



Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission  
sponsors the

**2024 HAWAII ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE**  
**“MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF CIVIL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL”**

Friday, June 21, 2024

William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i  
2515 Dole Street, Classrooms 2 and 3

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast; registration
- 8:30 - 9:00 **Welcome: Former Dean Aviam Soifer and Robert LeClair, co-emcees**
- Hon. Joseph E. Cardoza, Chair, Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, former State of Hawai'i Second Circuit Chief Judge**
- Hon. Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice, Hawai'i Supreme Court**
- 9:00 - 10:00 **“The Future of Justice Work”**  
**Nikole Nelson**, chief executive officer, Frontline Justice,  
and **Rebecca L. Sandefur**, professor and director of the Sanford School of  
Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:45 **Collaborations During A Crisis**  
**[Commission Chair Judge Cardoza (facilitator), Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, David Kopper, Wendy Hudson]**  
Mobilization in times of disasters to meet the legal needs of the affected communities and necessary coordination with the nonprofit legal services.
- 11:45 - 12:45 Light lunch
- 12:45 - 2:00 Afternoon concurrent workshops:
1. **“Serving ‘Ōiwi Communities After a Disaster”**  
**[Kirsha Durante, Heidi Ho, U‘ilani Goods, Jeffrey Foster]** On this panel, attorneys with experience responding to disasters and serving the needs of ‘ōiwi communities will discuss the issues most acutely facing those communities and how legal services providers can be best prepared to serve their needs and help ensure their rights are respected.
  2. **“Increasing Access to Justice --What’s Mediation Got to Do With It?”**  
**[Tracey Wiltgen (facilitator), Judge Adrienne Heely, Judge M. Kanani Laubach, Bevanne Bowers, Julie Mitchell]**  
This session will provide insight into how mediation is adapted to increase access to justice, why certain mediation approaches are different, and how mediation centers and the courts balance quality mediation for everyone with limited resources, high case volumes, and the need for timely services.

3. **“Uplifting the Voices of Foster Youth”**  
**[Laurie Tochiki (facilitator), Dana Matsunami, Delia Ulima, Melissa Mayo]** An update from the Malama Ohana Working Group on what it is learning about the access to justice needs of youth in care, an introduction to the right to counsel for youth in child welfare cases, and a discussion on youth’s role in their own case planning.

4. **“Initiatives to Facilitate Access to Justice”**  
**[Judge Darien Ching Nagata (facilitator), Nikole Nelson, Jessica Uchida]** This session will discuss nonlawyer initiatives and in particular, a pilot project that was recently authorized by the Hawai‘i Supreme Court and other nonlawyer initiatives. The Rural Paternity program permits a qualified Advocate employed by Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i to appear in family court under the supervision of a licensed attorney in certain paternity, child custody, and visitation matters.

2:00 - 2:15 Break

2:15 - 3:30 Afternoon concurrent workshops:

5. **“Decisional Capacity--Legal and Clinical Perspectives”**  
**[James Pietsch, Dr. Marvin Acklin]** This session will provide an overview of decisional capacity issues encountered by legal and clinical practitioners in working with individuals, health care providers, institutions, and the legal system. It will explore methodologies of determining decisional capacity as well as legal, ethical and practical considerations for both legal and clinical practitioners.

6. **“Access and Obstacles in Obtaining Public Benefits for Immigrants”**  
**[Corey Park (facilitator), Kevin Block, Rebecca Leibowitz]**  
In this session, attorneys with direct experience in serving Hawai‘i’s immigrant communities will provide a general overview of eligibility for different types of benefits and share their insights and best practices to assist immigrants in accessing those benefits. The panel will discuss obstacles and barriers to accessing benefits and the applicable lessons about overcoming these challenges learned from the Maui wildfires and the COVID pandemic.

7. **“I Want to Do Pro Bono, But Where Do I Begin?”**  
**[Rachel Figueroa (facilitator), Grant Teichman, Jennifer Chin, Sharla Manley]**  
This session will discuss different ways to deliver pro bono services. Panelists will discuss and answer questions about various pro bono opportunities including limited-scope assistance such as answering an online client question to the more complex, such as coordinating pro bono services for an entire firm.

8. **“Cultural and Linguistic Peer Support for Overcoming Barriers to Access to Justice”**  
**[Heather Lusk (facilitator), Judge Michael Town (ret.), Aphirak Bamrungruan, Toni Bissen]**  
This panel will provide updates and emerging practices in utilizing peer support to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services, education, and navigation. Discussions will include forensic peer specialists, translation and interpretation services from peers, and learning from members of the community how to best ensure culture humility is the foundation of justice work. Resources for cultural and linguistic support will be provided.

9. **“Reevaluating Fines, Fees, and Punishments for Non-Serious Traffic Offenses”**  
**[Gavin Thornton (facilitator), Abbey Seitz]** This session will focus on reevaluating fees and fines to promote equity.

3:35 - 4:15 **Plenary: “Meeting the Challenges of Civil Access to Justice for All”**  
**[Regan Iwao, Nikole Nelson, Rebecca Sandefur]**

4:15 “Hawai‘i Pono‘i”