

## 2009 ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE LAW UPDATE FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

### PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS

#### **Norma M. Ginther, M.S.W., L.I.S.W.**

Norma M. Ginther is an internationally known Child Welfare consultant and trainer working throughout the United States, Canada, and Eastern Europe. Today, she works as Director of Norma M. Ginther Consulting and Training, LLC.

Ms. Ginther received a Masters degree in Social Work from Ohio State University. She worked for 10 years as a caseworker, and fostered 46 adolescents with her husband over the course of 18 years, before beginning her training career.

Ms. Ginther worked with the Institute for Human Services in Columbus, Ohio, for more than 21 years conducting workshops for social workers on adoption, foster care, kinship services, adolescent development, and independent living skills. She educated judges and court staff on separation, placement and attachment issues, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and on implementing daily family contact programs for children in care and their parents. Additionally, Ms. Ginther helped the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges develop permanency initiatives, and she assisted juvenile courts to implement and promote best practice standards. She also testified as an expert witness through the Family Trust Clinic, a division of the Institute for Human Services.

Ms. Ginther co-authored *Separation and Placement in Child Welfare*, a module of training for the core curriculum for all Ohio caseworkers, *Culture and Diversity for Supervisors and Social Workers*, and *Building Skills in Family Risk Assessment*, and *Family Interaction: The Expressway to Permanency*.

She and her husband have four children, one of whom is adopted.

#### **Mervlyn Kitashima**

“Merv” Kitashima is the Parent Coordinator for the Parents and Alumni Relations Department at the Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama campus. Before beginning her employment there, she worked for sixteen years developing parent and family involvement curriculum and training for the State of Hawai‘i’s Department of Education’s Parent Community Networking Center Program, and for Hawai‘i’s parents, teachers and administrators. Mrs. Kitashima served on the Aloha Council of the Boy Scouts of America and on the Governor’s Commission on Teacher Morale, as commissioner of the Aloha Region USA Junior Volleyball, and on many other community and educational organizations.

Drawing on her experiences as a teenage mother, mother of seven, grandmother of eleven, and wife of 37 years, Mrs. Kitashima is a motivating communicator. She lectures at seminars and conferences across the United States and in Canada on juvenile justice, education, student assistance, and children and resiliency. Her speaking engagements have included institutes and seminars at universities and colleges; state and national conferences; and numerous schools, organizations, communities, and churches.

In 2003, Mrs. Kitashima was named the State of Hawai‘i and the National Mother of the Year by American Mothers Incorporated, an organization dedicated to strengthening the moral and spiritual foundation of the home and family.

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### **SPEAKERS**

#### **Honorable James S. Burns (Ret.)**

Judge James S. Burns received his Juris Doctor degree in 1962 from Villanova Law School in Pennsylvania. In this same year, Judge Burns was admitted to the Hawai`i State Bar and was also drafted into the United States Army, where he served for two years before enlisting with the Hawai`i National Guard for the next twelve. Throughout this period, Judge Burns practiced law privately until he became a Per Diem Hawai`i District Court Judge in 1976. In 2007, he retired as Chief Judge from the Hawai`i Intermediate Court of Appeals. Judge Burns is now an adjunct Professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

#### **Lee Dean, M.S.W., L.S.W.**

Lee Dean, M.S.W., ACSW, NASW is an Assistant Program Development Administrator for the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Services Branch. He has a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. He has been a social worker for approximately 30 years, 10 years of which has been in program development. Mr. Dean is the Independent Living Statewide Coordinator for Hawai'i and Hawai'i's Foster Care Manager.

#### **Thomas Haia, Esq.**

Thomas Haia received his Juris Doctor degree in 1995 from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Since then, he has practiced law privately for over a decade, specializing in Family Law. Mr. Haia is also a foster parent.

#### **Martin S. Hirsch, M.D.**

Dr. Hirsch received his medical degree and psychiatric training from the University of Kansas. He is board certified in adult and child psychiatry, and is on the clinical faculty of the University of Hawai'i, Department of Psychiatry. His previous professional experience includes military psychiatry, Medical Director of a child and adolescent program with the Brown School, consultant to several school districts, and attending psychiatrist for an adolescent unit at San Antonio State Hospital. His professional interests include system issues in Mental Health Service, Family Therapy, Conduct Disorder youth, and Mood Disorder youth. Dr. Hirsch assumed the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) Medical Director position on April 1, 2009. Prior to this, Dr. Hirsch was Clinical Director for the Family Court Liaison Branch for three years and Honolulu Family Guidance Center Clinical Director for five years.

#### **Honorable Christine E. Kuriyama**

Judge Kuriyama graduated from Hastings College of Law in California. She was admitted to the Hawai`i State Bar in 1979. She has worked as a sole practitioner specializing in civil litigation and was a partner at Fukunaga Matayoshi Hershey Kuriyama & Ching from 1992-1994. Judge Kuriyama later served as a Per Diem Family Court Judge for the First Circuit before being appointed in 2004 to her current position as a District Family Court Judge.

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**Calvin Pang, Esq.**

Calvin Pang received his Juris Doctor degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law where he is now an Associate professor and co-Director of the Clinical Law Program. Professor Pang's courses include "Family Law" and "Children, Parents, and the Law" (also known as "Keiki Law"). Professor Pang serves on the boards of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and Lawyers for Equal Justice. He is also an appointee to several committees of the Association of American Law Schools.

**Patrick Pascual, Esq.**

Patrick Pascual graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1983. He currently works as a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division and has held this position for 15 years.

**Steve Shiraki, Ph.D.**

Steve Shiraki received a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, with a specialization in Educational Administration and Educational Policy, from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He has fourteen years of classroom experience and is a certified special education teacher. Dr. Shiraki served as a vice-principal at three elementary schools and as a district level educational specialist for special education and student support services. Currently, he is an Administrator for the Student Support Services Branch in the Department of Education.

**Michael Tanigawa, Esq.**

Michael Tanigawa earned his Juris Doctor degree at Hastings College of Law. He has worked as a deputy public defender for the State of Hawai'i, as a partner at Char Sakamoto Ishii Lum & Ching, and as an adjunct Professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Today, Mr. Tanigawa is a staff attorney at the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals and a member of the board of directors of the Association for Conflict Resolution Hawai'i. In the fall, he plans to teach criminal law to paralegals at Kapi'olani Community College.