Judicial Independence in Peril: Impacts on Justice for Kānaka Maoli

Several bills attacking the independence of the judiciary are pending in the Hawai‘i State Legislature. These bills are widely seen as political retaliation for court rulings relating to Native Hawaiian issues. Panelists will discuss the implications of this assault on the judiciary, as well as the importance of an independent judiciary, as one of the foundations of a functioning democracy.

Former Governor John D. Waiheʻe ‘76
Governor Waiheʻe served as the fourth governor of Hawai‘i, from 1986 to 1994. He began his political career as a delegate to the 1978 Hawai‘i State Constitutional Convention, where he was instrumental in the creation of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the adoption of ʻōlelo Hawai‘i as an official state language. Gov. Waiheʻe also served in the Hawai‘i House of Representatives and as Lieutenant Governor. In 2011, he was appointed as Chair of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission, established by Act 195, which officially recognizes Native Hawaiians as the indigenous, aboriginal people of Hawai‘i.

Calvin E. Young ‘82
Calvin Young is a partner with the Goodsill Anderson Quill & Stifel firm and was the 2014 president of the Hawai‘i State Bar Association (HSBA). In 2012, he received the HSBA ‘Ikena Award for outstanding service to the public in legal education and was also named Alumnus of the Year by the William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association. Calvin served as a member of the Disciplinary Board of the Hawai‘i Supreme Court from 1995 to 2001, and has also been a member of the Commission on Professionalism since 2005.

Retired Hawai‘i Supreme Court Justice Levinson
Justice Levinson was appointed to the First Circuit Court in 1989 and then the Hawai‘i Supreme Court in 1992, where he served as an Associate Justice until retiring in 2008. Before serving on the bench, he was in private practice for 17 years. Justice Levinson is the newest member of the Honolulu Police Commission and currently serves on the boards of the ACLU of Hawai‘i and TAG-The Actors’ Group.

Moderated by: Troy J.H. Andrade ‘11
Troy Andrade is a Visiting Assistant Professor and Interim Director of the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program at the Law School. He is co-chair of the HSBA’s Civic Education Committee and serves on the Executive Board of the Judiciary History Center. Troy is currently Of Counsel with McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP.