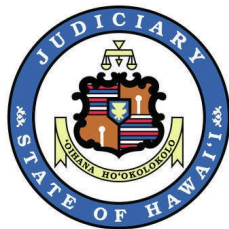


Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i



2021 JURIST OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Richard T. Bissen Jr. 's distinguished judicial career began in 2005 when he was appointed by Governor Linda Lingle as a Circuit Court Judge in the Second Circuit. In June 2019, he became the Chief Judge of the Second Circuit, a role he has performed with extraordinary integrity and excellence.

Judge Bissen had a distinguished career in public service before he became a judge. After graduating from the William S. Richardson School of Law, he served as Maui County Prosecuting Attorney, as First Deputy Attorney General, and as the Director of Public Safety. These experiences provided him great insight into the complex situations and challenges that those in the community face, and an understanding of how government can more effectively meet their needs. As a jurist, he has successfully used those insights as evidenced by his exceptional leadership, innovative problem-solving techniques, and wise and compassionate decisions.

These attributes were put to the most challenging of tests by the COVID-19 pandemic. As Chief Judge, he guided the Second Circuit through monumental challenges with intelligence and heart, displaying an impressive ability to work closely with his team and community partners to continue the important work of the Judiciary, while ensuring a safe working environment in our courthouses. He navigated these challenges with a calm yet commanding approach and earned the respect and trust of fellow judges, staff, and members of the community. He was always guided by his heartfelt concern and appreciation for each employee in the circuit. He consistently displayed a positive can-do attitude and remained humble throughout, always crediting and acknowledging everyone for the team's success.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Judge Bissen remained focused on the Second Circuit's services that are so vital to the people of Maui County. He has been proactive about maintaining access to justice through innovative programs such as the Self-Help Center and the Court Navigator Program. He enthusiastically welcomed the Judiciary's newest initiative - the Online Dispute Resolution Pilot Project - which provides an opportunity for parties to open, litigate, and even mediate or settle their case online, without ever having to enter the courthouse.

Judge Bissen is a consummate professional with a wealth of knowledge, a strong work ethic, a deep commitment to public service, and a love of Maui County and its people. He is a humble and gracious leader who treats everyone with respect.

*The Jurist of the Year is selected for exceptional judicial competence evidenced by decisional quality, significant extra-judicial contributions to the administration of justice, and active participation in public service to the community at large. **On behalf of the Hawai'i State Judiciary, it is my privilege to bestow upon the Honorable Richard T. Bissen Jr. the recognition of 2021 Jurist of the Year.***

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State
of Hawai'i, this 29th day of October, 2021.*

/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald

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