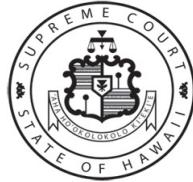


# Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i



## *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, **John Thomas Vail** was born on June 22, 1932. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Georgetown University in 1954. After graduating, Judge Vail served several years in the U.S. Marine Corps, and then attended Georgetown University Law School where he earned his law degree in 1961; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Judge Vail was admitted to the Hawai‘i Bar Association and began his legal career on the Island of Maui, where he served as Deputy Corporation Counsel and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. In 1964, Judge Vail went into private practice as an associate with the firm of Heen, Kai & Dodge; and later was a partner with Meyer Ueoka. In 1975, Judge Vail went into solo practice with an emphasis in civil and criminal litigation, contracts, will, trusts, probate, and family court matters; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 1981, the Judiciary became the beneficiary of Judge Vail’s wisdom and expertise when he was appointed by Chief Justice Herman T.F. Lum as a Per Diem District Court Judge in the Second Circuit. On April 28, 1989, he was appointed by Chief Justice Lum to serve full time as Judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit. On December 1, 1993, Judge Vail was assigned by Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon to serve as the Administrative Judge of the District Court of the Second Circuit, a position he held until his retirement on December 20, 1996. On July 10, 1997, Judge Vail returned to the bench, serving again as a Per Diem District Court Judge, until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 in June, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Judge Vail’s service throughout his nearly twenty-one years on the bench was marked with honor and distinction. He ran his courtroom in a no-nonsense manner, but was known by all to have a kind and generous heart. Outside the courtroom, he had an affinity for automobiles, was an avid cyclist, and found relaxation in golfing. His contributions to the courts and the Island of Maui will always be remembered, and he will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i State Judiciary expresses its sincere condolences to the family of the late Honorable John Thomas Vail and extends our sincere appreciation for his many contributions to Hawaii’s legal community.

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State  
of Hawai‘i, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.*

/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald

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**MARK E. RECKTENWALD**  
Chief Justice, Hawai‘i State Supreme Court