

BRIAN J. DE LIMA

Education:

Hilo High School [REDACTED]

University of Hawaii at Hilo [REDACTED]

University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Graduated [REDACTED] with B.A. in political science

University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law [REDACTED]

Brian was educated in our public schools. He was active in student government in High School and was integrally involved in the establishment of the State Student Council which is operating to this day. In that effort he was the first student representative to the Board of Education serving in that capacity during the school year [REDACTED]. Brian also help draft the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities that was adopted by the Board of Education. Brian attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo and served as Student Body President [REDACTED]. Brian continued to be active in student government at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he served as student leader being elected Speaker of their Student Senate three times.

Brian seeks to become involved in the governance of our school system because he retired from elective office in [REDACTED] when his youngest child was born with down syndrome. [REDACTED] and Brian as parents of a special needs child have been involved in the public school system working with individual education plans. The reality is that public school system needs to service special needs students and the Board of Education should have a member who is well versed in the area.

General Background:

Brian J. De Lima is a fourth generation Hilo resident and has been practicing law within the State of Hawaii since 1983. He is admitted to practice in all courts in Hawaii, and has also appeared in the U.S. District Court of Hawaii, and the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and graduate courses in public administration at the University of Massachusetts. He is a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Mr. De Lima has extensive experience in legislative matters having served as a staff member with the Hawaii State House of Representatives and State Senate from 1980 through 1983. He was also elected as a member of the Hawaii County Council in 1990 for three terms until his decision not to seek re-election in order to devote more time to his family and law practice. He served in various capacities during his tenure as a member of the Council. He served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Vice-Chairman of all Council committees and as such has extensive knowledge of planning, land use development, public works, and government financing.

Mr. De Lima is known statewide as an experienced trial attorney. He has handled numerous jury trials in Honolulu, Kona, and Hilo. Some of which are very complex cases in duration of several months resulting in successful verdicts for his clients. His extensive litigation experience involves myriad of cases such as business, family law, criminal defense, automobile accidents, real estate disputes, personal injury claims, and serious injury and death cases.

Mr. De Lima throughout his career has been involved in providing services to those least able to afford services. For nearly a decade he was the private bar attorney for the Legal Aid Society in Hilo. Mr. De Lima continues to provide pro bono services for family law clients and participates in the Hawaii Lawyers Care family law clinics. His law firm was recognized for performing the highest number of pro bono hours in Hilo and Mr. De Lima was also honored as having the highest number of pro bono hours.

Mr. De Lima is a member of the Hawaii County Bar Association and has served in the past on its Board as well as Treasurer. He is a member of several chambers of commerce and business organizations. He had been an active member of the Lehua Jaycees, serving in various officer positions and was recognized by the Hawaii Jaycees in 1985 as one of Hawaii's Three Outstanding Young Persons.

Mr. De Lima has been involved with numerous community sports and charitable organizations. He served as a Board member of the Hilo Boys and Girls Club for over a decade prior to 1996. He has served on the Hawaii County Merit Appeals Board hearing civil service and recruitment appeals for Hawaii County employees and the Hawaii County Salary Commission which sets the salaries for elected officials and appointees. He presently serves as the Chair of the Banyan Drive Redevelopment Agency for Hawaii County.

Summary of Litigation experience

Family Law: Mr. De Lima has handled over 3000 family law cases including adoptions, guardianships, child protective services, and divorces.

Personal Injury: Mr. De Lima has worked as the plaintiff's attorney on numerous personal injury cases involving significantly large awards. These cases involved automobile accidents, medical malpractice claims, product and premise liability.

Criminal Defense: Mr. De Lima has numerous criminal defense cases involving a wide range of charges from petty misdemeanor to serious felony/murder cases. He is generally acknowledged as one of the premier criminal defense attorneys in the State of Hawaii.

Civil and Business Litigation: Mr. De Lima has handled a number of disputes representing both consumers and businesses. He has also represented attorneys, doctors, and other professionals against malpractice claims. Other civil matters include asserting and defending sexual harassment claims, breach of contract, collection of debts, material and mechanic liens.