

Mericia Palma Elmore

Bar Admission:

(status: Voluntary Inactive/Pro-Bono)



SAG-AFTRA — Executive Director, Hawai'i Local

2017 - PRESENT

- Manage and oversee the administration, communications, budgeting, governance, organizing and member outreach, legislative advocacy, and general operations for the Hawai'i Local
- Build and maintain relationships with producers (from novice independent producers to seasoned showrunners), studio/major streamer executives, industry stakeholders, government (federal, state municipal) officials
- Lobby, write testimony and testify before the legislative, executive, and administrative entities, advocating for Hawai'i Local members and the creative community of the islands
- Serve, manage and act as the staff liaison for Hawai'i local board meetings, local committee meetings, and Hawai'i local events
- Collaborate and communicate with SAG-AFTRA staff in all departments to administer and enforce the union's collective bargaining agreements
- Ensure compliance with local and national constitutions, policies, and adopted procedures
- Plan and execute programming and organizing efforts

Hawai'i Pacific University — Senior Adjunct Professor

Department of Communication, College of Liberal Arts

2016 - PRESENT

- Teaching the following courses as needed:
 - First Amendment and Intellectual Property Law (MC 2200)
 - Gender and Sex in Communication Contexts (COM 2500)
 - Intellectual Property and Media Ethics (COM 6650)
 - Mass Media (COM 3000)
 - Business Communications (COM 3420)

University of Hawai'i West Oahu — Lecturer

Academy for Creative Media

2016 - PRESENT

- Teaching the following course as needed:

EDUCATION

The University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law

Juris Doctor

University of Hawai'i

Master of Library and Information Science

University of Houston

Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude

The University of Texas at Austin

Theatre Arts

AWARDS & HONORS

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, from Congressman Ed Case, 1st District of Hawai'i (2019)

CALI Excellence for the Future Award – International Intellectual Property (2012)

Law School Media Council, President (2011-2012)

American Inns of Court (2010-2012)

Legal Practice Student Initiative (2010-2011)

- Legal and Business Issues for the Creative Professional (CM401)

University of Hawai'i Manoa — Lecturer
School of Cinematic Arts

2024 - PRESENT

- Teaching the following course as needed:
 - Ethics in the Creative Industries (CINE 460)

PAST LEADERSHIP and WORK

Lotus Law LLLC — Founder and Attorney

2013 - 2017

- Represented clients from diverse backgrounds
- Managed the operations of the law firm
- Performed significant legal research in the areas of Entertainment (including Intellectual Property), Government Affairs, Public Policy, Consumer and Immigration Law

**Left of Center Production and Left of Center LLC —
Founder and President**

2007-2017

- Managed all aspects of media productions, including writing, staffing, and casting
- Produced film, video, TV, and print projects, with final responsibility for artistic creation and stylistic choices
- Marketed, sold, and distributed finished products to a wide target audience

Watanabe Ing — Associate, Government Relations and Public Affairs Group

2011-2012

- Performed significant research and analysis in legislation and public policy
- Managed a system of information dissemination and communication with advisors and clients regarding legislative events and policy issues
- Actively lobbied on behalf of clients in legislative hearings, meetings, and official events

Time Warner Cable, Hawai'i Division — Legal Intern

2010-2011

- Performed significant legal research and analysis in procedural and substantive law in Employment, State and Federal Regulatory, and Media and Intellectual Property Law
- Drafted memoranda on research and policy, prepared responses to federal and state agencies

PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES (before my work at SAG-AFTRA)

Hawai'i Media Makers Conference (2014) – Indigenous Intellectual Property Workshop

Pacific New Media, University of Hawai'i Manoa (2015) - Intellectual Property for Content Creators

Pacific Islanders in Communications/Hawai'i Media Makers (2015) - Protecting Indigenous Intellectual Property

Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking (2016) - Legal Issues for Models, Actors, and Performers

Hawai'i Media Makers Conference (2016) – Fair Use, Public Domain, and the First Amendment

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Mark, L.K., Nguyen, T. T., & Palma Elmore, M. (2014). Internet Safety Programs and Resources for Educators, Parents, and Students in Hawai'i. Pacific Educational Research Journal, 15, xx-xx. (Forthcoming)

- Assisted in the litigation, arbitration, and legislative proceedings in furtherance of company goals and policies

La Leche League International — Librarian, Counselor Leader, and District Advisor for the State of Hawai'i

2000-2004

- Maintained and grew sources in the research library, while organizing, cataloging, and disseminating all materials
- Served as Lead Breastfeeding Counselor and Founder for Leeward Oahu Group
- Organized, managed, and implemented all group activities including financial management of the group, planning, and leading of group lectures,
- Acted as the liaison and intermediary between LLL Hawai'i (all local groups) and LLL international,
- Led fundraising, marketing, and large-scale public relations efforts

PAST TEACHING and RESEARCH

The University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law — Lecturer at Law

2015 - 2016

- Teaching first-year law students Legal Research Fundamentals (LAW 579)

University of Hawai'i — Graduate Research Assistant

Curriculum Research & Development Group – Multimedia Juvenile Victimization Project Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs FY 09 Recovery Act Internet Crimes Against Children Research Grant 2009-SN-B9-0003

2010 - 2011

- Performed legal research and analysis in procedural and substantive law in Intellectual Property, Criminal and Internet Law
- Drafted documents, prepared presentations concerning Internet safety, presented findings and research at conferences and before state and federal agencies

BOARD SERVICE

American Advertising Federation, Hawai'i (2023 to Present) Board Member, and Government Relations Chair

Ohina Labs (2025 to Present) Board Member

Pacific Islanders in Communications (2016 to 2022) Board Member then President

Kapolei/Makakilo/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board Elected 2015

The Ohina Short Film Showcase (2009 to 2017) Member then Counsel