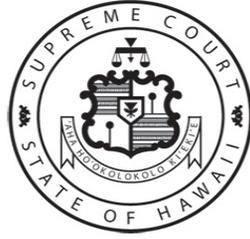


# Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i



## *Proclamation*

*WHEREAS, Associate Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr., graduated from Farrington High School in 1962; earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Hawai‘i, with honors, in 1966; and received his Law Degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 1969; and*

*WHEREAS, Justice Acoba began his legal career as a law clerk to Chief Justice William S. Richardson. He then served as a special assistant to University of Hawai‘i President Harlan Cleveland before becoming a Deputy Attorney General, and then entering into private practice. While in private practice, he also served as an adjunct professor and instructor at the University of Hawai‘i School of Law and Hawai‘i Pacific University, and as a majority attorney for the House of Representatives; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1979, the Hawai‘i State Judiciary became the beneficiary of Justice Acoba’s wisdom and experience when Chief Justice Richardson appointed him as a Per Diem District Court Judge. Eight months later, Governor George Ariyoshi appointed him as a Circuit Court judge, where he served for 14 years handling various calendars, including criminal, civil, tax court and land court cases, and complex litigation. In May 1994, Governor John Waihe‘e appointed him to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, and six years later, Governor Benjamin Cayetano appointed him as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai‘i, where he has served with distinction for the last 14 years; and*

*WHEREAS, during his tenure on the supreme court, Justice Acoba became known as one of Hawaii’s most productive jurists. He has issued over 200 published majority opinions and nearly the same number of separate, concurring and/or dissenting opinions. His opinions reflect a rigorous and principled analytical approach and have had a substantial impact in protecting individual rights in areas including criminal law and criminal procedure; and*

*WHEREAS, Justice Acoba has a deep commitment to expanding access to justice and improving the administration of justice. He serves as Chair of the Judiciary’s Strategic Planning Committee for Access to Justice and Co-Chair of HSBA’s Judicial Administration Committee. He was the founding Chair of Hawaii’s Access to Justice Commission, and served in that capacity from 2008 to 2010. He continues to be a very active member of the Commission, serving as its Co-Chair and as Chair of various subcommittees. Under his leadership, the Commission has achieved impressive results, including the opening of Self-Help Centers, or Access to Justice Rooms, in our courthouses; promulgating model pro bono policies; and successfully advocating for a change in court rules allowing residual funds in class action lawsuits to be distributed to legal services organizations; and*

*WHEREAS, among Justice Acoba’s many professional honors are the Distinguished Service Award from the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the 2013 Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence from the American Judicature Society. These awards reflect the high regard in which he is held in Hawai‘i and nationally; and*

*WHEREAS, in addition to his many professional contributions, Justice Acoba has been an unwavering source of friendship, goodwill, and aloha to countless Judiciary employees, attorneys, and other members of our community, and a valued colleague and friend of his fellow judges and justices; and*

*WHEREAS, although his retirement after years of dedicated service to the legal community and the people of Hawai‘i is, indeed, well-deserved, he will be greatly missed; and*

*WHEREAS, the Judiciary ‘Ohana extends to Justice Acoba their heartfelt appreciation for the privilege and honor of working with him for the past 35 years, and extends best wishes to him, his wife, Carolyn, and their family, for continued good health and prosperity.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK E. RECKTENWALD, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim Justice Acoba’s last day at the Judiciary, February 28, 2014, to be*

***SIMEON R. ACOBA, JR., DAY***  
***in the Courts of the State of Hawai‘i***

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i, this 21st day of February, 2014.*

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