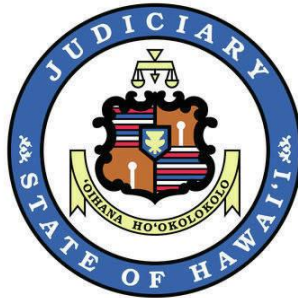


Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i



THE HONORABLE ROBERT D.S. KIM 2023 JURIST OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Robert D.S. Kim was sworn in as Judge of the Circuit Court of the Third Circuit on November 21, 2017, after his appointment to the bench by Governor David Y. Ige. Judge Kim quickly established himself as a highly competent, fair and well-respected trial judge. His extensive prior experience as a civil, criminal, and family law litigator in both the private and public sectors, provided him with superior skills in understanding the parties' positions and reaching well-reasoned decisions.

On July 1, 2020, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Judge Kim was appointed as the Chief Judge of the Third Circuit. He has been a highly effective problem solver, who sees the bigger picture and quickly develops a plan to overcome obstacles, build consensus, and move forward. Chief Judge Kim did an exceptional job addressing the myriad of challenges that arose during the pandemic. Under his leadership, the Third Circuit quickly transitioned to using remote hearings to minimize the number of people coming to courthouses, and has since conducted nearly 188,000 such hearings. He also addressed the serious staffing shortage the Third Circuit faced and the temporary closure of the South Kohala Courthouse, working through many challenges to reopen it for in-person hearings in July 2022. He became known as the Third Circuit's "MacGuyver," innovating ways to keep the work of the courts going, and ensuring that services to the Big Island community were not compromised.

Chief Judge Kim maintains excellent communications with the Big Island bar, and convened meetings on pressing challenges including the pandemic and mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system. He has been forthright in publicly addressing challenges in the criminal justice system, thereby heightening the trust and confidence the public has in our government.

He is also a consummate team player. Upon learning of the devastation that the Maui wildfires caused, he immediately offered staff resources and other support to our Maui court 'ohana. And he is generous in sharing his wisdom and expertise with his fellow judges and staff.

*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 Robert D.S. Kim the recognition of 2023 Jurist of the Year.***

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State
of Hawai‘i, this 29th day of September, 2023.*

/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald

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