



**VOLUNTEER LEGAL
SERVICES HAWAII**

VLSH Hawai'i Online Pro Bono

Hawai'i Online Probono (HOP) has become a primary, alternative way for people to request assistance with their legal issues during this time of uncertainty and while they are abiding to the "stay at home" order.

Attorneys: While you are working from home, HOP asks for your assistance answering 1 or 2 (or more!) questions on its [website](#). Individuals have questions posted including but not limited to family law, estate planning, landlord-tenant, small claims, and bankruptcy. A few minutes of your time can make a world of difference to Hawai'i residents in need.

A new branch off the existing [Hawaii Online Pro Bono](#) specifically for federal legal matters including immigration and veterans issues has launched [here](#). This website focuses on the following federal legal issues:

Immigration Veterans

Please reach out to HOP if you have any questions on how to set up a volunteer attorney account at hopadmin@vlsh.org. Mahalo!

VLSH Neighborhood Advice and Counsel Clinics (via phone)

VLSH staff completes a full intake and will provide conflicts check and background information to the volunteer attorney the week prior to volunteering. Attorneys will provide advice and counsel for approximately 45 minutes over the phone. Volunteer attorneys generally will have 3-4 clients per clinic shift. VLSH needs volunteer attorneys in family law, estate planning, bankruptcy (high need!), and district court matters. Email volunteer@vlsh.org to sign up!

VLSH Re-Employment & Community Service (RACS)

The Re-Employment and Community Service Program (RACS) program is

hsbawellbeing@gmail.com, [@hsbawellbeing](#) via Instagram, and via the [Hawaii Lawyer Well-Being](#) Group on LinkedIn if you have any suggestions! Visit our webpage on the HSBA website for more information and well-being resources – link [here](#).

Diversity Equality and Inclusion Member Spotlight: Jill Dana Raznov



Attorney and mediator, Jill Dana Raznov, is of counsel with the law offices of Yeh & Kim, LLLC (formerly Yeh & Moore) and is the principal of "A Bridge to Communication, LLC" offering mediation, facilitation, arbitration and neutral services Statewide. Jill, originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law (2003) and clerked for Ret. Justice Richard W. Pollack when he was

a circuit court Judge. Jill practiced with Ning, Lilly & Jones and worked for the Legal Aid Society in Hilo. She is an Ashkenazi Jew, has taught Hebrew school at Temple Emanu-El in Honolulu and is a member of the congregation 'Ahava Aina in Hilo.

What is your ethnicity and cultural background?

I am a little over 80% Ashkenazi Jewish, according to a home genetic test I did several years ago. Two thousand years ago, Jews were expelled from their homeland in an area of the world that is now known as Israel and also Palestine. Ashkenazi Jews settled in Europe and Sephardic Jews settled in Africa and other parts of the middle east. These groups evolved into distinct ethnicities which appear in our DNA and also in differing skin tones, hair color and texture, customs and foods. My paternal ancestors changed the family name to Raznov at the turn of the 20th century to avoid antisemitism in Eastern Europe. When my paternal grandfather immigrated to the U.S. before World War II, there was disagreement about how to spell Raznov in English. All of his cousins are named Rasnow. There are no other Raznovs as far as we know; all the rest were killed in the Holocaust.

Why did you want to practice law on Big Island?

My husband moved to Kalapana in the Big Island's Puna District in the early 1980's when he was 18 and learned to surf in the storied surf breaks of Kaimu Beach. After Pele covered most of Kalapana and Kaimu with layers of lava, my husband went to graduate school on the mainland and then moved to Honolulu to live and work. We met checking the surf at Diamond Head in 2004 and shared dreams of owning acreage and building a sustainable homestead. We also began planning to get married and start a family. As we looked around at the price of homes and land and considered the lifestyle we wanted for ourselves in the future, we decided to move back to Puna, where land was affordable and plentiful, where life seemed calmer and more tranquil and where our dreams could be better realized. Looking back, this decision was spot on. The Big Island is, in

designed to assist those who want to be employed but are held back due to a license stopper for unpaid traffic fines. VLSH staff and Volunteer Attorneys assist RACS participants with drafting court documents to recall outstanding traffic cases which allows the underlying citation fines to be converted to community service hours at the discretion of the presiding judge. In some instances, the fines and fees may be reduced, or a payment plan may be arranged. Volunteer Attorneys accompanying program participants to court to make day of court appearance. For more information, visit www.vlsh.org.

Call the Intake Line

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Main/O'ahu (808) 528-7046

Hawai'i Island (808) 313-8210

Kaua'i (808) 698-8210

Maui (808) 727-8210

Fax: (808) 524-2147

my opinion, one of the most desirable places to live and work in the world. We do not contend with crazy traffic. Most people behave with integrity, as there is so little anonymity in such a small community. The pace tends to be a bit slower and more relaxed. There is truly a undercurrent of kindness, helpfulness and joy, among all professions, including the Hawai'i County Bar Association.

Your parents, siblings and extended family are all on the East Coast. Why have you stayed in Hawai'i?

I have had nightmares off and on for 22 years that I moved back to the mainland. My heart ached in these dreams from missing Hawai'i. When I visited my family during law school, I would weep on the return flight over O`ahu, breathless at its beauty and grateful to be back. Hawai'i is my home. I have never lived anywhere else for as long. The connection I have to this place is so deeply resonant for me, that it is difficult at this stage in my life to imagine living anywhere else. So much of my adult identity from age 29 to now, at age 51, has been forged in Hawai'i. In 2015, my husband and I bought three acres of raw land in Puna and built a small, off-grid, custom home and homestead with a shared vision of living sustainable lives in our daily choices. I envision living out my life here, stewarding our home, land, trees, plants and animals and raising our son to adulthood. I honor and appreciate my Hawai'ian host culture for accepting and permitting me to reside here for so long in peace and harmony with so much joy and abundance. I want and try to give back in every way I can.

How can Hawai'i improve to promote diversity, equity and inclusion and eliminate bias?

I think that America in general and Hawai'i specifically have worked hard for decades to promote diversity, equity and inclusion and eliminate bias. We have enacted, enforced and interpreted targeted laws; instituted programs at work and in schools; exposed ourselves to transformative ideas in books, magazines, music, movies, television, and on the radio and the internet; protested and spoke out in various ways; and had difficult conversations in our living rooms and in the broader public arena. But, we are also seeing a pushback and a backwards trend right now with some states and cities enacting laws designed to penalize certain ideas and expressive behaviors and banning books covering topics that some find unpalatable or intolerable. As we have seen and even experienced at times in our world history, it can be dangerous and harmful when speech and ideas are suppressed, people are demonized for their identities, and their stories are covered up or devalued. We must continue to vociferously oppose these tactics, with civility, empathy and non-violence, recognizing that they arise out of fear and long-held, deeply ingrained ideas that will not be eliminated by yelling louder or shaming people. We must continue to communicate with each other and reject binary thinking, which naturally generates conflict by reinforcing bias, refuse to normalize extremist language and behaviors designed to divide and misinform, and call out hatred and intolerance when we see it. We must rise up for ourselves and each other whenever we are called to do so. It is only in silence that evil and hatred can perpetuate. Our human instinct is to build walls, both physically and metaphorically, in an effort to be safer. But we will only be truly safe once we break down these walls and learn to tolerate and accept each other, with all of our beautiful differences, like a rainbow after the storm. In the Genesis story of the Bible, the rainbow was God's

covenant with Noah after the flood, to never again threaten humanity with extinction. But, we must keep our covenant too. Noah recognized that every animal was worthy of rescuing. We are all like the animals in this respect and the rainbow, each of a different color, form and identity, each worthy of living our best life in peace, prosperity and safety, to have our individual stories be told and heard and valued, and to shine as brightly as we can.

How do you make people from all backgrounds feel like they belong?

We must truly come to believe in our hearts that all people are equally valuable and deserve to be safe, supported and loved. I have always had a strong commitment to volunteering in my community. I give my legal services pro bono to the neighborhood judiciary self-help and mediation centers. When people who have hit hard times receive care and assistance from other community members who might be faring better at that moment, we build connection and self-worth for all involved. This creates energy and a momentum that can build bridges, mend fences, and ultimately change the world. Many of us look to others who we perceive as having a greater platform of power, money and audience to change the world. I disagree 100%. We can all be micro-activists in our individual thoughts, speech and deeds, which can be extremely powerful and empowering, especially when we act collectively for the greater good.

What is on your dream board or bucket list?

I dream of sailing and travelling the world, going on meditation retreats, surfing into my 80s and beyond, creating more sustainable and ecologically-conscious living practices in my life, continuing to expand my curiosity and capacity for love, and being a peacemaker wherever, with whomever and in whatever situations I find myself. I also have nurtured a fantasy for decades of opening a Jewish delicatessen in Hilo serving delicious homemade bagels and lox, pickles, potato knishes, matza ball soup and borscht. I love to cook and imagine doing this when I retire! I also dream of changing the world, through one thought, one act, one word, and one planted seed at a time, and I try to do this daily.



**THE 14th ANNUAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
2022 Fellows**

**Congratulations to the 14th Annual Leadership Institute
Class:**

- Jocelyn Chong