

Marie Christine Laderta

I would consider myself a career State employee, having been in State employment for the past 23.5 years. Prior to that, I worked for two private law firms, one in Chicago practicing intellectual property law, and one in Honolulu doing Plaintiff's tort litigation.

Before law school, I taught English as a second language at Lunalilo Elementary School in Honolulu.

Subsequent to the teaching job, I worked in administrative and marketing positions with the airlines, first Philippine Airlines and then Northwest Airlines. Northwest Airlines gave me a leave of absence to go to law school. After law school in Chicago, I came home to Honolulu and began my new career path in the legal field.

I began my State employment with the Hawaii State Attorney General's office in 1998, a few years out of law school, as a Deputy Attorney General in the Tort Litigation Division, and then as Supervisor of the Division from 1999-2003. From being in the trenches as a hands-on Deputy AG defending the State from tort claims, my supervising job gave me the opportunity to branch out, learn new skills in the management and administration of a legal office. In addition to working my own cases, I also supervised a staff of attorneys and legal clerks.

My next position as the Deputy Director at the Tax Department, in charge of the oversight of the operations side of the Department, including administering one of the State's first performance based contract with the Department's then computer project vendor. I testified before the Legislature on tax measures, routinely addressed inquiries from the public and the press.

In August of 2005, I was appointed to fill the then vacant Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) Director position. In my capacity as DHRD Director, I wore two hats, serving also as the State's first female Chief Negotiator. As the State's collective bargaining negotiator, I became familiar with collective bargaining contracts, union processes and learned how to interact with the public unions. I continued to testify at the legislature and interact with the legislators.

As DHRD Director, I also served as the ex officio Chair of the State's Deferred Compensation Board. From 2005-2010, I was also a trustee and Chair of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF).

After serving as DHRD Director, I was the Acting Administrator of the EUTF, for a brief two months, until a permanent Administrator was recruited. I oversaw the administration of the State's health care benefits plans.

My next position with the State was at the Judiciary. Shortly after the passing of the ignition interlock law in Hawaii, I was hired as the Chief Adjudicator of the Administrative Driver's License Revocation office (ADLRO). The ADLRO, among other things, was also charged with administering the ignition interlock law. I was immediately charged with coming up with rules and forms to implement the new law. This was achieved in collaboration with the State Department of Transportation as well as DUI driving legal practitioners (A task force was formed). My second order of priority as the new Chief of ADLRO was to negotiate the renewal of the lease of the premises where the ADLRO was housed, and eventually to relocate it closer to the Judiciary's main campus downtown.

In July 2015, I was appointed to my current position as a Board member on the Labor and Industrial Relations Board (LIRAB). The LIRAB is a Board of three members. We hear appeals of workers' compensation cases. Our day-to-day job includes conducting trials, settlement conferences, hearing motions, and writing legal decisions. Since COVID, the Board has conducted its business, including trials, hearings and conferences via interactive conference

technology (Microsoft). I am currently still in this position at the LIRAB, and have a remaining term of seven months.

During the last four years, I have also been a volunteer attorney for the Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's (VLSH) RACS Program. The VLSH's "Re-Employment and Community Service Work Program" (RACS), was designed to assist those who want to be employed, but are held back due to a license stopper for unpaid traffic fines. The purpose of the RACS Program is to recall non-felonious bench warrants and unpaid traffic tickets from collections to help Oahu drivers' lift driver's license stoppers in order to get employment. Lifting license stoppers and removing bench warrants are the beginning steps to accessing employment opportunities, and getting a fresh start in the community. For me, this has been one of the more rewarding pro bono work.