UH Law Archives Manager Ellen-Rae Cachola Named One of 15 National Mellon Fellows

UH Law Library Archives Manager Ellen-Rae Cachola has been selected as one of 15 Fellows nationally for the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Heritage (2020-2022.)

Cachola was chosen in the inaugural cohort of Fellows for a new three-year program that includes Rare Book School coursework, community symposia, and additional activities relating to multicultural collections and trainings.

Cachola is the Law Library’s Evening Supervisor and Archives Manager, and has been in charge of new collections such the papers of the late Federal Judge Samuel P. King and eminent legal scholar and UH Professor Jon Van Dyke.

“This fellowship will allow me to showcase our collections in the library, and to engage in dialogue and training with rare books and cultural heritage specialists from across the country,” said Cachola. “It’s an honor to represent our Law Library and the cultures of Hawai‘i.”

Cachola is the granddaughter of Ilocano plantation workers and a mentee of Hawaiian demilitarization organizers. In addition to her work in the Law Library training and supervising student workers in techniques to process library and archival materials for public access, she is a lecturer in the Department of Ethnic Studies at UH Mānoa.

Law Library Director Vicki Szymczak added that Cachola is highly deserving of this national honor, noting that she has taken a leadership role in preserving rare and irreplaceable papers for the Law Library, and making them available for research.

“We are so fortunate to have Ellen-Rae on our team,” said Szymczak. “Her leadership and devotion to archival work is an inspiration and model for anyone who dares to learn from society’s past mistakes and aspires to greatness based on our successes. Her work is so important for all of us.”

Law School Dean Avi Soifer said, “Many of us were aware of the terrific work that Ellen does, but this wonderful national recognition underscores her quiet, yet nonetheless extraordinary, achievements.”
The Mellon Fellowship cohort was chosen from a highly competitive field with more than 60 applicants by a selection committee of leading cultural heritage professionals. Among those chosen are librarians from Harvard University, Trinity College, the University of Texas at Austin, New York University, the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of California, Irvine, and the University of Florida.