

TESTIMONY ON JUDICIAL COMMUNICATION 1,
NOMINATION OF JEFFREY A. HAWK AS
JUDGE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII,
DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT COURT.

by
Nolan P. Espinda

To the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, September 10, 2018; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I write to express **strong support** for the appointment of Jeffrey A. Hawk as Judge of the State of Hawaii, District Court of the Third Circuit.

Mr. Hawk's prior legal experience demonstrates his keen understanding of the application of State and federal laws. He has shown himself to be of impeccable character. Mr. Hawk portrays an unwavering dedication to justice and exhibits the compassionate temperament necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of a Judge.

I respectfully ask that this Committee act favorably in considering Mr. Hawk as Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



LATE

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

Jeffrey A. Hawk
District Court Judge of the Third Circuit (JC1)

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Derek R. Kobayashi
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Jeffrey A. Hawk for the position of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

The HSBA Board of Directors followed its multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings on this appointment.

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to: review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

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- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Mr. Hawk on September 6, 2019 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On September 9th, Mr. Hawk was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Hawk was reviewed and the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Mr. Hawk in all categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

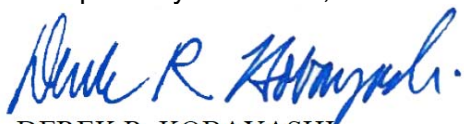
Jeffrey A. Hawk has served as a Per Diem Judge in the First Circuit and more recently in Third Circuit. Prior to these judicial appointments, Mr. Hawk was in the private practice of law in Honolulu for 13 years. He was also a Deputy Public Defender for 5 years. During his tenure in private practice and at the Public Defender's Office, the Nominee tried 95 Circuit Court jury trials.

As a Third Circuit Per Diem Judge, Mr. Hawk was assigned to the District Court civil and family calendars and gained experience presiding over landlord tenant, collections and domestic violence cases. He is a volunteer firefighter for the Volcano community and volunteered for lava disaster relief clinics sponsored by the Hawaii County Bar Association.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Mr. Jeffrey A. Hawk to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of our Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



DEREK R. KOBAYASHI
President, Hawaii State Bar Association



HAWAII STATE

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

September 6, 2019

Hawaii State Senate

JDC Committee

Dear Senate JDC Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Jeffrey Hawk to fill the vacancy on the District Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff Hawk for more than 10 years. In that time I have developed a deep respect for him as a talented, intelligent and ethical man, who always puts family and community before personal interest.

Jeff has been a practicing attorney for 20 years, spending five years as a public defender and then joining Hawk, Sing, & Ignacio as a partner.

I work closely with Jeff in his role on the Elections and Nominations Committee of the Hawaii State Federal Credit Union. In this voluntary role Jeff has helped oversee the credit union's elections for our Board of Directors. In this capacity, Jeff has dramatically improved the process for identifying and nominating qualified candidates to serve on the credit union's board of directors. In addition, he has helped make the election process more efficient, saving the credit union more than \$100,000 annually. Without the significant contributions of credit union members like Jeff, the credit union could not serve our 110,000 members statewide.

In addition, Jeff and I have collaborated to support several community charities like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Adult Friends for Youth and the Domestic Violence Action Center and Amerian Heart Associaition.

For all these reasons I strongly support Mr. Hawk's nomination.

Respectfully,

Andrew Rosen

President & CEO

Hawaii State Federal Credit Union

LATE



THE LAW OFFICE OF BENJAMIN R.C. IGNACIO

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

RE: HAWK, Jeffrey A.
District Court of the Third Circuit Applicant

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am writing in support of Jeffrey Hawk's appointment to the bench for the District Court of the Third Circuit. In short, I wholeheartedly believe that Jeff is the best choice for the position, and that he will continue to serve the Judiciary effectively and justly

Before I elaborate, allow me a few prefatory comments. First, as Your Honor knows, I am a criminal defense trial attorney, who has spent the vast majority of my time in the courtroom, a fair percentage of it in the District Courts, handling traffic, misdemeanor, and TRO matters, as well as the occasional civil matter, and of course countless preliminary hearings before District Court judges before they bind felonies over to the Circuit Court. I believe I have a sound appreciation for what good District Court jurisprudence and administration looks like.

Second, I consider Jeff to be one of my closest, lifelong friends, having known him since before high school. Obviously, I am biased and consider him to be of the highest character. To the extent that I can, because I also care about what kind of judges we have in our District Courts, I have done my best to look at Jeff's attributes objectively in drafting this letter.

Jeff will be an asset to the District Court of the Third Circuit, just as I believe he already is as a per diem Family Court Judge. Professionally, I am aware of his reputation as one of the finest Public Defenders the office has had, not just because of his ability to try cases and identify and litigate issues, but also because of a keen ability to find compassion for some of the most difficult Defendants, many of whom already had a track record of trying the patience of other Public Defenders. Of course, this calm and professional approach was carried over into Jeff's private practice, which I saw on display while he was my law partner for over 13 years. This patience and understanding is an essential trait in the District Court, where the entire spectrum of society is summoned. It already is an essential component of Jeff's judicial temperament, which is exemplary. The best District Court judges can take the concerns and frustrations that often come to court with first time defendants and litigants, and address them fairly and justly, to help reinforce to these parties that, win or lose, justice is still being done.

Although I have never appeared in front of Jeff in Family Court, I have no doubt that this is part of his courtroom demeanor.

“Too much” compassion, “too much” patience, can also be a hindrance in the District Court, because it can slow down the efficient administration of the Court and its calendar. I can also tell you that this is not a flaw that Jeff has. In the handling of his caseload as my law partner, Jeff has always been efficient, professional, and dispassionate. When presented with cases with a variety of pressures -- from the grossly and wrongfully accused defendant to the allegations so heinous that others would wrestle with the moral quandary of defending them – Jeff always approached them armed with the calm and unemotional motivation of doing a good job. He never let himself get bogged down.

Moreover, this same dispassionate approach made him the ideal choice as de facto managing partner for our small but demanding law office, enabling our office of 3-4 lawyers to run “lean and mean” despite a full caseload of misdemeanors, domestic violence, and serious felony matters. Under his leadership, we attorneys were able to focus on our clients and files, with very little worry about dealing with expenses, vendors, legal support services, or behind the scenes staff court. Although I have not experienced it first hand, it is my understanding that these same traits have enabled Jeff to run his busy Family Court calendar with great effectiveness. In an area of law that includes contentious divorces, volatile Restraining Order matters, and every kind of juvenile criminal complexity, this is no small feat, I’m sure.

Jeff has set his present sights on this District Court position, but if you believe what I say, I’m sure Your Honor would agree that Jeff is suited for any judicial position. However, I believe that the District Court is where the law and society meet each other, often for the first time. I believe it is imperative that public trust in this particular institution is most reinforced. It is for all these reasons that I believe the Judiciary should jump at the chance to install him as a District Court judge.

Thank you for your time and attention to this long letter, and I am personally grateful that Jeff is being considered.

VERY TRULY YOURS

BENJAMIN R.C. IGNACIO

September 8, 2019

Letter in Strong Support of JC1, Jeffrey A. Hawk

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

My name is Bryant Zane. I am a Deputy Public Defender and have worked 16 out of the last 17 years at the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai'i in Honolulu. Prior to that I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Kaua'i for four and a half years. I am writing this letter in strong support of JC1, Judicial Nominee for District Court Judge of the Third Circuit, Jeffrey A. Hawk.

Although I have been acquainted with Mr. Hawk for over 35 years, I really got to know him as a fellow Deputy Public Defender in 2002. He was a trial animal. My trial ambitions were stoked by watching him do trial after trial. I remember Mr. Hawk doing a closing argument and picking a jury for his next trial in the same day. He shared his trial knowledge with the younger Deputy Public Defenders. I still use a particular bit of advice that he gave to me fifteen years ago in my trial work today and am passing it on as well. Mr. Hawk has always been a principled person and has dedicated his career to representing indigent clients. I expect this to translate into following the rule of law as well as compassion to all who walk into his courtroom. Mr. Hawk is witty and fun, and never agitated even in the midst of the most trying situation. The Third Circuit will be well served in its District Court by him. Please confirm Jeffrey A. Hawk.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha Pumehana,

/s/ Bryant Zane

Bryant Zane

LATE

Catherine Gutierrez
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. Ste. B-299
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 532-3229
catherinegutierrezlaw@gmail.com

August 7, 2019

Re: Letter in support of the nomination of Jeffrey A. Hawk
As District Court Judge of the Third Circuit

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee:

This letter is submitted in support of the nomination of JEFFREY A. HAWK as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I have known Mr. Hawk professionally and personally for about eighteen years. I submit this letter in strong support of his nomination. Mr. Hawk possesses the character, intellect, and professional experience to excel as a District Court Judge.


Having shared a law office and working closely with Mr. Hawk, I can attest to his genuine character. He is a man I greatly admire and respect as a person and attorney. I have witnessed his dedication to his clients, career and community. He possesses the integrity and judicial temperament necessary for the position. Mr. Hawk has an abundance of patience, a virtue that judges must command. Furthermore, he is a seasoned attorney and judge who has the experience and knowledge needed to excel as a judge.

Mr. Hawk is also very committed to public service, especially helping the youth in our community, and is highly respected amongst his peers. He believes in giving back to the community. This coupled with his intellect and vast litigation experience can only lead to great success in his future with the Judiciary.

I have had the privilege to know Mr. Hawk not only professionally but also on personal basis. He is a devoted husband, son, brother, father and friend. He is very patient and generous with his time and friendship.

With his vast legal experience and knowledge and commitment to his community, Mr. Hawk will be a tremendous addition to the Judiciary. I recommend him to you enthusiastically and without reservation. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Very truly yours,



Catherine Gutierrez

Darcia Forester
Deputy Public Defender
1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. A-254
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

September 6, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice-Chair Glenn Wakai

**Re: Letter in Support of Jeffrey A. Hawk to Serve as
Judge in the District Court of the Third Circuit
Senate Judiciary Hearing on September 10, 2019**

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am writing this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of Jeffrey A. Hawk to serve as a Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeffrey for over 20 years. I have known his dedication to public service – both inside and outside of the courtroom. Jeffrey has been both a colleague and a friend. We worked together as Deputy Public Defenders until he left our office for private practice. I also had the pleasure of working with him as an attorney in private practice. I have relied upon his legal advice and counsel on many occasions and I trust his legal knowledge and his legal experience as well as his reason and common sense. He is ethical, hard-working and very intelligent. I have followed his career and I have admired his dedication to the pursuit of justice and fairness over the years.

He has served tirelessly as a trial lawyer with the Office of the Public Defender and as a private attorney running his own law practice. He has practiced in State courts throughout the State of Hawaii and in Federal court as well as military courts on Oahu. In addition, Jeffrey was recently appointed as a Per Diem Judge on Oahu and on the Island of Hawaii where he now resides. Finally, Jeffrey has served on the board of Adult Friends for Youth, a nonprofit organization serving to redirect our youth toward pro-social goals and activities. I believe that Jeff's knowledge as a per diem judge on two diverse islands, a trial lawyer, and his strong family and community involvement, would be a credit to our Judiciary. He is intelligent, diligent, and hard working. He has the demeanor and patience required to be more than just a jurist – he has the ability to become a truly excellent, fair minded and measured judge. I have no doubt that he will continue to be an asset to the Judiciary and an asset in the Third Circuit.

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In sum, I believe that Jeffrey possesses the professional credentials, the life experience, and the strong record of community service that would enable him to excel as a Judge. He is fair-minded, thoughtful, and has the demeanor and work ethic to be an excellent Judge serving the Third Circuit. For the reasons stated above, I firmly believe that he will make a strong addition to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

Very truly yours,

Darcia Forester
Deputy Public Defender

From: [David Rosen](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of Appointment of Jeffrey A. Hawk to the District Court of the Third Circuit (Hearing 9/10/19)
Date: Friday, September 6, 2019 2:38:39 PM

I have known Jeff for over 10 years professionally and through his work with Adult Friends for Youth (AFY), which is a non-profit helping at risk youth. Jeff served on AFY's Board of Directors and as its President for many years. During that time, he devoted substantial time to providing AFY with legal guidance and leadership.

His integrity and work ethic are beyond reproach. He has a sharp legal mind that melds both practical considerations and controlling law. As a public defender and in his private practice, Jeff dealt with many difficult cases in a professional and humane manner. Jeff will be an excellent judge.

I strongly support his appointment and hope that you will confirm his nomination.

David B. Rosen, Esq.

The Law Office of David B. Rosen, ALC

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**Past Chair of the Board*

Submitted to Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Re: Jeffrey A. Hawk-JC#1

By: Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee on Judiciary-I am writing this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of Jeffrey "Jeff" A. Hawk to serve as a Judge for District Court of the Third Circuit. I have witnessed first-hand his dedication to public service – both inside and outside of the courtroom.

He has served tirelessly as a trial lawyer with the Office of the Public Defender and as a private attorney. He has practiced in State and Federal court as well as military courts on Oahu and currently serves as a Per Diem Judge in Family and District Court of the Third Circuit.

I first crossed paths with Jeff 16 years ago through Adult Friends for Youth (AFY), when he helped represent a young man who was associated with AFY. He listened and reviewed all the facts. Through his diligence and determination, he later discovered that all the allegations made against this young man were false. The case was dismissed and this young man got his life back. The young man now has a Master's degree in Social Work and serves the community as a role model for many young people going down the wrong path in life. None of this would be possible without Jeff's hard work and his belief in this young man. Jeff knew that he deserved a fair chance in the judiciary system.

This story is just one example of Jeff's dedication to making sure people get a fair and honest opportunity within the system. Jeff works tirelessly on behalf of his clients. He has dedicated countless hours of pro bono services for our young people and volunteering his time to further the mission of AFY. As an AFY Board member (15 years), he knows the importance of helping to redirect high-risk youth from a life of destruction to a life of pro-social goals and that it is best for the communities of Hawaii.

I believe that Jeff's knowledge and expertise as a trial lawyer, coupled with his strong family and community involvement, would be a credit to our Judiciary system. For these reasons I believe that Jeff possesses all the professional credentials, the life experience, and a strong history of community service that will make him an excellent choice and candidate for a Judge in District Court of the Third Circuit.

From: [Edmund W.K. Haitsuka](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Support for Confirmation of Jeffrey A. Hawk (JC#1)
Date: Friday, September 6, 2019 9:26:12 AM

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write to you in support of the confirmation of Jeffrey A. Hawk for the Third Circuit District Court judge position. I have known Mr. Hawk for over 25 years since we were classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. After law school, Mr. Hawk went to work for the Public Defender's Office in Honolulu while I ended up on the Big Island in private practice. Mr. Hawk later went into private practice himself and relocated to the Big Island several years ago.

Although we work in different areas of law, I have had the opportunity of interacting with Mr. Hawk over the years. I have collaborated with Mr. Hawk on cases for existing clients and he took over a criminal case from me and was able to bring it to a successful conclusion through trial.

I believe that Mr. Hawk possesses all of the qualities and attributes that we look for in a judge. He is intelligent, patient, fair, humble and well organized. After more than 20 years defending criminal defendants, I am pleasantly surprised that Mr. Hawk still believes in the fundamental principles of the judicial system that were instilled in us at law school and that he has not become jaded or cynical regarding the system or the process. In my opinion, you will not find a better candidate for district court judge than Mr. Hawk.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund W.K. Haitsuka, Esq.



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LATE

Emily Kawashima Waters

ATTORNEY AT LAW L.L.C.

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September 9, 2019

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

Chairman Karl Rhoads
Senate Committee on Judiciary
145 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: JC1
Letter in Support of Jeffrey A. Hawk to Serve as
Judge in the District Court of the Third Circuit

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I write to you in strong support of Jeffrey A. Hawk to serve as a Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff since 1998, when we were often opposing counsel and I tried several jury trials against him as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I have always known his dedication to public service – both inside and outside of the courtroom.

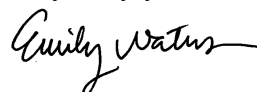
As a trial lawyer with the Office of the Public Defender, he was truly a zealous advocate for his clients and served them well. He followed the law and gave his clients the best representation. As a private attorney running his own law practice, he continued this same dedication. I was consistently impressed with Jeff's professionalism and dedication to the fairness of our judicial system.

Jeff is extremely well-rounded in his legal experience. He has practiced in State and Federal court as well as military courts on Oahu. In addition, Jeffrey has been gaining judicial experience as a Family Court Per Diem Judge.

Jeff has served for several years on the board of Adult Friends for Youth, a nonprofit organization serving to redirect our youth toward pro-social goals and activities. He has dedicated countless hours ensuring that our youth are given the opportunities to stay out of the judicial system.

Jeff has served as a per diem Judge on the Big Island and Oahu, and clearly possesses strong professional credentials and a strong record of community service. His experience and temperament would greatly benefit the Judiciary. Thank you for your consideration

Very truly yours,



Emily Kawashima Waters, Esq.

Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: JC1 Testimony in support of Jeffrey A. Hawk for District Court Judge for the District Court of the Third Circuit (Hawaii)

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I support wholeheartedly Jeffrey A. Hawk for District Court Judge for the District Court of the Third Circuit (Hawaii). I have known Jeff for approximately 20 years starting when I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and when he started with the Public Defenders' Office. Later, he moved into private practice at Hawk Sing & Ignacio, then to private practice on the Big Island. We have had several cases on opposing sides when I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and I have found Jeff to be a tenacious advocate.

Jeff has extensive experience in litigation and he has experience on the bench as a Per Diem Judge in the Family Court on Oahu and on the Big Island in the Family and District Courts. As a former litigator at the Prosecutors' Office and in private practice with Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervell, you want judges that are trial ready, experienced in moving a calendar and have trial experience as a litigator.

I believe that Jeff has the judicial temperament to be an excellent judge. He has the ability to make fair decisions in respectful judgment of others. In addition, he can comport himself appropriately, without losing his composure or equilibrium even under fire. He will make an excellent judge because he is honest, trustworthy, fair, and compassionate. Jeff's commitment to the Big Island community is genuine evidenced by his volunteering as a firefighter at the Hawaii County Volcano station.

I am confident that should you confirm Jeff as a Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit (Hawaii), he will continue to do a stellar job as a judge, but now full-time instead of a Per Diem Judge. Jeff's experience in construction is also an invaluable asset, because building any structure requires a solid foundation as well as methodical analysis in completing a sound structure. These types of skills are similar in law because you need a solid foundation (experience) to assist you to make the right decisions by proper analysis to come to the correct conclusion.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on Jeff's confirmation.

Very truly yours,


Franklin Don Pacarro, Jr., Esq.

9/5/19

LATE

LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD K. K. LUKE

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September 9, 2019

Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street,
Senate Judiciary Committee Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
via email attachment to JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Testimony in support of the nomination of Jeffrey A. Hawk (JC1)

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Fellow Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in strong support for the confirmation of Jeffrey A. Hawk as a District Court Judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit.


I have known Mr. Hawk since he was a high school student at 'Iolani School. His father was a professional colleague of my wife at the Department of Psychiatry at Straub Clinic and Hospital.

From this early age, I was impressed with the intelligence and good character of Mr. Hawk. We followed his path through college, his first jobs, law school, and then as a deputy public defender and in private practice.

Mr. Hawk is an excellent nominee to the Third Circuit District Court bench. As an adult, he has always had a special kind of aloha for the Big Island. As a per diem district judge, he has done great service to the judiciary. He has all the tools that make for an excellent judge.

I respectfully request that you confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,



Howard K. K. Luke, Esq.

September 8, 2019

Jon N. Ikenaga
4905 Waa Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

RE: 2019 Special Session
Measure JC 1 (Jeffrey A. Hawk)

Committee Members:

I strongly support the confirmation of Jeffrey A. Hawk as judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have been a deputy public defender in the Office of the Public Defender ("OPD") since 1994. I worked with Mr. Hawk for a number of years at the OPD and maintained contact with him after he left the OPD and went into private practice. Mr. Hawk has always held himself with the utmost integrity and has maintained an impeccable standard of practice throughout the many years that I have known him. I have always been impressed with Mr. Hawk's ability to fairly assess cases and have no doubt that he will be an even-handed, impartial adjudicator of all matters before him. Mr. Hawk has unequivocally expressed his devotion to the Big Island community to me on numerous occasions and he will make an exemplary addition to the judiciary in the Third Circuit.

I have no hesitation in voicing my support for the confirmation of Mr. Hawk and urge the Committee members to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jon N. Ikenaga

Law Offices of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

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Email: jkmhlaw@aol.com

September 8, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: JC1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Jeffrey A. Hawk

Hearing: Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Jeffrey A. Hawk as a District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I am an attorney in private practice and recently served two terms as a part-time member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (2011-2019). The focus of my legal work, previously with the Office of the Public Defender and currently in private practice, has been appellate advocacy.

I first met Jeffrey Hawk ("Jeff") when we were both working at the Office of the Public Defender. I have always known Jeff to be a very respectful and even-tempered person. He conducts himself with the utmost professionalism.

While Jeff has been in private practice, he has represented clients at parole board hearings in some of the most serious and challenging felony cases. In his presentations to our 3-panel board, Jeff was an exemplary advocate. He would often "go the extra mile" for his clients and present complex and persuasive legal arguments, supported by well-researched legal memoranda. The parole board members were consistently impressed with his knowledge of the law and his dedication to his clients.

Re: Judicial Nominee Jeffrey A. Hawk
Page two

With his extensive litigation experience, impressive legal acumen and strong sense of justice and fairness, I believe Jeff would be a tremendous asset to the District Court bench.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this letter of support. Should you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at (808) 591-9597.

Yours truly,

Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo
Attorney at Law

From: [keith shigetomi](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Jeffrey Hawk. JC#1
Date: Friday, September 6, 2019 10:53:13 PM

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Jeffrey Hawk as District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I first met Jeff when he was a young deputy public defender. Even then, he stood out as an attorney with a strong work ethic and a sense of responsibility. Jeff later moved to private practice where he continued to handle challenging cases with success. He also served as a per firm judge.

While I never had the opportunity to appear in front of him as a judge, I have had the chance to work together with him as a lawyer. Since last year we have been representing co-defendants in a criminal case. Jeff was successful in a key pretrial motion.

I am confident that Jeffrey Hawk will serve the public well in the next phase of his legal career, as a District Court Judge. I support his confirmation without reservation. Thank you.

Keith Shigetomi

Sent from my iPhone

TESTIMONY OF
KENNETH G. GOODENOW

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2019

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY ON JUDICIARY COMMUNICATION NO. 1
RELATING TO JEFFREY A. HAWK FOR THE POSITION OF DISTRICT COURT
JUDGE OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity of presenting written testimony in support of judicial nominee Jeffrey A. Hawk.

As a member of the Hilo legal community, I have appeared numerous times before Jeffrey A. Hawk in his capacity as a per diem judge. Judge Hawk has distinguished himself as an impartial, courteous, and intelligent jurist. It is my opinion that Judge Hawk has the judicial temperament and integrity to be an excellent judge for the Third Circuit; I strongly urge his confirmation by the Hawai'i State Senate.

Many members of court staff, fellow lawyers and litigants have expressed to me their appreciation of Judge Hawk. I have heard many compliments on Judge Hawk's sound judgement, knowledge of the law, compassion and fairness.

In addition to being an outstanding lawyer, Judge Hawk is a fine individual who I know will work hard to serve the interests of justice and our island community.

I give Jeffrey A. Hawk my highest recommendation and ask for your support of his nomination.

From: [Mailing List](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Cc: laura.k.maeshiro@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM (Written Only)
Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 8:59:13 AM

JC1

Submitted on: 9/9/2019

Testimony for on Sep 10, 2019 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Laura Maeshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support of Jeffrey Hawk's nomination. I have known Jeff since 2005 in a professional capacity and he has the traits I believe a Judge should possess: professionalism, intelligence, and respect for all he comes into contact with.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Adult Friends for Youth

"Redirecting lives to stop Violence"

LATE

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**Past Chair of the Board*

Submitted to Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Re: Jeffrey A. Hawk-JC#1

By: Lisa Tamashiro

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee on Judiciary-I am writing this letter in full support of Jeffrey "Jeff" A. Hawk to serve as a Judge for District Court of the Third Circuit. My name is Lisa Tamashiro and I am the Director of Operations and Special Programs at Adult Friends for Youth (AFY).

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Jeff Hawk as a Board member of AFY. I cannot start to describe the commitment, dedication and passion Mr. Hawk has for the agency and for the youth we serve to speak with our youth about the Law. He has provided legal counsel and taken on cases pro bono. He has been involved with our alternative education program as a guest speaker. He has also provided tours of Circuit Court where our youth had the opportunity to speak with Oahu Judges. He is a true youth advocate and I cannot imagine anyone more fitting for the position than Mr. Hawk. He has made a great difference in the lives of the youth we serve and as part of our mission states, he genuinely believes providing opportunities and second chances so that all youth can reach their full potential. Finally, he has contributed his time and resources to our annual fundraiser. He is a member of AFY's Fund Development Committee that dedicates their time to continuously improve AFY's funding opportunities.

Mr. Hawk has the right balance to an exceptional judge for the State of Hawaii. He is humble and sincere. The youth we work with are some of the highest risk youth on the island of Oahu who often have a distrust of adults. However, Mr. Hawk is able to build rapport because they sense his sincerity and determination to help. He truly demonstrates a saying in our agency that youth do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.

I highly recommend Mr. Hawk for the position of a District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. His expertise, experience and commitment will surely benefit the community and the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Yuen
1709 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Email: markyuen14@hotmail.com

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC 1: Mr. Jeffrey A. Hawk's Confirmation Hearing (September 10, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.)

Chairman Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to write my comments supporting Mr. Jeffrey A. Hawk's nomination as a judge of the District Court of the Third Circuit. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I have known Mr. Hawk for over twenty years and first met him when he was a Deputy Public Defender. I am very familiar with him as we opposed each other in cases in Family Court in the late 1990's and when he later went to private practice, there were many occasions when I would see him in the downtown area and we would speak.

I very much support Mr. Hawk's nomination as a District Court judge because I truly believe that Mr. Hawk will be an excellent judge. To begin with, Mr. Hawk is very knowledgeable about the law. He has been an outstanding courtroom attorney for many years and has always had a solid reputation for being intelligent and well-versed in the law and the Rules of Evidence. He has a solid background as a litigator and he knows the ins and outs of the process and procedure in the courtroom.

Secondly, Mr. Hawk is fair. Although he has been a defense attorney for many years, I have always known Mr. Hawk to be nothing but fair. I have no doubt whatsoever that he will treat the litigants on both sides fairly and will treat each case with an attitude of nothing but complete impartiality.

Thirdly, Mr. Hawk is honest. With me, Mr. Hawk has always been a straight-shooter. He never played games and always gave a fair assessment on his cases. I always appreciated how he always fought 110 percent for his clients, yet never came close to crossing the line.

Fourthly, Mr. Hawk is a true gentleman. I have known him for many years and have never seen him lose his temper. I have nothing but pleasant experiences with him and no matter what situation that I have been in with him, I have received nothing but the utmost respect from him. He has always been friendly and cordial to myself and to the others at the Prosecutor's office. In this manner, I wholeheartedly believe that Mr. Hawk has the perfect judicial temperament to be a judge. He is patient and respectful and he always carries himself as one would expect from a judge.

Lastly, I would like to give you an example of Mr. Hawk's character. Years ago, I heard that a defendant at court was harassing one of the deputy prosecuting attorneys. The deputy felt very threatened by the defendant's behavior. Mr. Hawk, who was not involved in the case, apparently saw what was happening and intervened immediately. He then made sure that the deputy was safe and comforted her. The deputy told others in the office about what had happened and said that she really appreciated the actions by Mr. Hawk. When I later found out about the story, I asked Mr. Hawk about it and he was extremely humble about it. He completely downplayed his actions and simply noted that he was glad that he was able to help. This story really speaks a lot about Mr. Hawk's character and this is yet another reason why I believe he will be such an excellent judge.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Yuen

September 6, 2019

To: Senate JDC Committee

I testify in support of Jeffrey A. Hawk, judicial nominee for a District Court vacancy on Hawaii Island, JC #1.

As a mediator at Kuikahi Mediation Center for the last seven years, I have observed and interacted with several District Court judges. I am keenly aware of the impact a judge's temperament can have on the outcome of certain cases. In my social interactions with Mr. Hawk, whom I have known for years as a neighbor, I have been impressed by his amiable, focused attention to neighborhood problems. In thinking about him as a judge, I believe he would take a balanced, fair approach to the cases on his docket. I trust his judgment and strength of character, and would be pleased to mediate any case he sent to Kuikahi.

Sincerely,

Paul Freeman
P.O. Box 2065
Volcano, HI 96785-2065

RICHARD L. HOKE, JR

ATTORNEY AT LAW

111 HEKILI STREET

SUITE A #509

KAILUA, HAWAII 96734

TEL: (808) 927-4311

FAX: (808) 675-5804

EMAIL: rhokeesq@yahoo.com

September 9, 2019

Senate JDC Committee
JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: THIRD CIRCUIT FAMILY DISTRICT COURT NOMINEE JEFF HAWK

Dear Senators:

I strongly support the nomination of Jeff Hawk to the Family District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Jeff for over 20 years. Jeff is a devoted family man with children. He often speaks of his quality time with his family, from which I surmise he derives the support and the motivation to fuel his successful legal career.

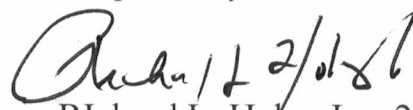
Jeff is experienced with the inner workings of the judicial process. He has successfully tried hundreds of cases and has spent a career dealing with high-powered attorneys. All this experience will serve him well as a family district court judge.

Jeff has an even temperament. He is always in control of his emotions. He does not lose control or show anger. He is cool under fire and will give opposing attorneys and parties their due respect.

I predict that attorneys will evaluate Jeff favorably as a judge. He is experienced, smart, respectful, fair and has a sense of humor.

During my 40 years of experience as a trial attorney I have been in front of many judges. I have no doubt that Jeff Hawk can fulfill the responsibilities of a Family Court Judge for the Third Circuit of the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,



Richard L. Hoke, Jr. 2486



THE LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD H.S. SING

DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER
841 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 410
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE: (808) 537-1529
FACSIMILE: (808) 523-9137
EMAIL: RICKSING@HICRIMINALLAW.COM

September 5, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street, Conference Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: JC1: Jeffrey A. Hawk for District Court of the Third Circuit, Judge – In Support

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Jeffrey A. Hawk for the position of District Court Judge of the Third Circuit.

I am a solo practitioner concentrating in criminal defense who has appeared in the District, Family, Circuit and Federal Courts on a regular basis over the past 20 years. I am very familiar with the histories, procedures and personalities of the Courts of the First Circuit, as well as moderately familiar with our other three judicial circuits.

I have known Mr. Hawk since the mid-1990's when we were public defenders together in the First Circuit. In 2003, We formed the criminal defense firm of Hawk Sing & Ignacio and remained law partners and close friends until 2015, when Mr. Hawk moved to the Big Island. Mr. Hawk was a reliable and trusted business partner who cared deeply about the individuals he represented.

Mr. Hawk is one of the brightest, quickest and most competent attorneys that I have ever met. He has impeccable academic credentials, as well as years of practical "in the trenches" experience as a Public Defender, Private Attorney, and Per Diem Judge. Public service needs honest, talented, and caring individuals like Jeffrey Hawk.

Outside of his professional life, Jeffrey Hawk is a loving caring husband and parent, who has always treated others with respect and fairness. He is levelheaded and compassionate. He possesses the best of the traits that we hope for ourselves, and for those in whom the community entrusts power. I trust him as a friend and colleague, and believe that our community needs and deserves him on the bench.

I believe that the opportunity to have such a qualified candidate for the position of Circuit Court Judge should not be passed up. Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

Richard H.S. Sing

From: [Richard Stacey](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Testimony in Support of Judge Trish Morikawa, GM#6, Hearing Sept. 10, 2019, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Date: Sunday, September 8, 2019 9:28:52 PM

Subject: Testimony in Support of Jeffrey Hawk, Nominee to the District Court of the Third Circuit, JC#1, Hearing Sept. 10, 2019, Senate Committee on Judiciary
To: <jdctestimony@capitol.hawaii.com>

Honorable Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Jeff Hawk who has been nominated to sit on the bench of the District Court of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff since he became a deputy public defender. I have been on the opposite side of cases with him while I was a deputy prosecutor and while I was a deputy attorney general. Jeff is intelligent, wise in court, very experienced, hard working and he will be an extremely competent addition to the bench.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.
I am available for any questions at 741-5573.

--

Richard Stacey
Bar #6419
stacey001@gmail.com

--

Rich Stacey

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION
OF JEFFREY HAWK TO THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT**

September 10, 2019

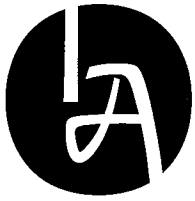
To: Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii. I am testifying in support of Jeffrey Hawk on his nomination to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Jeff for the past several years and found him to be an excellent attorney and litigator. He has developed his skills as a trial attorney during his many years in private practice and recently gained experience as a per diem judge in the third circuit district and family courts.

His trial experience and his two years serving as a per diem judge will be of great use when he is on the bench. I have the utmost confidence that Jeff will be an excellent judge because of his intellect, his ability to listen carefully to various points of view, and his background as a trial attorney. I also feel that he has the proper demeanor to be an excellent judge.

I wholeheartedly support his nomination and urge his confirmation by this committee and by the Hawaii State Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



September 4, 2019

Hon. Karl Rhoads
Chairperson
Senate Judiciary Committee
State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC-1 JEFFREY A. HAWK

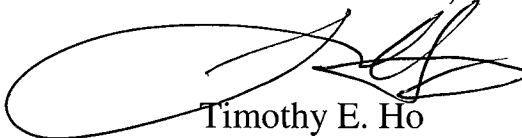
Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of Jeff Hawk's judicial confirmation to the District Court of the Third Circuit.

I have known Jeff for over twenty years, in a professional and personal capacity. Jeff is intelligent, with a quick wit and keen common sense. Jeff will make an excellent jurist, because he will be able to balance his compassion for others with a firm resolve for justice. I have never known Jeff to back down from a challenge.

I urge you to confirm Jeffrey Hawk to the judicial position of District Court Judge. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on his behalf.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



Timothy E. Ho



TOMMY WATERS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

LATE

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Senate District 13
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Jeffrey Hawk, nominee District/Family Court Judge

Dear Chair Rhoads and JDC Committee Members:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Jeffrey Hawk, Esq. for District/Family Court Judge.

I have known and worked with Mr. Hawk for many years. Mr. Hawk and I first served together as Deputy Public Defenders for almost a decade. Mr. Hawk distinguished himself as being an fierce advocate for his indigent clients. Later, Mr. Hawk and I, along with Richard Sing and Ben Ignacio created the law firm of Hawk Sign Ignacio and Waters. Mr. Hawk was a great resource often able to site case law and statutory construction contemporaneously. His grasp of the rules of evidence was, and is, nothing short of amazing.

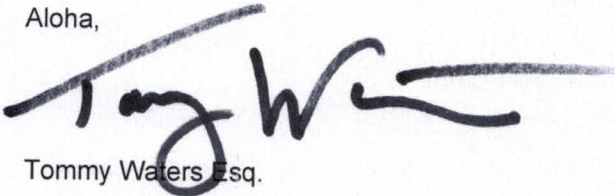
Mr. Hawk is also a dedicated husband and father. He raised two beautiful daughters who are very successful in their own right.

He also has the perfect judicial temperament. He is a calm and well-reasoned person by nature. Even under fire, I believe he is able to rationally and reasonably weigh through a complicated issues, and find a remedy

I truly believe that Mr. Hawk will be an asset to the Judiciary, and the State of Hawaii and will win praise for our Court system and the State of Hawaii. I believe that the opportunity to have such a qualified candidate for the position of District/Family Court Judge should not be passed up.

Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Aloha,



Tommy Waters Esq.

Tracy S Fukui, Esq.

c/o Office of the Corporation Counsel
530 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: tracy@tfukui-law.com

September 9, 2019

Hawaii State Legislature – Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: District Court Judge of the Third Circuit Nominee Jeffrey Hawk (**JC-1**)

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am writing in support of Jeffrey Hawk (“Jeff”) for appointment to District Court Judge of the Third Circuit. I have known Jeff personally and professionally for nearly twenty years.

Jeff and I first met as young public defenders. When I first entered the trial rotation, I took over Jeff’s case load. He was instrumental in my trial skills training. He is direct, competent, and thoughtful. What I admire most was his objectiveness in his analysis of cases, while maintaining a health sense of humor.

I also know Jeff well as a personal friend. As a friend he is loyal, trustworthy, smart, and kind. I am very confident Jeff will make an excellent District Court Judge and strongly support his nomination. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/Tracy S. Fukui

Tracy S. Fukui, Esq.