

Liann Y. Ebesugawa

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii 11/16-Present
Assistant General Counsel & Assistant Corporate Secretary. Provides legal support to personnel and management of New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) listed holding company on a variety of legal matters.

Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii 02/15-11/16
Associate General Counsel. Provided legal support to personnel and management from various process areas including fuels, renewable energy planning, grid technologies, contract management and regulatory.

Hawaii State Board of Education, Honolulu, Hawaii 05/11-01/15
Executive Director. Drafted amendments and promulgated Board's administrative rules; developed and managed agenda creation process; drafted legislative testimony; worked with various government staff and officials as well as Governor's policy staff and legislators on Board and Department of Education matters; managed all legal matters related to the Board including policy matters, sunshine law, freedom of information act, appeals and litigation; developed and managed Board complaint process; managed and hired Board of Education staff; created volunteer program with the University of Hawaii Law School; created orientation for new student representatives and Board members; drafted press releases and worked with journalist; managed Board website; developed and managed Board's budget; organized and supported Board's Community meetings.

Atlas Insurance Agency, Honolulu, Hawaii 08/10-05/11
Property & Casualty Account Executive. Knowledge of multi-line risk underwriting, insurance industry, market conditions and principal laws and regulations. Identified marketplace opportunities and assisted businesses with obtaining and evaluating property and casualty insurance coverage for both standard and surplus markets.

Goodsill, Anderson, Quinn & Stifel, Honolulu, Hawaii *Associate Attorney* 10/04-06/10
Summer Associate 05/02-08/02
Corporate Formation and Governance: Advised and assisted clients with starting and maintaining their businesses and with all aspects of documenting their activities to conform to corporate, partnership, non-profit (including federal 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) laws) and other organizational laws of the State of Hawaii.

Real Property: Represented clients in real property acquisitions and sales, including negotiating and drafting loan and security documents and trust administration and distribution matters, represented landlords and tenants in negotiating and drafting ground and space leases. Experience with residential real estate issues, contract issues, encroachment agreements and related real estate disputes. Represented title insurance companies and insureds in coverage matters, including title, access, and easement issues.

Labor & Employment: Represented employers in disputes involving allegations of harassment, discrimination, wrongful termination, union issues and employment contracts; represented employers before the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; assisted in the representation and advisement of management regarding labor relations issues such as labor grievances, arbitrations, unfair labor practices and union organizing campaigns; drafted, reviewed and negotiated independent contractor and employment agreements related to visual arts, technology, medical and general professional services.

Business Transactions: Represented clients in sale and purchase transactions including negotiating and drafting related agreements. Advised and assisted solar energy client with solar farm development including land use, sales, leasing, licensing, and employment matters.

General Litigation: Represented plaintiffs in catastrophic products liability case and defended clients in cases related to breach of contract, civil rights actions, defamation and general tort liability.

Government Relations: Monitored significant bills and attended state legislative hearings in order to provide written updates for management of client's legislative agenda and internal practice groups.

Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr., Honolulu, Hawaii 09/03-09/04
Law Clerk. Researched and assisted in the drafting of published opinions, unpublished opinions, summary disposition orders, memoranda of law regarding petitions for certiorari in the following areas: Tax, Contract, Arbitration, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, and Environmental Law; reviewed and processed procedural motions.

EDUCATION & HONORS

University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law, J.D.

Law Review Writer and Executive/Managing Editor (Fall 2001- Spring 2003)
 CALI Excellence Award for Second Year Seminar paper (Fall 2002)
 Best Oralist, Appellate Advocacy (Spring 2001)
 Admissions Committee Student Member (2003)
 Graduating Class Co-Speaker (May 2003)

University of Hawaii at Manoa, M.A., English

Concentration: Cultural and Literary Studies
 Thesis: The Rhetoric of the Local: The Liberating and Coercive Power of Silence

University of Hawaii at Hilo, B.A., English

Graduated with honors from the University of Hawaii at Hilo
 Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities

COMMUNITY HONORS

Pacific Business News 2009 Forty Under 40

2009

Honoree.

Pacific Century Fellows, Class of 2008

2008 – 2009

Fellow. Participated in the Pacific Century Fellows Program, a Hawaii-based leadership program focused on developing leaders with a greater awareness and sensitivity to the people and institutions of Hawaii.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Privacy in the Workplace, Employment Law Update, Sterling Education Services (February 2, 2006).

The Politics and Law of Japanese American Redress, Chapter in Reparations and Transitional Justice, Co-authored with Eric Yamamoto, Oxford University Press (2005).

1988 Civil Liberties Act: Japanese American Internment Reparations, Chapter in Major Acts of Congress, Co-authored with Eric Yamamoto, MacMillan Reference Books (2003).

Casenote: *State v. Rogan*: Racial Discrimination and Limits of the Color-blind Approach, University of Hawaii Law Review, 24 Vol. 2 (Summer 2002).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hawaii State Civil Rights Commission, Honolulu, Hawaii

2017-Present

Commissioner. The Commission is responsible for enforcing state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The Commission receives, investigates, conciliates, and adjudicates complaints of discrimination. The Commission has five uncompensated volunteer Commissioners who are appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, based on their knowledge and experience in civil rights matters and commitment to preserve the civil rights of all individuals.

Japanese American Citizens League Honolulu Chapter ("JACL"), Board of Directors

Director 2008-2009, 2016-Present

Second Vice-President 2014-2016

President 2012-2014

Vice President-Elect 2010-2012

Organized and facilitated finance and planned giving committee. Reviewed and edited organizational documents. Coordinated fiscal sponsor efforts for University of Hawaii Social Justice program including drafting fiscal sponsor agreement. Coordinated and/or assisted with the organization of various JACL sponsored events including the annual fundraiser and Honouliuli Internment Camp – Day of Remembrance event. Reviewed relevant legislation, testified on such legislation, drafted and edited testimony, and editorials submitted on behalf of JACL to various decision-making bodies (e.g., the Legislature, Board of Education, etc.) and print media, respectively.

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA"), Board of Directors

2009 – Present

Vice President, Director. Coordinated and/or assisted with the organization of various NAPABA sponsored events and programs including the annual meeting, 2015 regional conference and scholarship.

InspirePolitics.com

2008 – 2012

Founding co-member, Executive Editor, Vice-President & Secretary. Assisted in the establishment, organization and funding of a Hawaii non-profit and 501(c)(4) corporation whose purpose is to increase political participation by fostering a positive image of politics, bridging the generational gap, and supplementing classroom education through an innovative internet networking and education website. Organized and presented at community outreach events to inform and engage the community about InspirePolitics.com and demonstrate and inform teachers on utilizing InspirePolitics.com curriculum in the classroom.

Hawaii State Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”), Board of Directors

1/2004 – 12/2006

Director. Coordinated and participated in various legal community outreach programs including Law Week, Junior Judges, Legal Line public legal information program including hotline and community clinics, “We the People” Congressional Hearing National Competition program – coached Kahuku High School team and assisted with teacher training; participated in University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law New Student Orientation.

Aloha United WayCommunity Building Committee Member

2008 – 2013

Review and determine Aloha United Way partner agency funding process and procedures. Oversee and approve Impact Council recommendations related to funding of Aloha United Way partner agencies and other operational partner agency issues.

Society of Young Leaders, Planning Committee Member

2008 – 2012

Organized and strategically developed programming for new Aloha United Way group whose intention is to inspire Hawaii’s young professionals to impact community change and encourage community involvement through the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism. Projects include reading, craft and professional education programs (e.g., resume and interview preparation, financial planning) for Next Step homeless shelter in Kakaako, and island-wide school supply collection drive.

Planned Giving Committee Member

2009 – 2012

Develop, monitor, promote and grow Aloha United Way planned giving program which include gifts of cash and securities, wills and trusts, retirement plan proceeds, life insurance proceeds, charitable annuities, real property and an endowment.

Financial Review Committee Member

2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

Reviewed and evaluated audited financial reports and IRS Form 990s of Aloha United Way partner agencies to ensure financial stability of partner agencies; provided recommendations regarding monitoring of partner agencies and improving financial condition.

Community Care Team/Impact Council*Homelessness Impact Council Chair* 2012*Member* 10/2004-2012

Provided oversight and approval of the distribution of funds raised through the Aloha United Way annual campaign. Evaluated effectiveness of Aloha United Way partner agency programs and participated in the development of funding strategies including implementing outcomes, proposal criteria and funding requirements.