

GM1



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

G.M. NO. 1, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, FOR A TERM OF TEN YEARS.

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

DATE: Monday, August 2, 2010 **TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

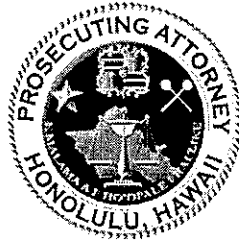
I strongly support the nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti as a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I believe Ms. Castagnetti is highly qualified to serve on the Circuit Court bench. She is a skilled and effective attorney, and her broad and extensive experience -- as a per diem judge, as a special deputy attorney general, as a prosecutor handling serious criminal cases, and as an attorney in private practice handling civil litigation -- has given her a thorough understanding of courtroom procedure and the judicial process. In addition to her other responsibilities, Ms. Castagnetti has also served as a volunteer arbitrator for the Court Annexed Arbitration Program.

Ms. Castagnetti has an outstanding reputation for integrity and fairness. She is intelligent, diligent, and possesses an excellent judicial temperament. She is highly regarded in the community for her professional and personal qualities, and I am confident that she will serve with excellence as a Circuit Court judge. I respectfully ask the Committee to recommend confirmation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515



DOUGLAS S. CHIN
ACTING PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE BRIAN TANIGUCHI, CHAIR
SENATE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Twenty-fifth State Legislature
Interim of 2010
State of Hawaii

August 2, 2010

RE: GM 1; Nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti

Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in strong support of the appointment of Jeannette H. Castagnetti to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Jeannette is well known to many people in our department since she served as law clerk in the Career Criminal Division and as deputy prosecuting attorney in our office. In addition, she has been a district judge in the First Circuit for the past two and a half years where she has successfully handled both civil and criminal matters. In all of our contacts with Jeannette in the office and in court, she has displayed a strong sense of fairness and honesty and the highest levels of professionalism. She has demonstrated a superior knowledge of the law and treated the parties before her and her co-workers with thoughtfulness and respect.

In addition to her criminal litigation experience, Jeannette has extensive civil litigation experience. Despite a demanding schedule as a full time employment as a partner in a private practice and sitting as a per diem judge, Jeannette has served as volunteer arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program.

We believe that given her exemplary service and excellent demeanor as a per diem district court judge, that she is more than capable of serving as a circuit court judge. We strongly support the confirmation of Jeannette Castagnetti and respectfully request your favorable consideration of her nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Testimony of the
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
 relating to the nomination of

JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI
Circuit Court Judge, First Circuit Court

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
 The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
 The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair

Hearing: Monday, August 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.
 Conference Room 229
 State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the qualifications of Jeannette H. Castagnetti for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

In evaluating judicial nominees, the HSBA Board utilizes a modified version of the American Bar Association Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications of Candidates for State Judicial Office. These Guidelines include the following criteria: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, judicial temperament, diligence, financial responsibility, and public service, collegiality and writing ability. The HSBA Board's rating system includes the categories of "qualified" and "not qualified."

As part of its procedures for evaluating and taking positions on judicial and executive appointments, the HSBA Board utilizes a subcommittee of HSBA Board to review materials presented by the nominee and input from members. The subcommittee is also tasked with checking references and contacting others who have knowledge of the nominee's experience and qualifications. The full Board reviews the materials prepared by this subcommittee, the complete materials submitted by the nominee and members and conducts an interview of the nominee.

Taking into consideration all of the information presented by and about the nominee and an interview with the nominee, the vote of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Jeannette H. Castagnetti to be qualified for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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July 30, 2010

Via Email: JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM1: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years

Hearing: August 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

Dear Committee Members:

Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) strongly supports the appointment of Jeannette H. Castagnetti to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit (O'ahu).

Ms. Castagnetti has a broad range of legal experience that will enable her to be a successful Circuit Court Judge and to serve the Hawaii community. Ms. Castagnetti has worked as a prosecuting attorney in the Career Criminal, Domestic Violence, and Juvenile Offenders Divisions, served as special counsel to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Insurance Fraud Division, worked as a litigation associate and now partner with Bronster Hoshibata in trust, commercial and employment litigation matters, and served as a per diem judge at the First Circuit District Court.

Additionally, Ms. Castagnetti has also given back to the Hawaii community by volunteering as an arbitrator in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program and as a barrister in the American Inns of Court, Aloha Chapter, which helps to train younger Hawaii lawyers and students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. All of these experiences make Ms. Castagnetti a strong, qualified candidate for the currently open First Circuit Court judge positions.

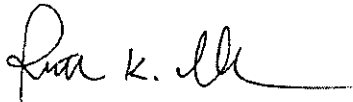
HWL is very concerned that the number of women on the bench does not adequately represent the number of women in the community or the women in the bar. Currently, the First Circuit Court bench reflects a great gender disparity.

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
July 30, 2010
Page 2

HWL is a nonprofit business organization made up of female and male attorneys. The purposes of HWL, as set forth in our Articles of Incorporation, are to (1) improve the status of women in the legal profession; (2) increase the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility; and (3) promote the advancement of all women. Our mission is to improve the lives and careers of women and children in Hawaii. HWL supports qualified women candidates in connection with those purposes. Increasing opportunities for, and improving the visibility of, qualified women in the judiciary are important goals for HWL.

HWL's policy is not to endorse any candidate, simply because that candidate is a woman. Instead, HWL's policy is to support *qualified* female candidates. Accordingly, HWL strongly urges you to confirm the appointment of an eminently qualified and experienced candidate such as Jeannette H. Castagnetti to fill the vacancy on the First Circuit Court.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Oh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ruth Oh

President
HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lane Hornfeck". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent "L" and "H".

Lane Hornfeck

Judicial Equity Committee Chair
HAWAII WOMEN LAWYERS

From: Carroll Taylor [ctaylor@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2010 12:17 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Nomination of Jeannette Castagnetti to the First Circuit Court; August 2, 2010; 1:30 pm

Dear Senators,

I write in strong support of the nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti to the First Circuit Court. I very much appreciate you giving me the opportunity to testify via an email submission; although I would prefer to attend and testify in person so that I could be responsive to any questions that you might have, I leave the State on vacation on July 30th and am therefore unable to do that.

I have been a licensed practicing attorney in Hawaii for 40 years. Much of my practice involves litigation in the First Circuit Court.

Jeannette and I have been on opposite sides of two or three cases, and I have found her to be open-minded, thoughtful, reasonable, intelligent, well prepared and articulate. Her writing is clear and logical. She looks to solve problems, not to prolong or exacerbate them. I think that she would be a strong addition to a Circuit Court bench that is largely bereft of judges with civil litigation experience.

If you have any questions and wish to contact me before I leave, this email address or the phone number listed below is the best method.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this important nomination.

Carroll Taylor

Carroll S. Taylor, Esq.

Taylor, Leong & Chee
737 Bishop St., Ste. 2060
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 528-2222 ext. 23
(808) 523-1869 (fax)

2300 Pauahi Tower
1003 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone 808.524.5644
Fax 808.599.1881
info@bhawaii.net

A Law Corporation

Bronster Hoshibata

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

[XX] Via Facsimile (586-6659)

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Government Operations
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. GM-1: Nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti to the Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Hearing

Date: August 2, 2010

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Jeannette H. Castagnetti as a Judge of the First Circuit Court. I am of counsel to Bronster Hoshibata and have worked closely with Jeannette since 2003 on a variety of civil litigation matters. Jeannette has always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and diligence. In addition, she has consistently maintained good relations with subordinates and staff. Even under the most trying circumstances, she has always treated opposing counsel with civility and respect, so I am sure that her temperament as a Judge will be of the highest caliber. Based on my seven years of experience working with Jeannette, I am sure that she will make an excellent Circuit Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Hatch

From: Daniel Hempey [hemplaw@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2010 9:04 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: GM1 - Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years First Circuit Court.

June 27, 2010

To: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair and the Honorable Dwight T. Takamine, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

Re: GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years

Dear Senators:

I write to recommend Jeanette Castagnetti for appointment to the Oahu Circuit Court bench.

Ms. Castagnetti is an ideal candidate for a judgeship. She has a judicial temperament, a superb knowledge of the law and an admirable commitment to justice.

I have been practicing law for twenty years, ten of which in Hawaii. I also served as a judge pro-tempore for several years, while practicing law on the mainland. During the last eight years, I have had the privilege of working as co-counsel with Ms. Castagnetti on several difficult matters against talented opposing counsel. She is among the best that I have ever worked with.

Ms. Castagnetti is the type of lawyer who does what is right, regardless of the strength or power of her opponent. Her intellect is on par with the best in the business and neither the prospects of hard work nor an opponent's power have ever stopped her from being an excellent and effective advocate. She has an exceptional work ethic. And as a former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and having earned partner status at Bronster Hoshibata law firm, she clearly knows her way around a courtroom.

I personally feel that solid litigation experience is a must for any would-be Circuit Court judge and Ms. Castagnetti has it. On every single occasion that I have heard her in court or in chambers she has demonstrated an exacting knowledge of her case, the applicable rules, and the utmost respect for the court and opposing counsel.

She knows how courts are supposed to work. She knows that justice is supposed to be available to rich and poor alike, and applied regardless of race, power or social status. Over the years I have even come to view Ms. Castagnetti as a role model. I firmly believe that the young lawyers in Hawaii would do well to emulate her.

Although I have been practicing law longer than she has, I often call on her for advice when I am faced with difficult decisions. Jeanette has always given her time freely. I honestly believe, and say without any reservation whatsoever, that if you appoint Ms. Castagnetti that you will be giving a gift to Hawaii's people and leaving a wonderful legacy for yourself. Ms. Castagnetti is the type of person who will settle for nothing short of justice and I expect that she will raise the bar and earn the respect of those who practice before her.

Really, Ms. Castagnetti has more than the makings of a good judge. I personally believe that Ms. Castagnetti has all of the attributes to be a *great* judge – the kind of judge whose opinions and decisions stand the test of time and form precedents that last generations. Compassion, an acute legal mind, a stick-to-it-ness an assured self confidence and a soul that loves the law and craves the promise of justice and equal rights for all, combine to make her the best candidate, in my opinion, for any position on any bench in the State.

Her legal reasoning is flawless. She is flexible and open to changing her mind when presented with good arguments, and she has a nice personality too. Even opposing counsel like and respect her. These attributes, combined with her calm temperament and astute mind are perfect for a Circuit Court judge. And with her ample legal experience ranging from prosecuting criminals to protecting the civil rights of the disenfranchised, she would be able to “hit the ground running” in any sort of judicial assignment.

I am also confident, as far as the bar is concerned, that Ms. Castagnetti will quickly be known as a fair and accommodating judge – extremely concerned with fair play and the rule of law – and she has the courage, knowledge and intellect to implement her decisions. I wholeheartedly recommend her.

Thank you Senators, for allowing me this opportunity to express my opinion about this candidate for the Circuit Court bench.

Daniel G. Hempey
Attorney at Law
Hempey & Meyers, LLP

JENNIFER C. MITSUYOSHI
1432 Keeaumoku Street, Apt. 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

[XX] Via Facsimile (586-6659)

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Government Operations
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. GM-1: Nomination of Jeannette H.
Castagnetti to the Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit,
State of Hawaii
Hearing: August 2, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I submit this letter in support of the confirmation of Jeannette H. Castagnetti as a Circuit Court Judge.

I have worked as Ms. Castagnetti's secretary for nearly 6 years, and she has always treated me with respect and as an equal. Because Ms. Castagnetti is open, honest, and approachable, we have an outstanding working relationship where I feel that I work beside her rather than beneath her. She extends the same consideration to all of our office staff, regardless of their station.

Over the years, I have seen Ms. Castagnetti encounter challenging situations with both counsel and clients. Regardless of the circumstances, she maintains a straightforward and professional manner, and is respectful and civil to all parties. When faced with differences of opinion or disputes, Ms. Castagnetti invites others to share their concerns in order to hear all sides of an issue before determining how best to proceed. Ms. Castagnetti is committed to doing what is right and what is fair, no matter what parties are involved.

Based on my personal experiences, I believe Ms. Castagnetti will be an excellent Circuit Court Judge and a valuable asset to the Judiciary.

Sincerely,


Jennifer C. Mitsuyoshi

Kevin A. Souza, Esq.
1306 Noninui Place
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

July 28, 2010

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Judiciary and Government Operations Committee
State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Letter in SUPPORT of the Nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti to Serve as a Judge on the Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in strong support of Jeannette H. Castagnetti's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. For the past ten years, I have witnessed Jeannette's keen legal mind, devotion to family, and deep love for our community.

As a former Deputy Public Defender for the State of Hawai'i from 1999-2005, I litigated many cases where Jeannette, in her capacity as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, served as opposing counsel. On each occasion, I have been impressed with Jeannette's skill as a trial lawyer and her firm command of the law. More importantly, however, Jeannette has always been honest, straightforward, and committed to ensuring justice.

Jeannette is a consummate professional. She is unwavering in her commitment to the law, yet always finds time for her family and the community. For the past several years, Jeannette has gracefully handled a thriving civil litigation practice, a per diem district court judgeship, and numerous other community activities.

I believe that Jeannette's knowledge as a trial lawyer, and her strong family and community involvement, would be a credit to the Judiciary. I urge the members of the JGO Committee to confirm her nomination.

Very truly yours,



Kevin A. Souza, Esq.

LEE & SAKUMOTO LLC
A Limited Liability Law Company

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Denis Lee
Kyle T. Sakumoto

Telephone: 808-218-6770
Facsimile: 808-218-6779

dlee@leesakumoto.com
ksakumoto@leesakumoto.com

July 29, 2010

VIA E-MAIL

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi
Honorable Dwight T. Takamine
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years

Dear Senators Taniguchi and Takamine:

I write to wholeheartedly support Jeannette Castagnetti's appointment as Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit.

I have known Jeannette professionally for a number of years. If she is confirmed as a Circuit Court Judge, the Judiciary will gain a hard-working, talented and dedicated individual.

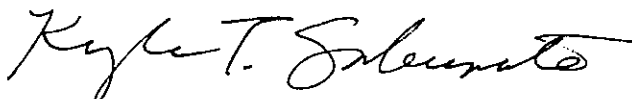
Jeannette has had substantial experience and excelled in a wide variety of legal settings, including the prosecutor's office, private practice and as a per diem District Court Judge. She would bring a very balanced, well-rounded view to the Circuit Court bench.

In addition to her legal expertise, Jeannette's personal characteristics would make her an excellent Chief Judge. Jeannette's integrity is beyond reproach. She is a fair and practical person who is blessed with common sense. She possesses an even-mannered, respectful demeanor that would reflect well on the bench.

In short, I have every confidence that Jeannette would be an outstanding Circuit Court Judge.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions. Thank you very much for your consideration

Very truly yours,



Kyle T. Sakumoto
LEE & SAKUMOTO LLC

Franklin D. Pacarro Jr.
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney
1060 Richards Street, 10th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

July 27, 2010

RE: GM 1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE CASTAGNETTI

Hearing: Monday, August 2, 2010, 1:30 p.m.

Position: IN STRONG SUPPORT

Submitted by: Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr., Acting First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, the Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I support the nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti to the position of Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Castagnetti for eleven years and having worked with her at the Prosecutor's Office and observing her rise to prominence as a partner in the law firm of BRONSTER HOSHIBATA, I can attest that she is qualified for this position. Although I have never appeared before her when she presided over cases as a Pier Diem Judge, I have heard nothing but good things about her ability and fairness.

Ms. Castagnetti is intelligent, diligent, and trustworthy. She has a great disposition, which is very important when one measures judicial temperament. She has achieved many accomplishments in her eleven years in the practice of law. Her rapid rise from criminal law to civil law shows that she is extremely competent and gifted. I have the utmost confidence that Ms. Castagnetti will make an excellent judge because she has proven herself as a litigator in both the criminal and civil arenas. In my humble opinion, I believe litigators make excellent judges because they are experienced and comfortable in the courtroom.

Ms. Castagnetti has a proven track record as a Per Diem Judge and her reappointment to another four years confirms her approval by members of the Bar, Judicial Selection Committee and Chief Justice Ronald Moon. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on this nomination. Please feel free to contact me at 768-7474 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Franklin Pacarro Jr.
Acting First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

From: Cyndi Quinn [cyndiquinn@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 1:54 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: GM1 - Submitting Testimony in Support for Jeannette H. Castagnetti for a term of ten years

Subject: GM1 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years.

Dear Honorable Chair Brian T. Taniguchi and Honorable Vice-Chair Dwight Takamine, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations,

I submit this testimony in support of Circuit Court Nominee Jeannette Castagnetti. I have been a member of the Hawai‘i State Bar Association since 1988, and I am an alumna from the William S. Richardson School of Law, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and the Kamehameha Schools. I have practice law for over 20 years and now am an administrator and professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I have known Jeannette since she began her private practice career after a stellar record as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. Her transition from criminal to civil practice was seamless and came with the added bonus of tremendous trial experience and excellent knowledge of the rules of evidence. She quickly rose in the ranks from associate and then partner because of her legal skills and acuity. She was always thorough, prepared and dealt with clients in a professional manner and with compassion. Her reputation as a lawyer with an excellent legal mind founded in justice and fairness precedes her as she quickly became an CAAP Arbitrator and per diem judge. She also strives to improve her professionalism in ethics and civility through her participation as a barrister in the American Inns of Court – Aloha Chapter. There, she is always willing to share her insights with our law student members to help them achieve and become good leaders for their community. She is particularly fit for this position as she is not only well versed in both the civil and criminal law, but also has the personal interest and skills in handling complex legal matters. She has a deep abiding love for Hawai‘i and its people and upholds our constitution and laws with the utmost respect. She would serve this community well as a circuit court judge. She exemplifies what the citizens of Hawai‘i are entitled to have on their judiciary bench. It is my privilege to submit this testimony in support of Jeannette Castagnetti as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Quinn

From: Claire Chinn [c_chinn@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 1:56 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: GM 1 / August 2, 2010 / 1:30 pm

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and Committee members:

I am writing in support of nominee Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti to fill one of the vacant Circuit Court judgeship positions. Jeannette has the character and attributes that I believe are essential to being a good judge - she is intelligent, articulate, hardworking, empathetic, fair, patient, calm, willing to listen, has good analytical skills and most importantly, has the perfect judicial temperament.

I have known Jeannette since she started at the Prosecutor's Office, first as a summer law clerk and when she officially began her legal career, as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in 1999. By the time that Jeannette came to the Career Criminal Division (CCD), I had worked over 10 years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I found working beside Jeannette at that time to be an absolute pleasure. As a newer Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Jeannette was a quick study, always trying to further her legal knowledge and litigation skills. In her court appearances, I observed that Jeannette was always professional and courteous in her behavior, never once losing her composure. Even though Jeannette was a newer deputy, I was amazed at how she handled the pressure of the non-stop pace in CCD - besides carrying a trial caseload, CCD deputies also brought cases before the grand jury and also did preliminary hearings. Often times, Jeannette and I would find ourselves doing 3-4 preliminary hearings a week. Through it all, Jeannette would "soldier on" and take the time to learn the complexities of career criminal cases.

Jeannette subsequently left the office in 2002 and while I was saddened to see her depart, I knew that by doing so, she would be able to further her legal career beyond the practice of criminal prosecution. Needless to say, Jeannette has distinguished herself by becoming a partner in her law firm and also finding the time to serve as a per diem district court judge.

I firmly believe that Jeannette would be a welcome addition to the Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti.

Claire Chinn

Rowena Anelaaulii Somerville, Esq.
1302 Aloha Oe Drive
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 263-3251
hirowena@yahoo.com

July 29, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

RE: GM1 - Judicial Nominee Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii

Dear Chairman Taniguchi and Vice-Chairman Takamine,

I am writing in strong support of Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti's judicial nomination to fill the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii vacancies.

Ms. Castagnetti was a colleague of mine for several years at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii. Not only is she a highly skilled and effective trial attorney, she is also has an impeccable reputation both in and out of the courtroom. She is an excellent candidate for the Circuit Court position.

Ms. Castagnetti carries out her job with extreme professionalism and exhibits patience and respect towards others. She is always prepared and very organized. She has vast legal experience – having both experience in civil and criminal law - and is very comfortable in the courtroom. Ms. Castagnetti performed her duties as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with fairness, integrity, and compassion. Similarly, she has a proven track record as a civil lawyer, successfully representing a wide array of clients. Lastly, her tenure as a Per Diem Judge in the District Court exemplifies her ability to serve with competence and proficiency as a Circuit Court Judge.

Ms. Castagnetti has chosen to dedicate herself to the practice of law. She has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the public and for her clients, and she truly believes in the judicial system. For these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration of the appointment of Ms. Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments. Should you have any questions, I can be contacted at the above numbers.

Very truly yours,

Rowena A. Somerville

From: JGO Testimony
Subject: FW: GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years

From: Melina de [mailto:mdlhawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 9:45 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years

July 29, 2010

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Takamine, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am writing in strong support of Jeannette Castagnetti's judicial nomination to fill a vacancy with the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Ms. Castagnetti was a colleague of mine while we were both working at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's office here in Honolulu. I had the opportunity to observe Ms. Castagnetti's demeanor both inside and outside of the courtroom. Throughout her years at the Prosecuting Attorney's office she treated the staff as well as her fellow deputies with the utmost respect and professionalism. There were times when Ms. Castagnetti was faced with difficult situations involving uncooperative witnesses. I never once observed her lose her composure. She was patient, respectful and compassionate to these individuals. These are strong traits which I believe Ms. Castagnetti can contribute as a judge for Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Additionally, Ms. Castagnetti is a highly skilled trial attorney. Having observed many of her jury trials, I can attest that she has a strong grasp of the Rules of Evidence. Ms. Castagnetti also appeared very comfortable inside the courtroom and always came prepared and organized. In my opinion, Ms. Castagnetti performed her duties as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with fairness, integrity and compassion.

After she left the office to broaden her horizon to learn civil law, she often shared with me how much she missed serving the public and the people of Hawaii. When she was selected to be a Per Diem judge, she shared with me that she felt extremely fortunate to be able to serve the public again while continuing her civil practice.

My decision to support Ms. Castagnetti's nominee is based on her strong trial skills, her experience in both criminal and civil law, as well as her experience being a Per Diem judge. She is a well rounded individual and highly qualified to serve as a judge with the First Circuit. For these

reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration of the appointment of Ms. Castagnetti to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments.

Very truly yours,
Melina D. Sanchez

[Delete]

[Reply][Reply V][Forward]

From: Yuen, Mark [myuen@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 10:22 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Confirmation Hearing for Jeanette Castagnetti

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

Re: Jeanette Castagnetti
Nominee for Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit
Senate Confirmation Hearing: August 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

Measure: GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jeanette Castagnetti

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I am submitting this letter in support of the nomination of Jeanette Castagnetti to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and have known Ms. Castagnetti for over 10 years when she first started working at our office.

When I first met Ms. Castagnetti, I immediately knew that she would be great attorney because she was intelligent, articulate and extremely personable. She then made quite an impression in our office and she rose up quickly within the ranks in relation to her peers and worked in one of the toughest divisions in our office, the Career Criminal Division. During her time there, she did very well and unfortunately for us, she then decided to pursue the private sector.

I believe that Ms. Castagnetti will be an excellent judge based on her intelligence, personality and experience as an attorney in the public and private sectors and as a per diem judge in the District Court. In addition, her temperament is well suited as a judge because she is patient and humble. I have no doubt that Ms. Castagnetti will be a fine and excellent addition to the Circuit Court and therefore humbly ask you to confirm her nomination to the bench.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Yuen

2300 Pauahi Tower
1003 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone 808.524.5644
Fax 808.599.1881
info@bhhawaii.net

A Law Corporation

Bronster Hoshibata

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

July 30, 2010

Senate Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Dear Senators:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to confirm Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, Esq. as a circuit court judge of the first circuit. I am one of Jeannette's three law partners at Bronster Hoshibata, and have had the pleasure of being her friend and colleague for more than seven years. Based on my personal experience of working side by side with her during that time, I can say without any reservation that Jeannette will be an outstanding jurist who will serve the people of Hawai'i with distinction in that capacity.

Let me tell you why Jeannette has what it takes to be a great judge. I know you are familiar with her impressive paper credentials—per diem district court judge, ex-prosecutor, partner in one of the state's best civil litigation firms. What shines through to those who have worked with her is her impressive work ethic, her constant attention to detail, her formidable legal skills, and her ability to listen to all sides of an argument and reach the right result. She is demanding of herself, because she wants to excel and does excel. But all those who know her well (and even to those who just have a passing acquaintance) know that she does not take herself too seriously.

These are the qualities that have impressed me in the judges that I have gotten to know and admire during the time I have practiced law, both here in our state and in Washington, D.C. where I started my legal career as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. These are the qualities that will carry her through the tough calls that she will inevitably have to make as a judge. And these are the qualities which will guarantee that she will faithfully execute her duties with the utmost care, compassion, and fidelity to the law.

Thank you very much for allowing me to submit this testimony for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rex Y. Fujichaku

LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD K. K. LUKE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER
SUITE 2022
841 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOWARD K. K. LUKE
DAVID M. HAYAKAWA

TEL: (808) 545-5000
FAX: (808) 523-9137

July 30, 2010

Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Measure: GM1

Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti
For the Position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and Fellow Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, Esq. for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Castagnetti since she first served as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu almost eleven years ago.

I believe Ms. Castagnetti's background as a deputy prosecutor, while of relatively brief duration, was characterized by competence and professionalism, and the adherence to the mandate that the first duty of a public prosecutor is to do justice. Ms. Castagnetti was a strong advocate for the interests of the State, but also recognized the importance of professional collegiality and reasonableness in discharging her duties as a prosecutor. The approximately three years in the prosecutor's office gave her a sound foundation for the path which she chose to follow upon leaving that office. For the past eight years, she has been employed as an associate, and eventually as a partner, with Bronster Hoshibata, a law firm that enjoys an outstanding reputation in the area of civil litigation. The combination of criminal and civil litigation experience has given Ms. Castagnetti the necessary background to understand the areas of practice as well as the concerns of the trial attorneys who will appear before her in Circuit Court.

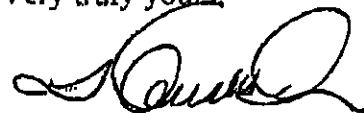
Rounding out her experience as trial attorney is the period in which she has presided as a per diem District Court Judge of the Honolulu District Court. Although I have not appeared before her in a sufficient number of proceedings as to give a personal opinion of her judicial skills, I am aware of her reputation as a judge. Consistent with her professional and personal high standards as an attorney, Ms. Castagnetti also has a reputation as a judge who is very competent, of sound judicial temperament, and who allows the parties their day in court.

Re: Measure: GMI
Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti
For the Position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit

Page Two

In summary, I recommend that Ms. Castagnetti receive the unanimous confirmation of her nomination to serve as a Judge of the First Circuit Court.

Very truly yours,



HOWARD K. K. LUKE

GODBEY ♦ GRIFFITHS
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

1003 BISHOP STREET
SUITE 2300 • PAUAAHI TOWER
HONOLULU • HAWAII 96813
808 • 523 • 8894
FAX • 523 • 8899
WWW.LAWHI.COM

ROBERT CARSON GODBEY
JESS H. GRIFFITHS
ROBERT J. MARTIN JR.
BRYAN M. HARADA

DANIEL BENT
C. FRED JEYNES
OF COUNSEL

July 30, 2010

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Dwight T. Takamine, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Vice Chair Takamine:

I write in support of the above nominee, Jeannette H. Castagnetti. I have had the good fortune of knowing Jeannette for the past decade. My firm has shared the 23rd floor of Pauahi Tower with her firm throughout that time. We are colleagues and friends. I have witnessed firsthand her transition from accomplished prosecutor to respected civil litigator to per diem District Court Judge. She has excelled in each. And with each further professional achievement, she has maintained her humble and selfless nature.

I know Jeannette to possess an even disposition and studied approach, always governing herself with the highest level of integrity and ethical standards. I have no doubt that she has all of the qualities one wants in a judge.

Jeannette is clearly honored to be considered for the position. We should be equally grateful that she is willing to serve. I have no doubt in her abilities, her honesty, her character, or her devotion. She will be a tremendous addition to the bench of the Circuit Court.

Sincerely,



Jess H. Griffiths

July 30, 2010

Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Dwight T. Takamine, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: GM1- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jeannette H. Castagnetti, for a term of ten years

Dear Mr. Taniguchi and Takamine:

I am writing to express my strong support of Jeannette Castagnetti for confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I am an attorney and the owner of HHG Swim LLC, a local business. Jeannette Castagnetti is a long time friend and colleague.

I had the pleasure of working with Jeannette Castagnetti at both the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, and Bronster Crabtree and Hoshibata (now Bronster and Hoshibata). I was very impressed by the extraordinary energy, intelligence, and competence she brought to her job. Ms. Castagnetti is extremely industrious and hardworking and exemplifies the highest level of excellence, integrity, and professional ethics. She is extremely fair and does not bend to political pressure. Ms. Castagnetti is well liked and very highly regarded.

Ms. Castagnetti is also a skilled trial attorney, with three years experience as a trial prosecutor and eight years as a civil trial attorney. Jeannette Castagnetti is a strong advocate, yet respectful towards others, whether in the office, the courtroom, or the community. She has a solid command of both criminal and civil law and works diligently to stay abreast of emerging case law.

I wholeheartedly support Ms. Castagnetti's confirmation and I am confident she would make an excellent judge. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for such a worthy candidate.

Respectfully,

Erika E. Ireland

GODBEY ♦ GRIFFITHS

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

1003 BISHOP STREET
SUITE 2300 • PAUAAHI TOWER
HONOLULU • HAWAII 96813
808 • 523 • 8894
FAX • 523 • 8899
WWW.LAWHI.COM

ROBERT CARSON GODBEY
JESS H. GRIFFITHS
ROBERT J. MARTIN JR.
BRYAN M. HARADA

DANIEL BENT
G. FRED JEYNES
OF COUNSEL

July 30, 2010

VIA: JGOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Judiciary and Government Operations Committee
Senate of the State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Circuit Judge Nominee JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Judiciary and Government
Operations Committee:

This is to write in support of the confirmation of Jeannette Castagnetti to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I have known Jeannette for over ten years and know from my personal contact with her to be a fine person and I know her to also be a fine lawyer.

For over ten years our firms have shared receptionists and conference rooms. Therefore, I have had frequent contact with her in the course of our work as lawyers. Jeanette took her duties as a Per Diem Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit very seriously and to my knowledge handled that work with intelligence, diligence and the proper judicial demeanor.

Jeannette has considerable commercial and other litigation experience. She has handled a variety of cases before the state and federal courts and has an active practice. In addition, her past work as an attorney for regulatory matters for the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs as well as her past

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
July 30, 2010
Page 2 of 2

service as a Deputy County Prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu will serve her and the State well if confirmed as a Circuit Judge.

For the above reasons, I request that you confirm Jeannette Castagnetti as a Circuit Judge of the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Bent", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Bent

Douglas Chin
2423 Lanai Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Attn: Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

July 30, 2010

Subject: Confirmation hearing of **Jeanette Castagnetti** to the First Circuit Court

Dear Committee Members:

I write this letter in support of Jeanette Castagnetti's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Having worked closely with her at the Honolulu Prosecutor's office when she was employed here, I believe Ms. Castagnetti possesses the temperament, knowledge, qualities and skills that would make her an excellent addition to the First Circuit and an outstanding jurist in our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,


Douglas Chin, Esq.

From: JGO Testimony
Subject: FW: Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, 1st CC Judicial Nominee

From: Carol Yamasaki [mailto:cnyamasaki@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 2:43 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, 1st CC Judicial Nominee

Attn: Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Reference: Notice of Hearing, Monday August 2, 2010, 1:30pm, Conference Room 229, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street. GM1 for Gubernatorial Nominee, **JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI**, Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Please refer to prior testimony below. The State of Hawaii could use more individuals such as Jeannette H. Castagnetti !

From: Carol Yamasaki <cnyamasaki@yahoo.com>
Subject: Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, 1st CC Judicial Nominee
To: Governor.Lingle@hawaii.gov
Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2010, 9:54 AM

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

Please consider this correspondence as wholehearted endorsement of Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti. It is a pleasure knowing an individual of her stature in the community, whose work ethics and dedication to principles of law is exemplary of the legal profession.

Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti is considered an asset for any position, judicial and otherwise. Those fortunate to come in contact with Ms. Castagnetti would discover a prudent, honest and fair individual in her endeavors.

It is an honor to comment on her behalf!

Sincerely,
Carol Yamasaki

From: Chang, Cecelia [cchang@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 3:34 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Letter of Support: Judicial Nominee Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, Esq.

July 30, 2010

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Judiciary and Government Operations Committee
State Capitol - Senate
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Hearing: Judiciary and Government Operations Committee
First Circuit Court Nominee Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, Esq.
Date: Monday, August 2, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.;
Room: 229

Re: Letter in Support of Judicial Nominee Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti, Esq.

To The Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Circuit Court nominee Jeanette Castagnetti, Esq.

Ms. Castagnetti is highly regarded in the legal community for her strong work ethic, intelligence, efficiency and even temperament. Ms. Castagnetti's brings ten years of litigation experience in criminal prosecution, civil litigation with the prominent Bronster Hoshibata law firm, and practical experience as a per diem judge. The breadth of her legal experience in government, public and private practice will serve her well as a Circuit Court judge.

Ms. Castagnetti will make an excellent Circuit Court judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Cecelia C.Y. Chang
HSBA #3929
60 N. Beretania Street, #2809
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Vince.S.Kanemoto@hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 4:00 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Testimony For First Circuit Court Judicial Nominee Jeannette H. Castagnetti

TESTIMONY FOR: GM 1 - JGO Committee Hearing
DATE: Monday, August 2, 2010
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 229

RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit,
Judicial Nominee JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI

Position: **IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Submitted by: Vince S. Kanemoto

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, the Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair, and members of the
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I strongly support the nomination of my former colleague, Jeannette H. Castagnetti, to the circuit court bench. Jeannette and I were colleagues at the Honolulu prosecutor's office for several years during the turn of the last decade. She had a reputation as a talented and hard-working young prosecutor. More recently, Jeannette has practiced in the civil arena in the law firm of former Attorney General Margery Bronster, who I am certain was an outstanding mentor to Jeannette in the area of civil litigation. Jeannette is both ethical and intelligent, and I believe that her combined criminal and civil litigation experience make her well qualified to become a circuit court judge. Additionally, Jeannette is a genuinely nice person whose judicial temperament should be exemplary. Accordingly, I humbly ask that this committee confirm Jeannette's nomination to the circuit court. Thank you very much for your consideration of my testimony.

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Testimony

Measure: GM 1
Hearing: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years.
Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Date: Monday, August 2, 2010
Time: 1:30 pm
Place: Conference Room 229
Testifier: Bridget Holthus

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Committee Members:

I strongly support the nomination of Jeannette Castagnetti as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ms. Castagnetti for more than ten years. I worked very closely with her when we served together as prosecutors, and had the opportunity not only to form my own opinion of her, but also to hear the frank comments of many others. Judges, attorneys, victim advocates, and service providers consistently praised her intelligence and diligence as a lawyer, her integrity and fairness, and her even-handed treatment of people from all walks of life. In every step of her career, she has earned the respect and trust of those who have worked with her throughout the state.

In my experience, Ms. Castagnetti holds herself to high standards of preparation and performance, and inspires her colleagues to do the same. She has a keen ability to grasp complex legal issues and their practical implications. She is decisive and determined, but she listens carefully to the views of others, and she is a very effective communicator. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to a safe and just community, as well her inexhaustible work ethic, her grace and composure in stressful circumstances, and her down-to-earth approachability.

In my view, Ms. Castagnetti's professional and personal qualities make her ideally suited to serve as a Circuit Court judge. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend confirmation.

KAWASHIMA LORUSSO
LLP

Sender's Information:
Direct: (808) 275-0304
E-mail: jkawashima@klhlip.com

July 30, 2010

VIA FACSIMILE - 586-6659

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Hawaii State Senate
Honolulu, Hawaii

Attention: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

**Re: Jeannette H. Castagnetti
Nominee for Circuit Court of the First Circuit
Hearing Date & Time: Monday, August 2, 2010 - 1:30 p.m.**

Dear Senators Taniguchi and Takamine and committee:

I am writing to you in strong support of Per Diem District Judge Jeannette Castagnetti, who now is a nominee to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Let me provide some background so that my testimony can be considered in perspective.

I have been in the active practice of litigation for 38 years now. During that time, I have had the opportunity to appear before almost every Circuit Judge in the State and have had the pleasure of trying jury trials before at least half of the current sitting judges. As importantly, I have had the honor of serving as an elected-HSBA member of the Judicial Selection Commission.

It is with this broad background in our system of litigation that I humbly believe I am particularly suited to make the recommendations herein. I should also say that a review of the record will show that letters as this have been very carefully and sparingly transmitted to you over the years.

In the case of this nominee, Jeannette Castagnetti, I felt compelled to submit written testimony that I hope your committee will seriously consider in its deliberations, as Ms. Castagnetti possesses qualities rarely found in one individual. By this, I mean that she is an intelligent and ethical person, who is able to easily make one feel comfortable in her presence. She is compassionate and sensitive to the rights and feelings of others, yet, when called upon to do so, has the ability to make clear and decisive decisions.

July 30, 2010

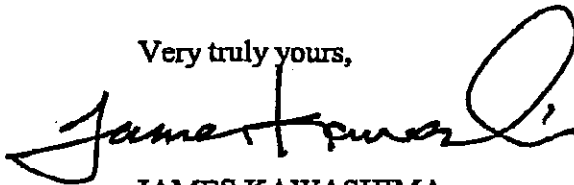
Page 2

When I draw back to the time I served on the JSC, and I reflect on the qualities we required applicants to the Circuit Court to possess, Ms. Castagnetti would acquit herself well in any group of applicants that came before us.

Finally, my recommendation is based on personal dealings I have had with Ms. Castagnetti as an opposing attorney. It is those experiences that lead me to write to you as Ms. Castagnetti exhibited a maturity and levelheadedness well beyond her years. These qualities will serve her and the people of the State of Hawaii immeasurably during her years on the bench.

I stand ready to appear before you at your request to answer any and every question you might have about this outstanding nominee. Thank you for your consideration of my communication.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Kawashima". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

JAMES KAWASHIMA

From: Maura Okamoto [mauraokamoto808@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 4:27 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Testimony for GM1, 8/2 2010 at 1:30

This is testimony for GM 1, consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, for a term of ten years before the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, hearing on August 2, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 229 at the State Capitol

Dear Senator Taniguchi and members of the Committee:

I write to recommend Jeannette Castagnetti for confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

Ms. Castagnetti is a perfect candidate for a circuit court judgeship. She has the required judicial temperament, knowledge of the law and a commitment to justice.

I first knew Ms. Castagnetti over ten years ago when we worked together as fellow Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys. At that time I was impressed by her work ethic, her knowledge of the law, and her willingness to help other deputies and work as part of a team when necessary.

I continued to be friends with Ms. Castagnetti when she left the Prosecutor's office to practice civil litigation with the Bronster Hoshibata law firm. She has the litigation experience in both criminal and civil law that is necessary for a Circuit Court judge. As an attorney she is always well prepared, has knowledge of whatever case she is dealing with and has respect for the court and opposing counsel.

I have also worked with Ms. Castagnetti as a fellow barrister in the Aloha Chapter of the American Inns of Court. In this volunteer role I was again impressed by her work ethic and her willingness to help the law students who form the pupilage of the Inns of Court. She was always generous with her time and with her knowledge.

Ms. Castagnetti has the flexibility of mind to be a good judge and is open to changing her mind when presented with good arguments. She has a calm temperament and a willingness to listen, but yet has the ability to be decisive and the courage to stick by her decisions. I wholeheartedly recommend her for the position as circuit court judge.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to express my opinion concerning this candidate for the Circuit Court Bench

Sincerely,
Maura M. Okamoto

2300 Pauahi Tower
1003 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone 808.524.5644
Fax 808.599.1881
info@bhhawaii.net

A Law Corporation

Bronster Hoshibata

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

July 30, 2010

Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

Re: GM1 Nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti

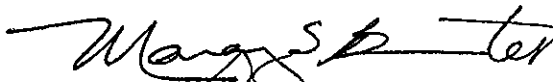
Dear Senators:

I am writing in full support of Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti's nomination as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. Jeannette has been a trusted colleague at Bronster Hoshibata for the past eight years. For the past three years, she has served as one of my partners at the firm. Although I will sorely miss being able to work with her, I can say without qualification that she will be a terrific judge.

Jeannette has the ability and knowledge of both civil and criminal law. She started out her legal career as a prosecutor, and transitioned seamlessly when she joined the firm as a civil litigator. While at Bronster Hoshibata she has worked with me on a broad variety of civil, employment, trust, regulatory and business cases. For the past two years she has balanced her job at the firm with her duties as a per diem district court judge. Given her experience, Jeannette has the intelligence and wisdom to rule on even the most contentious and difficult cases. And she has the temperament to dispassionately carry out her judicial duties based on the rule of law.

I know that Jeannette will be an outstanding judge. I respectfully urge you to confirm her.

Sincerely,



Margery S. Bronster

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I am writing to endorse Jeannette Castagnetti. Jeannette and I have been neighbors for over 6 years. Within that time she has become a great confidant and friend. She was my first call when I found out my brother wanted to get married. Jeannette took great pride in performing the ceremony which took place on Thanksgiving, 2009. Jeannette has a strong work ethic; she is trust worthy, loyal, open minded and even tempered. When faced with tough decisions she always considers all view points and always tries to do the right thing.

Jeannette's sensitivity, energy, strong work ethic and sense of humor make her a qualified candidate for the Circuit Court.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julie Wassel
Wassel Accounting Services

Dear Committee Members,

I take great pride in submitting this letter of recommendation for Jeannette Castagnetti. Jeannette has been a friend of mine for over 5 years. She possesses qualities you hope to find in a co worker and I am fortunate that she brings these qualities to our friendship. Jeannette has an amazing work ethic; she is truthful, kind and always listens to both sides of the story. Jeannette is organized, efficient, and extremely competent. Her communication skills, be it written or verbal, are excellent. She takes great pride in her work as well as relationships. She is a true friend and one I am proud to know.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Barbara Craft RN, BSN, MBA

Director of Perioperative Services at Kapiolani Hospital for Women and Children

From: Catherine Aubuchon [catherine.aubuchon@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 01, 2010 2:43 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: First Circuit Court Gubernatorial Nominee JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI, August 2, 2010, 1:30 p.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations,

I write to comment on the nomination of Jeannette H. Castagnetti as a First Circuit Court judge. I work with Ms. Castagnetti at the law firm of Bronster Hoshibata and have had the pleasure of working closely with her on numerous cases and projects. In my opinion, she has the qualifications and temperament to be a great judge.

In my experience working with her, Ms. Castagnetti has exhibited professional integrity and an unwavering sense of fairness and justice. She always treats others with respect and remains measured and cool-headed no matter how trying the circumstances. In addition, she has worked in both the public and private sector practicing criminal law and civil litigation. She will bring to the court valuable practical experience that will be critical in adjudicating the many and varied cases and controversies in the First Circuit. She will serve the judiciary and the community effectively.

Ms. Castagnetti will be a fair, astute and effective jurist, worthy of your endorsement and confirmation.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Leilani Aubuchon

July 30, 2010

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 229

Re: Jeannette Castagnetti First Circuit Court confirmation hearing

Monday, August 2, 2010 1:30 p.m.

Dear Senator Taniguchi,

I write in support of Jeannette Castagnetti's nomination as a circuit judge to the First Circuit Court.

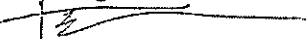
I first met Jeannette when she was a deputy prosecuting attorney, and I was a deputy public defender. I found Jeannette to be a top-notch courtroom litigator, a hard-worker, and well versed in the law. She had a reputation for being fair-minded in her evaluation of cases. She employed a balanced approach to the fair resolution of her cases. I believe this trait will serve her well on the bench when she works with the parties to achieve compromise.

I have had a fair amount of contact with Jeannette since she entered private practice, as our offices are in the same building. Jeannette is a warm, engaging person with a fine sense of humor. She has a terrific sense of perspective about things. I believe perspective is the most underrated of judicial traits, and this characteristic will serve her well as a judge.

I have no doubt that Jeannette will undertake her judicial responsibilities by listening to the competing viewpoints and employing a common sense approach to decision-making. I feel that Jeannette has the comportment necessary to be a fine judge. She is even-keeled. She is mindful of the roles of respective counsel. She will treat individuals in her courtroom respectfully, and firmly when necessary.

Jeannette Castagnetti is a wise choice for the present First Circuit Court vacancy.

Best regards,


Todd Eddins

Todd Eddins
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1320
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808.538.1110

James M. Fulton
1910 Alaeloa Street
Honolulu, Hi 96821

Via Hand Delivery

Attention: Committee on Judiciary Government Operations
Senator Brian Taniguchi
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hi 96813

August 2, 2010

I would like to offer my strong support for the nomination of Jeanette Castagnetti to the Circuit of the State of Hawaii. I have known Jeanette since she first joined the prosecutors office many years ago. I have had many occasions to deal with her in my official capacity at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney and I can say that she always exhibited the most professional work ethic and attitude. She showed respect for everyone she came in contact with. I watched her grow from a young Misdemeanor Deputy Prosecuting Attorney to a Senior Deputy in the Career Criminal Unit where she was dealing with the most serious of repeat offenders. She was always prepared and ready to proceed. She was aware of the right of the defendants but never forgot the importance of the victims and witness in the process. She was a skilled prosecutor and I was sorry her leave when she left to practice civil law. She was missed.

I continued my association with Jeanette after her leaving the prosecutors office. I had contact with a number of her clients and they all agreed that as an advocate she did all that she legally could to when representing them. I have also seen her on occasion during her time as a per diem judge where she worked hard to learn the law and understand the position as a judge was to be fair and impartial regardless of her personal feelings.

Sincerely


James Fulton

July 30, 2010

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

GM1 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee **JEANNETTE H. CASTAGNETTI**, for a term of ten years.

Written testimony for hearing on August 2, 2010 at 1:30 P.M.

It is my honor and privilege to recommend **Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti** for the position of circuit court judge. I have worked at the office of the prosecuting attorney for over twenty years and have known Jeannette since she was a legal intern for our office, and later as a deputy prosecuting attorney. During Jeannette's first summer as a legal intern I observed first hand her desire to reach the right decision. She demonstrated this desire by thoroughly researching all aspects of an issue before committing to a particular argument or advocating for a specific outcome. Throughout her time as a deputy prosecuting attorney Jeannette developed an excellent working relationship with members of the defense bar, judiciary, HPD, and most importantly, victims of crime. She is a compassionate individual of high moral character.

After leaving the prosecutor's office Jeannette went on to work in the civil arena. Having practiced law in both the criminal and civil sectors, Jeannette has developed a wealth of knowledge and experience that will serve her well as a circuit court judge. I have always found her to be a kind, considerate, and even-tempered individual. Jeannette is smart, fair, and I am honored to call her a colleague and friend. She will make an excellent judge. Thank you for the opportunity to recommend Jeannette Holmes Castagnetti for the position of Judge of the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i.

Delanie D. Prescott-Tate
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