THE STATE V. OHA ORAL ARGUMENT: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT?

At issue in State v. OHA is whether the State can transfer “ceded” lands before Native Hawaiians’ “unrelinquished claims” to those lands are resolved. How did the U.S. Supreme Court Justices respond to this issue at the oral argument on February 25th? Come and hear first-hand observations straight from Washington!

Sherry Broder graduated in 1975 from U.C. Berkeley Law School and has practiced in Hawai‘i since 1976. She was Board Counsel for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) for almost twenty-five years and continues to defend the constitutionality of OHA and other Native Hawaiian programs in on-going litigation. Ms. Broder is part of OHA’s legal team for this case.

Richard Naiwi Wurdeman is a 1993 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. He is in private practice focusing on criminal defense and Native Hawaiian rights issues and has served as the president of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association since 2006.

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie is the Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law. She received her law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1976, and has dedicated her career to protecting and advancing Native Hawaiian law. In addition to leading Ka Huli Ao’s programs, she teaches multiple courses, produces scholarship on a wide-range of legal issues, and advises and mentors students. Professor MacKenzie is also a member of OHA’s legal team for this case.

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