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Judy A. Tanaka

Stockholder / Director

Excellence. Trustworthy. Judy Tanaka’s clients know they can expect these qualities when they seek her legal services. Judy understands that client service is of paramount priority, and she does not stop simply because the sun sets or the weekend arrives. She is steadfast in her commitment to achieving peoples’ goals effectively and efficiently, through vigorous and skillful litigation, arbitration, negotiation or mediation. Whether individuals or businesses find themselves in need of an attorney for the first time or whether they have worked with attorneys before, Judy guides them through the process to ensure they have the information necessary to make well-founded business decisions.

Judy, who was born and raised in Honolulu and knows how to navigate through local channels, has filed actions on behalf of and has defended clients in federal and state courts in Hawai`i on a wide range of disputes. Judy represents companies as well as individuals in construction matters (both residential and commercial), including owners, design professionals, subcontractors, and suppliers in matters involving construction defects, performance and payment disputes, and mechanic’s liens. She also represents clients on issues relating to real estate development, commercial leasing, real property title insurance, quiet title, lender liability, insurance coverage, corporate and partnership matters, and other commercial litigation.

In addition to representing clients in complex commercial, construction, and real estate litigation, Judy defends national corporations in toxic tort litigation filed in State, Federal and appellate courts of the State of Hawai`i, including claims relating to exposure to asbestos and pesticides. Judy has negotiated favorable resolutions of these cases, often resulting in reasonable, nominal settlements that limit her clients’ risk and exposure.

Judy also counsels people on business transactions such as entity formation, commercial leasing and contracts, purchase and sale of businesses, and other related commercial matters. Her robust experience and skills as a litigator provide her with a unique advantage when giving advice on non-litigation matters. “Having litigated countless cases, my litigation background is a

definite asset when counseling clients on their transactional needs. I know the pitfalls to avoid, and I am in a unique and excellent position to offer them preventive, proactive advice so they can avoid litigation in the first instance.”

Judy’s clients include local, small businesses to national corporations doing business in Hawai`i. They all have one core requirement that is key to Judy’s practice: “No matter the size, understanding and achieving the client’s goals is essential.”

Judy serves on the panel of court appointed arbitrators for the Hawai`i Court-Annexed Arbitration Program and has presided over numerous tort arbitrations.

Practice Areas

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Complex Commercial Litigation
Construction
Corporate and Business
Insurance Coverage
Litigation
Mortgage Banking Law
Real Estate
Real Estate and Title Litigation

Admitted to Practice

Hawai`i
U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai`i
U.S Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Awards and Recognition

Best Lawyers in America®
Martindale-Hubbell AV rating
Benchmark Litigation

- Future Star: General Commercial (2015)

Affiliations

Hawaii State Bar Association
Federal Bar Association
American Bar Association
Arbitrator, Hawai`i Court-Annexed Arbitration Program
Hawaii Delegate, United States District Court Judicial Conference

Education

William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai`i (JD)
University of Hawai`i (BBA with Distinction, Management)