

**From:** [Mailing List](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [aphirakb@gmail.com](mailto:aphirakb@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for JC5 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:24:48 PM

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**JC5**

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Aphirak Bamrungruan	Individual	Support	No

**Your comments:** My name is Aphirak Bamrungruan and I am a licensed attorney in State of Hawaii. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of Courtney N. Naso's appointment to the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Naso for over 13 years as a family law practitioner and have had the privilege of working with Ms. Naso on many occasions. Based on my first-hand observations, Ms. Naso has always exhibited professionalism, due care, and civility when dealing with others. It has been my experience that Ms. Naso is always prepared, polite, courteous, and patient with clients and opposing counsels. There is mutual respect even when we do not agree on the outcome. I have the utmost confidence that Ms. Naso, if given the opportunity, would be an outstanding addition to the Hawaii State Judiciary. Thank you for the opportunity to support Ms. Naso's nomination.

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**From:** [Mailing List](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [csrivers@hotmail.com](mailto:csrivers@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for JC5 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2020 8:37:21 AM

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**JC5**

Submitted on: 9/25/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Candra Rivers	Individual	Support	No

**Your comments:** My name is Candra S. Rivers, and I am an attorney at the Law Office of Steven J. Kim, where Courtney N. Naso currently practices. I am writing to provide my support of Mrs. Naso as a Judge in the District Family Court of the First Circuit. I have known Mrs. Naso since I began working at this firm in October 2016. Since that time, Ms. Naso has shown herself to be a compassionate, intelligent and thoughtful person, not only in her personal life, but also as an attorney. She approaches each case with thoughtfulness, and consistently demonstrates her ability to view and analyze facts and cases from an independent perspective. This ability to view cases independently is a great asset for Ms. Naso, especially as family court cases very often require a judge that is able to make a decision and orders that apply consistent principles, but that also work for the particular family at issue in a given case. Ms. Naso has a temperament that would benefit the Family Court, being both warm and open, but also firm in her approach. I believe all of these qualities, and more, would enable Ms. Naso to be a phenomenal judge in the family court. I believe Ms. Naso should be confirmed as a District Family Judge.

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LAW OFFICE OF  
DOUGLAS A. CROSIER, LLLC

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September 29, 2020

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
The Senate of the State of Hawaii  
The Thirtieth Legislature  
Interim of 2020

RE: Submission of written testimony in favor of Judicial Nominee  
COURTNEY N. NASO for consideration and confirmation to the  
District Family Court of the First Circuit

Dear Senator and Committee Chair Senator Karl Rhoads and Senator and Vice  
Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Judiciary Committee Senators:

Please accept this written testimony as my unequivocal support of  
Judicial Nominee COURTNEY N. NASO and as my request for your favorable  
consideration of COURTNEY N. NASO for the confirmation to the District  
Family Court of the First Circuit.

My support of Ms. Naso is because she is truly an exceptional candidate  
for appointment to the Judiciary.

I know Ms. Naso very well. I have known Ms. Naso since 1993, over a  
period of 27 years. Although we do not socialize on a private basis such as  
going out to dinner with spouses/family or lunches, my knowledge of Ms. Naso

as a person and a lawyer may be unique because of the unique history I have with Ms. Naso. That personal history is comprised of having known and continuing to know Ms. Naso as a result of my exposure and experience with her in three very different situations and professional environments. This collective experience with Ms. Naso afforded me the opportunity to observe her character, skills, and competence over a period of many years and different circumstances.

My first contact with her was in 1993, when I had my own sole proprietorship law practice in Honolulu. I knew Ms. Naso then not as a lawyer but as a lay person and employee working in the legal field. Ms. Naso was hired by me and worked for me for approximately a year or more to 1994 or closely thereabouts. Ms. Naso was one of two legal assistants that worked for me. My solo practice was almost exclusively family law but I did have other civil cases such as personal injury cases; however, family law clearly made up the huge majority of my law practice. Ms. Naso performed excellently and met all my expectations. She ended her employment with me on excellent terms. It was her decision and I was sad to see her leave because I relied upon her in my work and representation of clients. She was a joy to work with because she was always pleasant and positive. I cannot recall a single day that she was anything other than a pleasure to work with.



In her employment with me, she drafted and prepared divorce decrees, prepared and reviewed discovery pleadings and responses both in my family law practice and personal injury cases, Ms. Naso assisted my clients in their preparation and completion of court-required financial disclosure forms, calculated child support computations, prepared letters for me to clients, and assisted me in interviewing my clients from time to time. Although I would miss her work, her competence, and her always positive and pleasant personality, I knew she was leaving to attend law school and I knew she would be a tremendous positive addition to the legal community and the public.

Years later, I became reacquainted with Ms. Naso and got to know her in a professional environment. This time my experience with Ms. Naso as a licensed attorney in the State of Hawaii, and of all situations, with her as an opposing counsel in a very, very, contested and contentious post-divorce custody relocation case. Her work and representation of her client were excellent. Although I had years of litigation experience far in excess of Ms. Naso's experience, she was so competent, thorough, and skillful, that I had my "hands full" in litigating against her. Throughout the life of this highly contested case, which lasted for months and months, in and out of court on motions and other matters, finally culminating in a two-day trial, I was totally impressed by her performance as a lawyer and as a person.

A judge must have the right temperament if he/she is to succeed as a jurist. I can say without any equivocation that Ms. Naso's temperament is no less than excellent. Her personality and demeanor present her as serious, and at the same time courteous and highly professional. My experience with her as an opposing counsel was one in which I could vigorously present legal and factual arguments against her client(s) without worrying that she would receive my opposition in a personal and subjective manner. Her response to my strong opposition was to first listen, then reflect on what was presented to her, and finally to respond without an "edge" or hint of hostility or aggression towards me. She presents herself to counsel and opposing parties as thoroughly in charge of her emotions, objective, and respectful to opposing views and parties. I have no doubt that Ms. Naso has the highest degree of excellent judicial temperament and that she would be totally fair, evenhanded, and open to hear and consider all points of view before making a judicial decision.

A judge must have a reputation for honesty. Ms. Naso's reputation for honesty, trustworthiness, character, integrity, and citizenship is superlative. I have a unique history involving firsthand knowledge of Ms. Naso's character and reputation for honesty. She was honest in all of her dealings with me as her former employer. There was never an occasion in which I had any doubt that I could trust Ms. Naso for her honesty with me and with my clients. My opinion of



honesty was only reconfirmed and heightened years later after she had left my employment to attend law school and practice law in Hawaii. As mentioned earlier, I had the unique opportunity to deal with Ms. Naso as her opposing attorney in that very, contested and contentious post-divorce custody relocation case we had against each other. My observation over the years of lawyers and the law practice is that a lawyer's "true" character "surfaces" in situations where principles of honesty in dealings may clash with the goals and tactics of "winning" a case at all costs including misrepresentation that could never be proven. My personal firsthand experience with Ms. Naso in that situation was that I could always trust that Ms. Naso was honest and would not deliberately mislead or manipulate a situation in bad faith. Ms. Naso displayed that she is the very type of person, character, and lawyer that we litigators hope will become a judge in the Family Court where a judge has very wide discretion in making decisions.

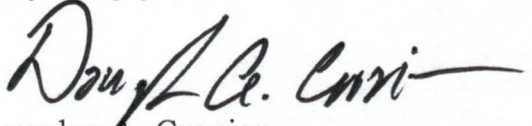
The public and the Judiciary would gain tremendously if Ms. Naso became a family court judge. I can unequivocally state this to you based on my 40 years of practicing law in Hawaii, most of which was as a litigator in private practice as a partner in two large law firms, and in solo practice. My experience also includes work in the public sector as a senior trial prosecutor, and as chief counsel at the state legislature. I have represented clients in family, civil, and criminal cases with much of my practice in the Family Court of the First Circuit. I have done

over 23 jury trials and have appeared and argued before the Hawaii Supreme Court. I also have appeared before countless judges in family court, civil circuit court, and criminal circuit. During that time in all of these years, I have had many opportunities of becoming familiar with and knowledgeable of other litigators. Ms. Naso stands out as one of the few attorneys I respect the most. She is intelligent, absolutely honest, courageous, and has a total command of the substantive law and court procedure. Based on my years of experience in the courtroom, I wholeheartedly, without qualification, state that Ms. Naso has all the attributes and qualities that would make her an ideal family court judge. The public and the judiciary will benefit from her service as a judge. From this firsthand experience with Ms. Naso as an employee, as an opposing litigator, and as a fellow attorney and colleague, I have no doubt that Ms. Naso possesses all the qualities that would make her an excellent jurist.

I can inform you that I have never written a stronger letter of judicial endorsement such as this one for the confirmation of a Family Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
Douglas A. Crosier





September 25, 2020

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

*Submitted via Capitol website*

RE: SUPPORT FOR NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COURTNEY N. NASO  
TO THE DISTRICT FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT

Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) is a nonprofit organization with approximately 300 members/attorneys. HWL's mission includes improving the status of women in the legal profession, increasing the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility, and promoting the advancement of all women.

HWL believes that increasing opportunities for, and improving the visibility of, qualified women in the Judiciary is extremely important. The judicial bench should be adequately balanced and reflect the composition of Hawaii's citizen.

The percentage of women judges in Hawaii has never been truly representative of the community at large. HWL has been working with the Bar, the Judicial Selection Commission and the appointing authorities (Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald and Governor David Ige) to educate and encourage women attorneys to consider applying for judicial positions. Significant strides have been made in the past several years, but HWL believes that more can be done to appoint qualified women to fill judicial vacancies to bring balance to the bench.

Consistent with these efforts to improve the diversity of our bench, HWL **supports** the nomination of Courtney N. Naso for the District Family Court of the First Circuit, and respectfully requests that you appoint her to the First Circuit. Courtney N. Naso's appointment will help to ensure that the number of women judges on the bench better represents the number of women in the legal profession and the community at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit support on this nomination.

Very truly yours,

Hawaii Women Lawyers

Hawaii Women Lawyers  
P.O. Box 2072  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805  
Email: [hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com)

# CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA, NAKAMURA & GOYA

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JOHN BURKE  
HALEY E. CHEE  
ROBERT A. CHONG  
STEPHEN G. DYER  
PATRICIA T. FUJII  
BLAINE W. FUJIMOTO  
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LAUREN A. SUGAI  
PHILIP S. UESATO  
MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE  
STEVEN T. WALL  
J. THOMAS WEBER

September 29, 2020

Committee on Judiciary  
c/o The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Senate, State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: JC5 – Consideration and confirmation to the District Family  
Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, COURTNEY N.  
NASO, for a term to expire in 6 years  
Hearing: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.,  
Conf. Room 106, State Capitol

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To the Committee on Judiciary:

I am submitting this written testimony on my own behalf in support of the confirmation of Judicial Nominee, Courtney N. Naso, Esq., for a term of six years as a District Family Court judge in the First Circuit Court, State of Hawaii. Courtney is qualified, well-suited and equipped to be a Family Court Judge.

Regarding her qualifications, Courtney has the specific legal skills and knowledge required and needed for the judicial position given her primary legal practice in the area of family law for many years. She has been an extremely active participant as a litigator in the Family Court for years, so she has the “in-the-trenches” experience in the courtroom. She has a key combination of objective legal analytical skills and what I describe as a humanistic, empathetic viewpoint, which, to me, are an important combination for a district family court judge. The objective analytical skills are necessary, but those skills and the ability to be objective cannot overwhelm and exclusively dictate a judge's approach. The humanistic, empathetic viewpoint also is needed without being sympathetic or emotionally tied to either side, especially given the nature of matters that family court judges encounter.

Courtney's judicial temperament will be excellent. She has a very even keel in the face of difficult and challenging matters; she expresses respect for other attorneys and parties; and has been practicing family law for a long enough time to have done well and earned the respect of opposing counsel and the court. I am unaware of any negative comments or viewpoints regarding her demeanor or personality. She has served as a mediator in family law matters, which reflects

Committee on Judiciary  
c/o The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
September 29, 2020  
Page 2

other attorneys' views of her as a capable neutral who can assist the parties in resolving claims/disputes.

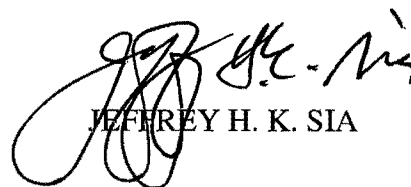
Courtney does not typically bring up the subject, but she is a past Miss Hawaii contestant and winner, who went on to law school and worked at a large Los Angeles law firm before returning to Hawaii to practice law. Her history as a Miss Hawaii winner is significant because of the various qualities and talents required to obtain that status. She is intelligent, poised, composed, not afraid of the public-eye, and, importantly, willing to serve the State. She is a mother and wife, who has an acute appreciation for the trials and tribulations of family life and needs. With her years of positive family law experience, standing in the legal community, she is an excellent and top choice to serve as a family court judge.

I know Courtney well having first met her through her husband, Paul Naso, who also is an attorney, and have known her for over 10 years. We have socialized, e.g., parties, meals, and other gatherings, and at my request, she assisted me by being on a panel of speakers for the Hawaii State Bar Association's Leadership Institute program several years ago, which also shows her willingness to give back to the legal community.

My support for the confirmation of her nomination to the bench comes from my background as a trial attorney and practitioner for 38 years in Hawaii; a former President of the Hawaii State Bar Association in 2008; and as a member of the Federal Judiciary Selection Commission from 2009 to 2013. As President of the bar association, I was involved in the judicial selection process (after the selection was made) and presented testimony before this Committee (under prior leadership) on behalf of the bar association regarding nominees presented for confirmation. As a member of the Federal Judiciary Selection Commission, I was involved with other Commission members in the selection of candidates for two United States District Court judicial positions for the District of Hawaii, State of Hawaii and advising Hawaii's U.S. Senators at the time about those judicial selections. With this experience, I lend my support for Courtney's confirmation to the bench.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration of Courtney's confirmation and of this letter in her support. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding my support of her confirmation.

Very truly yours,



JEFFREY H. K. SIA



September 24, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee  
RE: JC5 Courtney N. Naso

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

It is with great honor that I write to you on behalf of Courtney N. Naso as a judicial nominee for District Family Court Judge. I've had the pleasure of knowing Courtney for over 35 years, from our middle to high school days. Although we attended colleges on opposite coasts of the mainland, we remained close over the years. I credit Courtney for always reaching out, even if she would only be home for a few days or could just get in a quick phone call. It's little things like this which have nurtured our friendship into what it is today.

Courtney is the most mindful, honest, caring, selfless individual I've ever met. She is a beautiful person both inside and out. She handles herself with grace and integrity in every situation and I've seen it first hand on both ends of the spectrum. On stage for Miss Hawaii and again for Miss America, she is intelligent, confident, poised and well spoken. She is a fine example for young women everywhere. But more recently, I've seen her strength and composure while she was battling breast cancer. She remained strong, positive, informed. I remember her husband said that although Courtney had her ups and downs, she was still running the show, making sure the house was in tip top order, the family and pets were fed, and her daughter was still on top of her homework. And I remember her sending out email updates to family and friends with updates on her condition, details of her treatments, photos showing the progression of chemo, which I have to say, this girl can rock a no-hair look any day. Thankfully she took the time to explain her condition in simple terms so that anyone could understand. But all the while knowing how much pain she was in, not knowing when it would be over, she never let it show and never lost faith in the Lord. She is an amazing spirit and continues to be an inspiration to me and everyone around her.

Courtney's hard work and dedication has shown through while serving together on the Board of Directors for our high school alumni association. After years of asking her to serve, she finally said yes! But it wasn't because she didn't want to serve all those other times. It was because she wanted to make sure she could give 100% of herself before committing. Through our experience of serving on the board together, I've seen her in action as she's kept us on track during meetings, asked questions, listened to all sides impartially and settling indecision. She is very organized, can easily recall past information, draws on past experiences to clarify situations, and is also realistic when it comes to budget, schedule or manpower so we don't get in over our heads. Courtney has been an asset to our Board and we have been fortunate that she chose to serve with us.

When I think about what qualities would make a good candidate for a position like this, it would be someone who is fair, but firm. One who is patient and listens to all sides, is open-minded and compassionate. One who is competent and considers all the information presented in order to render an impartial decision. I truly believe that Courtney embodies all of these qualities. She is

well equipped for the job based upon her personal experiences, her education, relevant training, and knowledge of the law. She has good moral character and is not focused on advancing her own biases or agenda. With so much corruption and negativity around us, it's comforting to know that there are people like Courtney in this world who are stepping forward to make a difference.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of my dear friend and inspiration, Courtney N. Naso as a District Family Court Judicial Nominee.

Very respectfully,  
Jennifer S. Harada Okino

**From:** [Ligaya Stice](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony - Courtney Naso  
**Date:** Sunday, September 27, 2020 7:55:17 AM

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To Whom it may concern:

I'm writing in support of Courtney Naso who is a nominee for family court judge. I've known Courtney since she was 17 years old and a student at Hawaii Baptist Academy. Even at that young age, Courtney proved to be an accomplished, thoughtful and motivated young woman. I've remained in touch with her throughout the years as we've both went on to graduate and professional schools.

Courtney has accomplished much and she has also endured much. She is a breast cancer survivor that has persevered through chemotherapy, multiple surgeries, and complications due to reconstruction. I am always amazed when I visit her in the hospital - her upbeat and positive demeanor gets her through the toughest times. Her own personal struggles I believe grant her the tools of empathy, and I feel she is uniquely and exceptionally suited for this position. Her character is impeccable.

She gives back to her community in multiple ways, including her work with me as a volunteer for the Distinguished Young Women of Hawaii Scholarship Program. Mentoring the next generation of Hawaii's leaders is important to her and she always finds the time to participate when asked.

I highly recommend Courtney based on her sound intellect, her commitment to the truth, and her compassion for others. For over 30 years, I have never known her to be anything short of those ideals.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Ligaya Stice

Ligaya L Stice, MD, PhD  
45-524A Kamehameha Hwy  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
808.265.1087



September 26, 2020

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I write in regard to Courtney Naso, an applicant for Family Court Judge.

After 52 years of teaching at the same school, most of my friends are my former students. Courtney is one of these. I recall that she gave me for Christmas a book about her family. Her mother's Armenian side had left Turkey early in the last century, BEFORE the massacres of WWI. No doubt her sense of purpose has been somewhat based on that escape.

Courtney graduated in 1989 and we were in touch sporadically over the years. When Courtney wrote that she planned to move back to Hawaii from California, I asked, "Do you have a job? I know some lawyers" (because I worked with Mock Trial). She replied that she indeed needed a job and sent me her resume. I passed it on to Steven Kim, another of my former students, at Lynch Ishida Thompson Kim & Hirota. The partners found it impressive and hired Courtney before she'd even taken the local bar exam. Subsequently they would ask me if I knew any more Courtneys to recommend. When the partnership dissolved, Courtney continued working with Steve Kim, concentrating on family law.

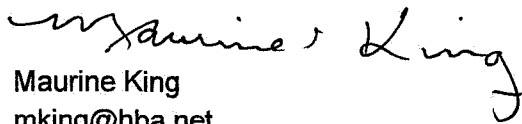
Our friendship has grown through the seasons of her life: her joy in marriage and motherhood, her courageous struggle with breast cancer and its complications, her growth in her career. I now count Courtney's 7th-grade daughter among my friends.

Since Family Court is closed to the public, I've seen Courtney "in action" only once, when she gave oral arguments at the Supreme Court. But I can imagine what it must take to deal with divorce, neglect and abuse, with only an occasional adoption to lighten spirits. It must be reassuring to her clients to be represented by someone of Courtney's warmth and empathy.

She also demonstrates competence and self-discipline. A classical pianist, she used that talent to become Miss Hawaii and used her scholarship money to attend law school. There's a saying "If you want to get something done, ask the busy person because the others have no time." Courtney gives back to her alma mater, Hawaii Baptist Academy, by speaking at and emceeding events, helping with Mock Trial (the students love her hilarious demonstration of how not to dress and act in court), mentoring students and, most recently, serving on the board of the alumni association.

Thank you for this opportunity to recommend Courtney. For the sake of the families of Hawaii, I hope you will look with favor on her candidacy.

Sincerely,



Maurine King  
mking@hba.net  
808 927 9171  
2475 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, HI 96817

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
IN SUPPORT OF

JC5

Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The District Family Court Of The First  
Circuit, Judicial Nominee

COURTNEY N. NASO

For A Term To Expire In Six Years

Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Testifier: MEI NAKAMOTO

◇

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Other Members of the  
Committee

I support the appointment of Courtney N. Naso to the District Family Court of the First  
Circuit.

Ms. Naso was a colleague practicing family law. I first noticed her in a Family Law  
Section meeting many years ago. She impressed me immediately with her quiet  
confidence and professionalism during that meeting. Although our primary interactions  
since then were as opposing counsel, Ms. Naso confirmed my initial impression of her –  
she was courteous while firmly and articulately advocating strongly for her clients. When  
the advocacy was over, she was always friendly and quick to show her great sense of  
humor. Knowing she was a member of the family law bar made me proud of it and of  
being her peer.

Confirmation of Ms. Naso as a judge of the District Family Court will ensure the people  
of Hawai'i will have disputes about their families resolved with intelligent, objective, fair  
and courteous compassion.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or if I can assist the Committee  
in any way.

Sincerely,



Mei Nakamoto

[mei.nakamoto@gmail.com](mailto:mei.nakamoto@gmail.com)  
450 S. Cherry Street, Suite 500  
Denver, Colorado 80246  
(303) 728-4271



**From:** [Mailing List](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [michelle.moorhead@legalaidhawaii.org](mailto:michelle.moorhead@legalaidhawaii.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for JC5 on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM (Written Only)  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:44:49 PM

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**JC5**

Submitted on: 9/30/2020

Testimony for on Oct 1, 2020 13:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying Remotely
Michelle Moorhead	Individual	Support	No

**Your comments:** My name is Michelle Moorhead and I am the Managing Attorney of the Family Law Division at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. I currently serve as the elected Chair of the Family Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association. Notwithstanding these affiliations, I am writing to you in my personal capacity to support, endorse and recommend that Courtney Naso be confirmed as a District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Courtney as a professional colleague for approximately five years. I have not had the opportunity to act as opposing counsel against her; however, I have always known her to go out of her way to share her knowledge and expertise about family law and how to improve the practice of family law. She has many years of experience as a senior litigator and has a command of the law and evidence. Recently, during my tenure as Chair of the Family Law Section, Courtney went out of her way to share practice pointers and family law-related developments that have improved our area of practice as a whole. Courtney also has demonstrated experience in various professional activities that will serve the Court well. She not only has extensive litigation experience but vast experience in alternative dispute resolution through her work in private practice and her volunteer work as a Court-Appointed Volunteer Settlement Master and Volunteer Mediator at the Mediation Center of the Pacific. Moreover, in Family Court, it is my personal opinion that it is imperative that a Judge have competency in working with self-represented litigants so that all parties feel as if they have had their "day in court." Courtney has demonstrated such experience in her various professional activities. Her diverse experiences outside of the law also give me great confidence that she can relate to and treat non-represented parties fairly as it is my understanding that she volunteers her time with her alma mater, Hawaii Baptist Academy, and the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Program. Courtney's nomination to the bench serves as recognition of her demeanor, work ethic, and desire to serve the State of Hawaii and its people. She would be an asset to the Family Court and I wholeheartedly endorse her confirmation. Respectfully submitted, Michelle K. Moorhead

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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.

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**From:** [robin.hartman](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for Courtney N. Naso, , Judicial Appointee  
**Date:** Friday, September 25, 2020 4:30:34 AM

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Honorary Senators of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Robin Hartman and I am Courtney Naso's sister -in law .

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about the Courtney I know and love.

I have been privileged to know Courtney for the past 15+ years and couldn't think of a better appointee for family Court judge.

Having experienced a divorce and family court issues many years ago, I wish I had a judge as knowledgeable , empathic and fair as she is.

Courtney is a person of deep faith, impeccable character, strong civic , family values and sense of justice and rule of law.

She has taught our family about persevering in the face of adversity, never putting herself first, and always seeing the positives in a situation despite the difficulty.

What wonderful ,worthy traits to possess for anyone, but especially a Family Court Judge.

As an R.N. for over 40 years, I don't know much about the law, but I do see fairness, compassion, intelligence and humility in Courtney .

I am grateful for you taking the time to read my comments and personal observations of this much loved and special appointee.

Submitted with Respect,  
Robin Hartman  
6137 Wilbur Way  
Lake Worth Fl 33467





## HAWAII BAPTIST ACADEMY

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ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

420 Wylie Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1729 • www.hba.net

October 30, 2020

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

Subject: Letter in Support of Courtney N. Naso – Family Court Judge, First Circuit

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing this letter in Support of Courtney N. Naso, judicial nominee in the District Family Court of the First Circuit (Island of Oahu).

I have been blessed to know Courtney for 14 years as a proud fellow graduate of Hawaii Baptist Academy, HBA's past board chair, and currently as I serve as president of our school. During the past 7 years, we have had the privilege to have the rest of her family, husband Paul, and daughter Zoe as members of our HBA Ohana.

Courtney and Paul have modeled well to our community how faith, endurance, and love can carry a family through both good and difficult times. This was very evident during Courtney's journey and fight with cancer. Courtney and her family truly inspired our community showing tenacity, grit, humility, and joy of life during the most difficult times. I believe that her character and experiences will serve her well in this esteemed position as a servant leader.

As talented and successful Courtney is, what amazes me most about her is her kindness, humility, and pure joy that is contagious to all that have the pleasure of meeting her receives. In my humble opinion, Courtney would make a remarkable family court judge.

Thank you for the opportunity and honor to comment and support Courtney N. Naso, who has been an inspiration to alumni, board, faculty, staff, and families of the Hawaii Baptist Academy. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance regarding Courtney.

Sincerely,

Ron Shiira  
President

PAUL R. MANCINI\*  
JAMES W. GEIGER  
THOMAS D. WELCH, JR.

—————  
COUNSEL  
ROSALYN LOOMIS  
—————

\*A LAW CORPORATION

**MANCINI, WELCH & GEIGER LLP**

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—————  
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(808) 871-8351

—————  
FACSIMILE:  
(808) 871-0732

September 23, 2020

**Via Email (JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **JC 6, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Elizabeth Paek-Harris & Courtney Nazo**

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I reviewed the nomination list for the various First Circuit Family Court positions. I am personally familiar and have worked with two of the applicants: Elizabeth Paek-Harris and Courtney Nazo.

Elizabeth Paek-Harris is ready to be a full-time family court judge. I have served as a mediator for her when she was in private practice as a family law practitioner and an associate attorney with Bill Darrah. She is thorough, diligent, and thoughtful. She is comfortable in the divorce arena. She is willing to learn and ask questions in those legal areas that she is less familiar with. She is kind and respectful and has appropriate judicial temperament. Recently, I reviewed a temporary custody order that she issued in a particularly challenging matter that I had attempted to mediate after a contested court hearing. Her decision was extremely well-reasoned and reflected her knowledge of child development as it relates to custody. I was particular impressed with and did not expect to see such a thorough order.

I have also served on the Child Support Guidelines Committee with Elizabeth for the past eight years. Her technology skills are impressive. The Child Support Guidelines Committee would have functioned less efficiently without her. I highly recommend her for the available vacancy.

I am also writing in support of Courtney Nazo. I have mediated several family law matters for Courtney. She is knowledgeable, professional and was of great assistance in the mediation process. She and opposing counsel were able to prepare a complicated divorce decree from the mediation term sheet without mediation assistance.

Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair

Page 2

September 23, 2020

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for your time and dedication.

Very truly yours,

**MANCINI, WELCH & GEIGER**



Rosalyn Loomis

RL:tlc

26 September 2020

JDC Committee  
Supreme Court of Hawaii  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Room 204  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Courtney Naso for District Court and District Family Court of the First Circuit (Oahu)

Hon. JDC Committee:

I have had the privilege of knowing Courtney Naso and her wonderful family for 20 years, was thrilled to see the HSBA announcement of her nomination. While all candidates have the educational qualities, and most have varied judicial experiences, Ms. Naso embodies the qualities important to every justice, at every level of the judicial system. Her compassion, integrity, respect, and trustworthiness, along with her judicial and life experience make her uniquely qualified to sit on the district court. Ms. Naso will be an excellent asset to the court and I strongly recommend her for one of the available judgeships.

Sincerely,

Steve Rochman  
Director



# LATE

**From:** [Eric England](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Courtney Naso Nomination for Family Court Judge  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 5:46:04 PM

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Aloha,

I'm writing to you in support of your consideration to appoint Courtney Naso to the Senate Judiciary Committee. For several years, I've worked very closely with Courtney Naso's husband, Paul. Paul and I have grown a great professional relationship as well as a close personal friendship, and enjoy spending time together. During this time I've had the pleasure of getting to know Courtney, and our families have spent many corporate and personal occasions together and have grown close over these years. Courtney and all of the Naso's have always shown great character through many challenges, and are very grounded with a solid moral foundation. They are leaders in our community, and one of those families that I would not think twice about leaving my teenaged daughter with, should my wife and I have an emergency. That's the level of trust I have in Courtney and Paul. They are the kind of family you would want as next-door neighbors!

To keep it short, Courtney really would be a fabulous addition to the justice system here in Hawaii. She is extremely personable, well-organized and has a genuine concern to simply do the right thing. She's a great person, and would always take the time and energy necessary to consider all relevant issues in order to thoughtfully reach a rational and unbiased decision. And, her name has "Court" in it! In all seriousness, please consider Courtney for this very important position. She will do Hawaii and our Justice System proud. Mahalo for soliciting feedback.

-Eric England

808-392-6108

[ericengland5000@gmail.com](mailto:ericengland5000@gmail.com)



**SCOTT C. ARAKAKI**

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Of Counsel  
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Phone: 808-695-4500  
Fax: 808-695-4599  
[sarakaki@hi-lawyers.com](mailto:sarakaki@hi-lawyers.com)

September 30, 2020

**Via Email JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov**

Senator Karl Roads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
State of Hawaii, State Capitol, Conference Room 006  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: Confirmation of Courtney N. Naso to the Family Court of the District First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, October 5, 2020, 1:00 p.m. (JC 5)**

Dear Chair Karl Roads, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Courtney N. Naso's confirmation as a Judge of the District Family Court of the First Circuit ("Family Court").

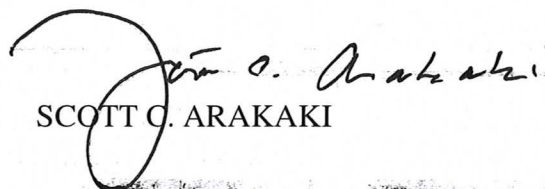
I have known Ms. Naso and her family for almost eight (8) years and consider her a friend. I got to know her and her family because my son and her daughter both attend Hawai'i Baptist Academy ("HBA").

As a person, Ms. Naso is a smart, kind, and fair. She has a passion for the law. She has an open mind and listens to other points of view. Ms. Naso also cares for people and has an even temperament, which will make her a great Judge.

At HBA, I have witnessed her public service, her dedication, and her diligence to be a leader and inspiration at the school as well as among parents. I have a lot of trust in Ms. Naso and know that she will work hard and take her responsibilities seriously as a Judge.

I am very happy that she has been appointed for consideration as a Judge. For the reasons above, I highly recommend that Ms. Naso to be confirmed as a Family Court Judge. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or anyone has questions.

Sincerely,



SCOTT C. ARAKAKI

# LATE

THE LAW OFFICE OF  
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October 1, 2020

Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawaii. 96813

Re: Testimony re: Appointment of Courtney Naso, Esq. to Judicial Office

Dear Senator Rhodes, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write to express my support for the appointment of Courtney Naso, Esq. to the office of Hawaii District Family Court Judge.

I have worked with Courtney Naso in the capacity of her employer and supervisor for approximately 14 years. I have worked closely with Courtney during the entirety of those years.

I would like to address my testimony to three of the most important areas concerning Courtney:

- 1. Personal and Professional Integrity.** Courtney is a woman of extremely high standards of integrity in her personal and professional life. She is honest and forthright, and while she is an excellent and forceful advocate in her law practice, she is always cognizant of, and firmly on the right side of, the moral and ethical standards governing not only her practice, but the advice and counsel she gives to clients in handling difficult family law situations. Courtney is always careful not to “overstate” or “embellish” her client’s case or position, and as a result, she has gained a reputation in the legal community for her professionalism and ethical conduct. She is trusted by opposing counsel and Family Court judges alike, and this trust is well placed.

2. **Legal Ability.** Over the course of 14 years of working with and supervising Courtney, I have had the privilege of watching Courtney grow into a formidable family law practitioner and litigator. I have tried cases with Courtney as co-trial counsel, and watched her try cases independently. I have worked with Courtney in preparing cases for settlement and trial, and Courtney and I have worked together in settlement conferences, mediations, motions, and of course, virtually daily in case preparation.

Courtney's work product is consistently exceptional. Her command of family law in our areas of practice is excellent, and where issues arise where the law is not completely clear or settled, Courtney is very thorough in researching the available law so that her client's legal position can be mapped cogently in a way that is consistent with existing law.

Courtney is a clear thinker, and her ability to analyze complex facts within the framework of the law is excellent. From initial case evaluation through trial, Courtney's legal ability is very high, and for this I believe she has earned the esteem of her clients, her colleagues, and of the Family Court Judges and staff. I know this, because so many of them have commented to me about their admiration of Courtney and her ability.

3. **Temperament.** Finally, I am certain that Courtney possesses the exact temperament that one would want from a Family Court Judge. Courtney is a rare professional who is able to balance compassion, understanding, and firmness consistent with the law and likely outcomes. Courtney is consistently respectful to all of those she works with, and while she is a forceful advocate, I believe she is also perceived by opposing counsel and Judges as being fair, reasonable, and diplomatic. There is no doubt in my mind that Courtney has the temperament to be an excellent Family Court Judge, who will make parties feel heard and respected, and will have a courtroom where attorneys look forward to appearing.

It would be difficult to overstate the hole that Courtney will leave behind in our office when she begins working for the Judiciary. It will not be possible ever that hole adequately. All that can be done is to shovel dirt into it, or build a different road in another direction. Courtney is simply the kind of person, and attorney, who cannot be replaced. This is the exact reason why I know that Courtney will become an invaluable asset and public servant once and if she is confirmed to the Judicial office to which she has been appointed.

I wholeheartedly support Courtney's confirmation to the office of District Family Judge, and I congratulate the State of Hawaii on its good fortune in finding her, no matter how hard I have tried to hide her.

Letter to Hon. Karl Rhoads

10/1/20

Page 3 of 3

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICE OF STEVEN J. KIM

/s/ Steven J. Kim

Steven J. Kim





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

**Courtney N. Naso**  
**District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit (JC5)**

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

FROM: P. Gregory Frey  
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.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 Courtney N. Naso for the position of District Family Court Judge of the First 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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## Testimony of HSBA

JC5

Hearing on October 1, 2020

Page 2

- 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 to determine if the nominees is qualified or unqualified.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Ms. Naso on September 22, 2020 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Naso was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Naso 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 Ms. Naso 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

Nominee Courtney Naso has been in the private practice of law for close to 25 years specializing in Family Law serving individuals and families resolve emotional and oftentimes the most difficult issues and problems of their lives. Her judicial applications limited to only Oahu Family Court vacancies is a testament to her passion for Family Law.

She is known to possess integrity and honesty beyond reproach. As a court advocate Ms. Naso is known to be willing to zealously represent her clients, but not at the expense of crossing the boundaries as an officer of the court. As a private practice litigator with significant courtroom experience, opposing counsel reported that Ms. Naso was thorough, competent, careful, timely, cordial and resolution oriented.

In addition to her professional and family obligations, Ms. Naso is active in the HSBA's Family Law Section in its efforts to improve court administration for all who enter Family Court facilities. She also serves on the board for Hawaii Baptist Academy, her alma mater, and assists the Miss Hawaii Scholarship Program.

Ms. Naso's philosophy of treating all firmly, fairly, compassionately, and with dignity and respect will serve her well as a jurist.

Testimony of HSBA

JC5

Hearing on October 1, 2020

Page 3

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Ms. Courtney N. Naso to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of District Family Court Judge of the First Circuit.

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