has been predominately facilitation, solo and with a team, to help nonprofits and government agencies find alignment and create substantial plans for moving forward. She graduated summa cum laude from Santa Clara University, and earned her Master's degree in Communication with a Conflict Resolution Certificate from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is interested in the development and practice of empathy as well as how digital communication helps groups connect and organize, and she hopes to apply it to her work at home in Hawai'i.

The Honorable **Mark E. Recktenwald** was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court on September 14, 2010. He joined the Supreme Court as an Associate Justice on May 11, 2009 and previously served as Chief Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals beginning in April 2007.

Prior to his appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Recktenwald served as the director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Hawai'i, and as an attorney in private practice. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his law degree from the University of Chicago.

**Aviam Soifer** received his law degree from Yale Law School in 1972. He also holds B.A. *cum laude* (1969) and a Master of Urban Studies degree (1972) from Yale. While in law school, he served as an editor of the *Yale Law Journal*, a director of the Law School Film Society, and a director of the Legal Services Organization. He helped to found the C.V.H. Project, representing people in Connecticut's largest mental hospital.

In 1972-73, he clerked for then-Federal District Judge Jon O. Newman. He received Boston College's Distinguished Senior Research Award, and he was appointed as a Distinguished Scholar at the University of Wisconsin's Legal Studies Institute. His book, *Law and the Company We Keep* (Harvard University Press, 1995) was awarded the Alpha Sigma Nu Triennial National Jesuit Book Prize in professional studies.

Former Dean Soifer began teaching law at the University of Connecticut in 1973, received a Law and Humanities Fellowship at Harvard University in 1976-77, and taught at Boston University from 1979-1993. He served as Dean and taught at Boston College Law School from 1993-1998, and continued to teach there until 2003, when he became Dean and began teaching at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i. He left the deanship in 2020, and he continues to teach and write primarily in the area of constitutional law.

Former Dean Soifer has served as a Commissioner on the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission since its inception. He chairs the Commission's Committee on Education, Communications, and Conference Planning, and he is involved in a variety of other local and national public interest projects.

**Gemma-Rose Poland Soon** is a solo practitioner, who practices in the area of family law both at the trial and appellate levels. Gemma-Rose Poland Soon has practiced in the area of family law for the past approximately ten years. Prior to entering into private practice, she clerked for the Honorable Sabrina S. McKenna both at the Family Court of the First Circuit and the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Gemma-Rose Poland Soon currently serves as the Chair of the Family Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association and volunteers for a variety of court and community programs.

**Scott C. Suzuki**, J.D., M.P.H., has been practicing law since 2004, serving as the principal of the law firm of Scott C. Suzuki, Attorney at Law, LLC, since 2008. With a unique background in Gerontology and Public Health, he has dedicated his career to serving the needs of seniors, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and families in the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Suzuki is Hawaii's first and only member of the Special Needs Alliance, ([www.specialneedsalliance.com](http://www.specialneedsalliance.com)), a national, non-profit organization consisting of some of the most credentialed public benefits and disability law attorneys in the country, committed to helping individuals with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who represent them. He strives to be one of the country's top innovators in special needs planning and endeavors to provide accessible, affordable, and efficient legal options for individuals and families in the Hawaii community who may need assistance with special needs planning, settlement and catastrophic injury planning, long-term care planning, and other estate planning. Mr. Suzuki is one of the first and only practitioners in the State of Hawaii having a practice emphasis on catastrophic injury planning, which focuses on assisting in personal injury matters involving complex estate, public benefits, and special needs planning issues. He is also involved in numerous community projects, including serving as a coach with the Special Olympics for the past ~19 years and volunteering with the University of Hawaii Elder Law Program and is a member of the Elder Law Alliance.

**Summer Lee Haunani Sylva** is the Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (“NHLHC”), Hawai‘i’s only Native Hawaiian rights nonprofit law firm. Experienced in litigating before federal and state courts in Hawai‘i, New York, and New Jersey, she oversees 6 attorneys and 7 legal support staff who together handle over 90+ active cases representing 400+ clients annually. As lead counsel, Ms. Sylva secured a landmark victory in 2018, ending one of the State’s largest and longest water rights contested case hearing spanning 17 years. The resulting full and permanent restoration of eight kalo-feeding streams upended century-old status quo diversions that wreaked havoc on East Maui watersheds and cultural practices dependent on them. She continues to represent the East Maui community in ongoing water-related litigation pending before multiple state courts and administrative bodies. She also represented the cultural practitioners who, in 2019, secured a unanimous Hawai‘i Supreme Court ruling against the State for its failure to protect ceded lands at Pōhakuloa from the harmful effects of military training exercises. She continues to represent beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust seeking to enforce the State’s constitutional duty to adequately fund the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to fulfill the homesteading program’s main purpose: returning Native Hawaiians to the land. Ms. Sylva received her degrees from Cornell Law School and Barnard College-Columbia University.

**Laurie Arial Tochiki** is Executive Director of EPIC ‘Ohana. EPIC ‘Ohana is a nonprofit organization serving families in the child welfare system and vulnerable transitioning youth. EPIC, which stands for Effective Planning and Innovative Communication, reflects the organization’s goal of breaking down barriers between social workers, families, government systems and others to make better connections. EPIC’s programs are models for giving voice to birth parents, families and young people. Ms. Tochiki served as Associate Dean for Student Services at the William S. Richardson School of Law, where she also taught Children and the Law, Family Law, Higher Education Law and Lawyering Skills. She is a co-founder of the Kids First program at the First Circuit’s Family Court. In January 2021, Ms. Tochiki was selected for a Casey Excellence for Children Leadership Award. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and Sociology from Whitman College, a Juris Doctor from the University of Hawai‘i, a Master’s degree in Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Ph.D from the University of Hawai‘i in Education Policy.

**Tracey S. Wiltgen**, is the Executive Director of the Mediation Center of the Pacific, a non-profit corporation that assists over 7,000 people annually with the prevention and resolution of conflict. She designs and develops dispute resolution programs that meet the needs of the community, and conducts training on mediation, facilitation, and conflict resolution throughout Hawai‘i, the continental United States, and the Asia-Pacific region. She is a Lecturer in Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Ms. Wiltgen serves on the Administration, Pro Bono, and Pro Bono Initiatives Committees for the Hawai‘i Access to Justice Commission. She holds a J.D. degree from the William S.

Richardson School of Law, an M.S. from the University of Hawaii, and a B.S. from Gonzaga University.

**Esther Yoo** is the Staff Attorney at The Legal Clinic, which provides immigration legal services to low-income Hawai'i residents. Prior to entering public interest law, she worked as a business litigator for O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles, and for firms in Portland, Maine, where she maintained an active pro bono practice. She also directed the Academic Success Program and taught legal methods and writing as an adjunct professor at the University of Maine School of Law. Ms. Yoo received her A.B. from Harvard University and her J.D. from UCLA School of Law. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Dolly M. Gee of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.