

JC 7



Testimony of the  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
relating to the nomination of

**PAUL B.K. WONG**  
**District Court Judge, First Circuit Court**

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

From: Carol K. Muranaka, President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of Paul B.K. Wong for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit Court.

The HSBA Board has established criteria for determining the qualifications of judicial appointments generally utilizing the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. The HSBA uses the following criteria in its deliberations: integrity and diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, financial responsibility, public service, health, and responsibilities and duties required of the position for which the applicant has been nominated. The HSBA Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified."

As part of its procedures for evaluating and taking positions on judicial appointments, the HSBA Board utilizes a subcommittee of the HSBA Board to review materials presented by the nominee and input from members. The subcommittee is also tasked with checking references and contacting others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications. The full Board reviews the materials prepared by this subcommittee, the materials submitted by the nominee and members, and conducts an interview of the nominee.

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association finds Paul B.K. Wong to be qualified for the position of District Court Judge, First Circuit Court.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-6552

KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



ARMINA A. CHING  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2012  
State of Hawai`i**

April 11, 2012

**RE: JC7, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, PAUL B.K. WONG, for a term of six years.**

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of JC7, the appointment of Paul B.K. Wong to the bench of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, for a term of six years.

As the Prosecuting Attorney for Honolulu, I hired Paul as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. He quickly established himself as a very good trial attorney and a very hard worker. Paul eventually became a specialized sex assault prosecutor and worked extremely well in helping the victims of sex assaults. He is very compassionate and very dedicated to the concept of justice, both traits of a good judge.

The department strongly supports Paul B.K. Wong for District Court Judge of the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

# TRANSMITTAL

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**DATE:** 04-10-2012

**TO:** The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary And Labor

**FROM:** Adriana Ramelli  
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

**RE:** JC 7  
Consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the  
First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Judicial Nominee, Paul B.  
K. Wong

**Hearing:** April 11, 2012 at 10:00am  
Committee on Judiciary And Labor

This transmittal consists of 3 pages including this cover sheet.

**Sender:** Christine Trecker

**Please call 535-7600 if you do not receive all of the pages.**



# THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

*A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children*

*Executive Director*  
Adriana Ramelli

**DATE:** April 11, 2012

*Advisory Board*

**TO:** The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary And Labor

*President*  
Mimi Beams

*Vice President*  
Peter Van Zile

Joanne H. Arizumi

**FROM:** Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director  
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Mark J. Bennett

Andre Bisquera

Marilyn Carlsmith

**RE:** JC7  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, PAUL B.K. WONG, for a term of six years

Senator  
Suzanne Chun Oakland

Monica Cobb-Adams

Donne Dawson

Dennis Dunn

Senator  
Carol Fukunaga

Frank Haas

David I. Haverly

Linda Jameson

Roland Lagareta

Michael P. Matsumoto

Phyllis Muraoka

Gidget Ruscetta

Good morning Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary And Labor. My name is Adriana Ramelli and I am the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), a program of the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health.

I am writing in support of Paul B.K. Wong, judicial nominee for District Court Judge of the First Circuit. The SATC first came to know Mr. Wong when he was a deputy prosecuting attorney, and then began to work closer with him since 2001 when he assumed the role of pro bono legal counsel for the Center.

The SATC seeks out Mr. Wong's guidance on a frequent basis. Over the years, he has assisted the Center with complex situations involving victim rights and this has sometimes necessitated mediating very sensitive issues. He has demonstrated the capacity to hear the concerns of differing parties, think through benefits and consequences for all involved, and present thoughtful compromises that have proven beneficial. Because he is not afraid to make decisions, and because of his ability to consider long range ramifications while weighing risk against benefit, the Center has been able to move forward on important issues, and secure the confidence of those in the community.

Mr. Wong is respectful in his judgment of others and is extremely fair in his decision making. While he shows compassion for victims of sexual assault, he is always the first to ensure that the SATC remains unbiased in the areas of forensic examinations and evidence collection. As much as he has guided the Center in protecting the rights of victims, he has taken action to ensure that the role of the forensic examiner is objective, and that fair, unbiased protocol is followed. He has demonstrated time and again, the ability to meet difficult situations head on with unflappable, professional

responses. Perhaps it is his absence of ego, or perhaps it is his certainty of who he is that has enabled him to maintain his professional composure and respond in a manner that effectively manages situations. He seems to have the sense of when to speak and when to remain silent, and this absence of need to prove himself enables him to be quite effective.

Mr. Wong's contributions to the SATC have been invaluable. While his appointment to the bench would mean a tremendous loss for the Center, Mr. Wong would seize the opportunity to serve the State of Hawai'i in the highest fashion and would utilize his strengths to truly impact the public in this very important role. He is held in high esteem by those of us who know him in the social service arena as he is honest, trustworthy, and a man of great integrity and character.

I cannot speak highly enough of him. Mr. Wong is an excellent candidate for District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

April 5, 2012

Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senate  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Re: Support for Paul Wong – JC7 District Court Judge

I am in support of Mr. Paul Wong to sit on the bench as a District Court Judge for the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I am a personal friend of Mr. Wong and have known him in his capacity as an attorney. I can personally say that Paul is a very competent and fair individual. He will take the time to look at everything thoroughly before rendering a decision. I believe that with his past experience he will be an asset to the District Court.

I support Mr. Wong for District Court Judge, First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnold Wong /s/

**BEFORE THE**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
  
**JC7 RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION**  
**TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT,**  
**STATE OF HAWAII, JUDICIAL NOMINEE**  
**PAUL B.K. WONG**

**TESTIMONY OF**  
**DAVID J. MINKIN, ESQ.**  
**BAR NO. 3639**

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 016

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

My name is David J. Minkin. I am a litigation partner at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. Before joining McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP in 1995, I was a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu for 11 years.

I write this letter in strong support of nominee Paul B. K. Wong for the position of Judge, District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Wong since he was a law student at Boston College. In 1993, he was hired as a deputy prosecutor and I recruited him to our firm in 2000.

Paul was a dedicated public servant who was always fair and even-handed in his role as a deputy prosecuting attorney. In his position as a prosecutor, Paul always demonstrated compassion for victims while maintaining fairness in his dealings with defendants and their counsel in all phases of the criminal justice system. He maintains his fairness and even-handedness now in his private practice encompassing both civil and criminal matters. This fairness and compassion for all continues to this day. His overall demeanor and personality indicates that he would possess an even-handed and fair judicial temperament.

He possesses excellent trial skills with a daily understanding of the role that evidence, court rules and case law play in the judicial process. Paul not only exhibits the highest personal integrity, but he possesses the appropriate moral courage to be a jurist.

Supervising Paul in the early 2000s at the McCorriston law firm, not only do I consider him a colleague but, more importantly, a good and valued friend.

As a former victim/witness counselor and deputy prosecutor, and now in private practice, I have worked with or opposed numerous attorneys and, I can honestly state without any hesitation that Paul B. K. Wong is an excellent candidate for Judge of the District Court. He will



make the judiciary and the State of Hawai`i proud as he continues his public service.

Thank you for this opportunity to recommend Paul B. K. Wong for confirmation as Judge, District Court of the First Circuit.

David J. Minkin

**BEFORE THE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

**JC7 RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT,  
STATE OF HAWAII, JUDICIAL NOMINEE  
PAUL B.K. WONG**

**TESTIMONY OF  
KENNETH J. MANSFIELD, ESQ.  
Bar No. 7227**

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 10:00 am  
State Capitol Conference Room 016

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

My name is Kenneth J. Mansfield, and I am an active member in good standing of the Hawaii Bar and the Co-Managing Partner at McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. I think extremely highly of Paul Wong, and therefore it is my great pleasure to testify in strong support of his confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Paul for the past eleven years, first as associates, and now as partners. During that time, Paul has been a trusted colleague, advisor, and friend. Paul brought to our firm his mastery of courtroom procedures, which he developed over his seven-year career at the Prosecutors Office. To this day, his technical trial skills are the envy of the firm's lifelong civil litigators like myself.

Since starting a second career in civil practice, Paul has developed proficiency with the intricacies and nuances of complex civil litigation. Paul is able to try a simple matter on a short notice, or alternately prepare a complex matter for trial over eighteen months of complicated discovery. Paul is equally at ease speaking to a local jury, a demanding client, or a difficult opposing counsel. He is also particularly adept at resolving disputes, being quick to recognize when the client's resources are better spent on compromise than litigation. In that manner, Paul's ability to view problems from his client's perspective stands out among Honolulu attorneys, and will be a tremendous asset in a sitting judge.

Paul is also a first-rate, generous Hawaii citizen. He has been the longstanding pro bono counsel for the Hawaii Sex Abuse Treatment Center, for which the SATC has formally recognized his contributions. Within our office, Paul is one of the lawyers that staff will approach for legal

advice on personal matters, and they always find Paul's door open. Paul also recently finished a multi-year stint as Co-Chair of the firm's Hiring Committee, demonstrating his considerable commitment to law firm management and growth.

I have no doubt that with these qualities, Paul will make an outstanding judge. Losing Paul to the Judiciary will be challenging for our firm, but we will be proud to see him on the Bench, and I am personally confident that he will honor the position with his strong character, outstanding legal skills and old-fashioned work ethic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of such a good friend and qualified candidate. I respectfully urge this Committee to strongly recommend Paul's confirmation.

- Ken Mansfield

April 9, 2012

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Malia S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao *ken*

**SUBJECT: Testimony on JC 7, Consideration and Confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, PAUL B.K. WONG, for a term of six years**

Wednesday, April 11, 2012  
10 a.m. in Conference Room 016

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of judicial nominee Paul B.K. Wong for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

As a prior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and Deputy Attorney General, I have had the pleasure of working with Paul. He is a dedicated, intelligent, hard working, and fair attorney who is accomplished in a variety of legal areas. His legal career spans criminal and civil work, prosecution and defense work, government/public and private sector work. He has acquired, developed, and fine-tuned his skills in litigation, advice and counsel, and preparing written legal documents. He is therefore well versed in law such that I believe that he is very qualified for this position.

Paul is also an extremely thoughtful, compassionate, reasonable, caring, and good person. I believe that he has the judicial temperament required of this appointment and am honored to submit this letter in support of his nomination.

April 9, 2012

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Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Malia S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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**From:** [Mark Yuen](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** JC 7 Hearing, 4/11/12, 10:00 a.m., Paul B.K. Wong's confirmation as District Court Judge  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:29:44 AM

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Mark Yuen  
1709 Wilhelmina Rise  
Honolulu, HI 96816

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Mr. Paul B.K. Wong's Confirmation Hearing (April 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m.)

Dear Honorable Senator Hee:

I address this letter to you in order to support Mr. Wong's confirmation as a District Court Judge for the First Circuit. I have known Mr. Wong since I started working in 1996 as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

I highly recommend Mr. Wong for many reasons. First of all, Mr. Wong has worked in both the government and private sector for many years as has developed a solid reputation for his intelligence and his preparation. During his time in the Prosecutor's Office, Mr. Wong was always over-prepared in all the things that he did. He was one of the hardest workers that I knew in the office and I dare anyone to find someone other than Mr. Wong, who was more prepared and dedicated to his cases.

In addition, during his time in the Prosecutor's Office, Mr. Wong was known to be very knowledgeable of the law. He was very smart and possessed the required knowledge to be an effective and efficient litigator.

Thirdly, when I worked with Mr. Wong, I found him to be a very friendly person. Despite of his high status in the office, he was always easy to approach and helpful to the younger deputies such as myself.

In summary, I believe that Mr. Wong will be an excellent, hard-working and fair judge. His knowledge of both criminal and civil law is superb. Mr. Wong would be in my humble opinion, a solid and just judge and an incredible asset to the judiciary.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Yuen

MCCORRISTON MILLER MUKAI MACKINNON LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

April 9, 2012

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC 7 submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, PAUL B. K. WONG, for a term of six years

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of JC 7, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Judicial Nominee, PAUL B. K. WONG, for a term of six years, which will be heard by your Committee on Judiciary and Labor on April 11, 2012.

I have worked with Mr. Wong in private practice for many years, and believe that he would serve the State of Hawaii well as a judge. In addition to his strong knowledge of the law, I have consistently found Mr. Wong to have a balanced demeanor and to always seek a fair and practical outcome.

For these reasons, I would like to express my support for Mr. Wong's appointment to the District Court.

Very truly yours,



Peter J. Hamasaki

**MCCORRISTON MILLER MUKAI MACKINNON** LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

April 5, 2012

**VIA EMAIL: [JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: JC 7 submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Judicial Nominee, PAUL B.K. WONG, for a term of six years

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR BY ROBERT G. KLEIN, ESQ.

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of JC 7, submitting the nomination of Paul B.K. Wong to serve as District Judge of the First Circuit, which will be heard by your Committee on Judiciary and Labor on April 11, 2012.

Mr. Wong is one of my law partners at McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon. I have known him for 12 years and worked closely with him on many legal matters, including trials and appeals. During that time, I have had many opportunities to confer with Mr. Wong on a wide variety of legal issues. I value his insight and practical solutions as do our clients. He has always been thorough, exact, and knowledgeable when responding to me and our clients' needs.

Mr. Wong has excellent personal qualities and a strong work ethic commensurate with the demands of a district judge. I believe you will find him to be tenacious in his beliefs yet open to hearing opposing points of view. He



Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
April 5, 2012  
Page 2

has demonstrated good judgment and a willingness to fight hard for what is right. I humbly ask for your support for this nomination.

Very truly yours,

McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert G. Klein".

Robert G. Klein