Capt. Michael A. Lilly, USN (Ret)



Michael A. Lilly is an attorney who, before his retirement, was licensed in Hawai'i and California for 45 years and has appeared twice before the U.S. Supreme Court. He specialized in commercial, wrongful termination and personal injury litigation. He was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and graduated with honors from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law (JD) and from the Univ. of California at Santa Cruz (BA).

Lilly served as Attorney General and First Deputy Attorney General of Hawai'i ('81-85). As Attorney General, he was the State's Chief Law Enforcement and Legal Officer. He was Chairman of the Governor's Crime Committee, President of the Hawai'i Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Director of the Western States Drug Information Network and founder and member of the Vice President's National Narcotics Border Interdiction System office in Hawai'i.

After returning to private practice, he won the largest wrongful termination jury verdict in State history (\$2.1 Million). He also won Hawai'i Supreme Court cases on wrongful termination, the right to campaign for political office, land reform and open government. After protracted class action litigation, he obtained an exemption for vaccinated guide dogs from Hawai'i's animal quarantine, for which he was awarded the national Access Partners Award from Guide Dog Users, Inc., the Helen Kinau Wilder Friendship Award from the Hawaiian Humane Society, and the Eye of the Pacific Guide Dog Foundation's Mirikitani Recognition Award. He also was awarded the National Society of the DAR's 1999 Outstanding Community Service Award at an awards ceremony in Washington D.C. He represented the trustee in the James Lull Bankruptcy, the largest Ponzi scheme in state history, recovering millions of dollars of hidden assets to Lull's victims.

Lilly was a Founding Director of the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc. which relocated the Battleship to Pearl Harbor as a memorial and tourist attraction. He is a member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs, the Honolulu Ethics Commission, and Fundraising Chair of Guide Dogs of Hawai'i, Inc. He is a member of the Society of Attorneys General Emeritus Network and a past member of the SECNAV Retiree Council (2009-2012), Trustee of Menlo College, Director of the Armed Services YMCA of Hawai'i, Director of the Friends of Pearl Harbor, President of the Navy League's Pacific Region and Honolulu Council, Chairman and President of Diamond Head Theatre, President of the Naval Reserve Association's Pearl Harbor Chapter, and member of his law school National Alumni Board. He authored *Nimitz at Ease*, a book on how Admiral Nimitz's relationship with his grandparents helped Nimitz win the Pacific War. He also authored *If You Die Tomorrow*, a layman's book on estate planning and is a frequent speaker on legal topics at seminars and on radio and television.

Lilly is a Vietnam War combat veteran. Personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and two Meritorious Service Medals. Lilly retired as a Naval Reserve Captain after 30 years of service, including five commands. He is married to the former Cindy Walter and has four children. For 34 years he was a partner in the Honolulu law firm of Ning, Lilly & Jones.