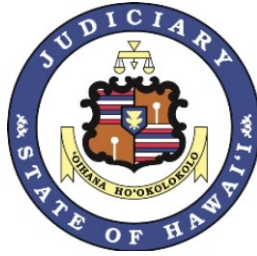


Supreme Court of the State of Hawai‘i



Proclamation

WHEREAS, divorce is often one of the most challenging experiences of a person's life, and resulting in significant changes to family, finances, and living situations. It can be particularly hard for children, whose parents must deal with complex choices about the future, often while contending with intense emotions, which may affect their ability provide a stable home environment; and

WHEREAS, 94 percent of divorce cases in Hawai‘i have at least one party representing themselves, and neither party have an attorney in 62 percent of all cases, primarily because they can't afford one; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2002, prominent family law attorney William C. Darrah launched Divorce Law in Hawai‘i, a free educational lunch-hour seminar to help families address divorce issues constructively. In 2011, he was joined by The Mediation Center of the Pacific's Executive Director Tracey S. Wiltgen, adding to the program's content by educating participants on options, such as mediation, to resolve a divorce without unnecessary conflicts and expense; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Divorce Law in Hawai‘i evolved from an in-person seminar, available only on O‘ahu, to the online videoconference platform Zoom, enabling people to participate from anywhere in the world. As a result, the program has, at the least, tripled the number of participants who join each monthly session, and has benefited thousands of individuals at no cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, having today reached the milestone of 300 presentations of Divorce Law in Hawai‘i and in appreciation and admiration for the unwavering dedication and commitment of William Darrah and Tracey Wiltgen, and the outstanding benefits the program provides to Hawai‘i's families, I do hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 16, 2025, to be

***“DIVORCE LAW IN HAWAI‘I 300th SEMINAR CELEBRATION DAY”
in the Courts of the State of Hawai‘i.***

*DONE, at the Supreme Court of the State
of Hawai‘i, this 16th day of July, 2025.*

Mark E. Recktenwald

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