

Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i



Proclamation

*WHEREAS, since his graduation from Yale Law School in 1972, **AVIAM SOIFER** has had a distinguished law teaching career as a Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law, as Dean and Professor at Boston University School of Law, and since the Spring of 2003, as Dean and Professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law; and*

WHEREAS, in addition to the many professional accomplishments that Dean Soifer has attained throughout his career, including an extensive record of scholarly publications, his unfaltering commitment to increasing access to justice in Hawai‘i is at the forefront of his legacy. Dean Soifer has been a member of the Access to Justice Commission since its inception in 2008, and has been instrumental in formulating its many significant initiatives. Moreover, he has hosted the annual Access to Justice Conference at the William S. Richardson School of Law, secured keynote speakers from across the nation who are champions for increasing access to justice, and expanded the role, services, and support that the William S. Richardson School of Law provides in advocating for the most vulnerable and underserved members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Dean Soifer is an extremely effective leader of the law school and highly respected in the community. He has heightened the reputation of the law school, not only as an outstanding institution of legal education, but as a strong and active partner in innovative access to justice programs such as the Hawai‘i Innocence Project, a law clinic comprised of volunteer law students and attorneys whose mission is to free prisoners who are factually innocent but who have been wrongfully convicted; HELP, the legal incubator project, which assisted graduates and other lawyers who sought to support themselves while they offered low-cost or free legal services to clients with limited resources; and the Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic that provides students with a deeper understanding of the impact of law on the disadvantaged and unprivileged. He has also supported numerous other opportunities for pro bono service by law students, and has spearheaded efforts to develop the school’s new Clinical Building; and

WHEREAS, Dean Soifer has been a strong supporter of Hawai‘i’s judicial system, including the Supreme Court’s Courts in the Community program, which holds oral argument proceedings in communities across the State, with assistance from the Students for Public Outreach and Civic Education.

*NOW, THEREFORE, the Hawai‘i State Judiciary expresses its sincere appreciation to **AVIAM SOIFER** for the many ways in which he has increased access to justice, and advocated for those whose voices might not otherwise be heard.*

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State
of Hawai‘i, this 7th day of June, 2019.*

/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald

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