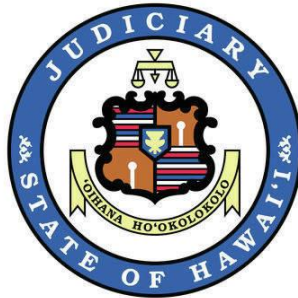


Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i



THE HONORABLE MELANIE MITO MAY 2024 JURIST OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Melanie Mito May was sworn in as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit on June 23, 2011, and has served as the Deputy Chief Judge since December 31, 2019. Judge May quickly established herself as a highly competent, fair and well-respected trial judge, presiding over both criminal and civil cases.

Shortly after becoming the Deputy Chief, Judge May's steadfast leadership proved critical in navigating the myriad challenges the District Court faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her ability to problem-solve and identify a path forward was highly effective as she implemented the use of remote hearings to ensure continued access to the court. Since that time, the District Court of the First Circuit has astonishingly conducted more than 300,000 remote hearings.

Judge May has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to access to justice and improving the lives of all those who come into our courts. This is evident in her work as the current Co-Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Technology, and Self-Represented Litigants, coordinating numerous efforts to increase access to justice, and in the three years she served as the presiding judge for the DWI Court Program, focusing on the rehabilitation of individuals diagnosed with substance use challenges. She has also played a key role over the years in developing and supporting other collaborative projects such as Community Outreach Court and the Re-Employment and Community Service Program, in partnership with Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, which have had a positive impact on the community.

Judge May also lends her talents to the Permanent Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts, the Committee on Judicial Education, and as Chair of the District Court Civil Rules and Forms Committee. These are all vital groups whose work enhances the public's trust and confidence in the work of the Judiciary.

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. Judge May has exemplified all of these qualities and has earned the respect of her colleagues and the community. On behalf of the Hawai'i State Judiciary, it is my privilege to bestow upon the Honorable Melanie Mito May the recognition of 2024 Jurist of the Year.

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State
of Hawai'i, this 20th day of September, 2024.*

/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald

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