

An Activation Summit for Women Lawyers (and Their Friends and Allies)

The legal profession is currently confronting unprecedented economic, political, and social pressures. These shifts are not abstract—they directly affect client service, business development, and workplace culture. Lawyers are increasingly being called upon to respond to complex and rapidly evolving questions involving civil rights, women’s rights, diversity initiatives, and professional opportunities in a marketplace that is both constrained and highly scrutinized.

The Activation Summit for Women Lawyers (and Their Friends and Allies) will bring together lawyers, judges, and law students to examine these challenges through a professional lens, share strategies for effective advocacy and leadership, and develop tools to engage productively—both within organizations and in the broader community.

Topics will include:

- Strategies for sustaining business development in a constrained economy.
- Understanding the legal and policy landscape affecting civil rights and workplace equity.
- Practical approaches to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in law firms and the legal profession.
- Opportunities for lawyers to strengthen leadership, advocacy, and client-focused skills.

The Activation Summit offers a forum for professional growth, collaboration, and leadership development—and will be of particular value to firms and other organizations committed to supporting their attorneys’ advancement, client engagement, and business development.

Venue:

Hawaii Supreme Court
Ali`iolani Hale
417 S King St
Honolulu, HI

Dates:

February 11-12, 2026

February 11, 2026

10:00 AM Registration

10:15 AM Welcome – Hawaii Supreme Court Acting Chief Justice Sabrina Shizue McKenna
The Vision for the Activation Summit for Women Lawyers (and Their Friends and Allies) – Judy Lam

10:30 AM **Who’s Going to Law School? Talent Management to Motivate the Next Generation of Lawyers**

Law student demographics are changing and with it, their intentions, expectations, and ambitions. Using the newly available data about the entering class of 2025 collected by the Law School Admission Council (“LSAC”), learn about what the data tells us about who these future lawyers are, why they are going to law school, and what they expect (and will perhaps demand) from the profession when they enter it. How might we anticipate their changing the legal profession?

- Elizabeth (Liz) Bodamer, Senior Director of Research, Law School Admission Council
- Pohai Campbell, Partner, Cades Schutte LLP
- Tryphena Liu, Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.
- Anna Lloyd, Executive Director, Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms (Chicago)
- Camille A. Nelson, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law (Honolulu)

11:45 AM Lunch and Discussion

The First Fifteen

In 1998, Hon. Susan Oki Mollway (D. Haw.) became the first woman of Asian ancestry to join the ranks of the federal judiciary. It would be ten years before the second joined her. In *The First Fifteen: How Asian American Women Became Federal Judges*, Judge Mollway told the stories of the first fifteen Asian American women who became federal judges. Now, we sit down with Judge Mollway, and two of the other First Fifteen, Hon. Leslie Kobayashi (D. Haw.) and Hon Jill Aiko

Otake (D. Haw.) to discuss what women lawyers in today’s climate can learn from these first fifteen trailblazers.

- Hon. Susan Oki Mollway
- Hon. Leslie Kobayashi
- Hon. Jill Aiko Otake
- Arleen Nand (Co-Moderator), Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig LLP (Minneapolis)

1:00 PM Break

1:15 PM **The Brilliance of Women Lawyers Today**

The National Association of Women Lawyers (“NAWL”) has been studying women lawyers and their careers as well as their employers for years. In this fireside chat, hear what we know about the status of and trends for women in law based upon NAWL’s research.

- Elizabeth Manno, Partner, Holland & Hart (Denver)
- Courtney Worcester, Partner, Holland & Knight (Boston)
- Michelle Correia (Moderator), Partner, Chun Kerr LLP (Honolulu)

2:15 PM Break

2:30 PM **Women Lawyers: Leading Teams and Lifting All Boats – How are Women Lawyers Making It Rain?**

With many corporate clients feeling less comfortable actively seeking greater diversity among their outside counsel, how has the climate for business development changed for lawyers who are women, people of color, openly LGBTQ+, or part of other underrepresented and marginalized groups? We know they are excellent lawyers. How do they and their law firms make sure that current and potential clients know it, too? And, how can clients find them?

- Kim Hughes, Senior Corporate Counsel, Microsoft (Redmond)
- Kimi Ide-Foster, Partner, Chun Kerr LLP (Honolulu)
- Arleen Nand (Moderator), Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig LLP (Minneapolis)
- Others to be announced

3:30 PM Day 1 Closing Comments

3:45 PM Break
Transfer to Dine Arounds

5:30 PM

Self-Treat Dine Arounds *Separate Registration Required

Get to know some of the women lawyers from Hawaii and the Mainland as we break into small groups for a relaxing dinner and convivial conversation.

Honolulu is home to some amazing restaurants from La Mer to Zippy's (love their chili and rice!). Sign up for the restaurant of your choice and spend the evening making new business contacts and friends!

February 12, 2026

9:00 AM

Greetings

9:15 AM

Bar Leaders in a Time of Challenge

Some lawyers gravitate to active participation in bar associations. Some do not. The reasons are myriad. In recent years, other types of not-for-profit organizations as well as for-profit businesses have evolved and taken on many of the kinds of roles and activities that were traditionally in the purview of bar associations. But last year, when the rule of law was challenged, many bar associations leaned into their traditional role as the non-partisan voice of the legal profession and made public statements and pronouncements. In organizations dealing with sometimes inefficient structures designed to foster greater opportunities for participation rather than streamlined efficiency; declining or burgeoning memberships; unreliable sources of funding; uneven or unaligned leadership skills and experience; and sometimes bureaucracies and processes that are anything but nimble or flexible, it can sometimes be a challenge to maintain relevancy much less have any meaningful impact. How are bar leaders addressing these issues during a time of challenge. Is it different for national versus state or local bar associations? Is it different for mainstream versus affinity bar associations? What have we learned from the past? What opportunities might be developing? Are they prepared to seize them?

- Belinda Macauley (Moderator), Executive Director, Beverly Hills Bar Association (Los Angeles)
- Makalika Noholow'a, Past President, National Native American Bar Association (Honolulu)
- Alana Peacott-Ricardos, President, Hawaii Women Lawyers (Honolulu)
- Joan Toth, Executive Director, CHIPs (San Francisco)
- Others to be announced

10:15 AM

Break

- 10:30 AM **AI for Everyone – The Definitive Guide for Harnessing This Tool**
- We’ve all read the cautionary tales and heard the horror stories: AI hallucinating cases resulting in embarrassment (at best) for some lawyers and law firms. Let’s try to set aside what the New York Times has identified as “the uniquely American animosity toward artificial intelligence” and consider a rational and realistic assessment of AI in law. AI can be a useful tool that plenty of lawyers are using. Join us for a discussion about how to use AI in your practice, when to use it, where it is best applied, for what to look out, and the current and anticipated future for AI in law. How can lawyers who may not be “tech” lawyers best responsibly utilize, apply, and participate in any regulation of AI technology? How, as a profession, do we guide and advise our clients and ourselves?
- Sonja Carlson, Senior Corporate Counsel, Microsoft (Redmond)
 - Janet J. Lee (Moderator), Partner, Banner Witcoff (Chicago)
 - Glenn T. Melchinger, Partner, Denton’s (Honolulu)
- 11:30 AM Break
- 11:45 AM Lunch and Discussion
- State Constitutions and Civil Rights**
- There can be a tendency to focus civil rights efforts at the federal level. In the last year, however, we have seen these efforts shift to the state level. What are state leaders and civil rights activists thinking and doing about this shift? How are state administrative law issues and local government policy practices intersecting with these issues?
- Kaliko Fernandes, Solicitor General of the State of Hawaii (Honolulu)
 - Hon. Sabrina Shizue McKenna, Acting Chief Justice, Hawaii Supreme Court (Honolulu)
 - Gigi Rollini (Moderator), Managing Partner, Florida Government Law Partners PLLC (Tallahassee)
 - Others to be announced
- 1:00 PM Break
- 1:15 PM **Film Premiere: “The History and Achievements of Asian American Women Lawyers”**
- 2:30 PM Break

2:45 PM

The Next Fifteen and Beyond

How do we activate women lawyers and their allies—individually and in organized groups—to continue to advocate for equal rights? Are there new or different strategies we should be implementing to be more effective in these efforts? Are there particular synergies that we’re missing? How might we educate people to understand that assaults on one group’s equal rights is an assault on all groups’ rights?

- Joan Haratani, Partner, Mogan Lewis & Bockius (San Francisco)
- Louise Ing, Partner, Denton’s (Honolulu)
- Peggy Nagae, Peggy Nagae Consulting (Portland)
- Hon. Shanlyn A.S. Park (D-Hawaii) (Honolulu)
- Sid Kanazawa (Moderator), SK Law Mediation (Los Angeles)

3:45 PM

Closing Remarks

4:00 PM

Transfer to ASB for NAWL Installation
Registration for NAWL Installation

5:00 PM

NAWL Installation *Separate Registration Required

(Aloha attire is encouraged)

Location:

American Savings Bank

300 N. Beretania

Honolulu, HI

*Register for Dine Arounds and NAWL Installation [here](#).