STRIVING TO MEET RULE 6.1

Rule 6.1 of the Hawai i Rules of Professional Conduct embodies an aspirational goal that lawyers provide 50 hours of pro bono service annually, which would encompass participation in various pro bono activities as described in the rule. The pictured firms and government offices were contacted by a member of the Access to Justice Commission, and they have expressed a willingness to meet the goal outlined in Rule 6.1.

Ashford & Wriston

Ashford & Wriston's commitment to providing pro bono services to the community stretches back to its founding in 1955. In 2009 the firm has decided to reaffirm its commitment to serving the community and the bar by pledging that each of its attorneys will devote at least 50 hours per year to pro bono services. For the firm as a whole, this commitment will result in a donation of time and effort valued in excess of $250,000.00. Ashford & Wriston is pleased to endorse the Access to Justice Program and to make a difference in our community.

From left to right are: Cuyler Shaw of Ashford & Wriston, Nalani Fujimori, a member of the ATJ Commission, and Kevin Herring of Ashford & Wriston.

APPENDIX Z
How our firm achieves its pro bono goals and, in doing so, exceeds the aspirational goals set by the Court: The answer is three-fold.

First, we give all lawyers full credit toward their annual billing goals for "partner-approved" pro bono work. This makes it easy for every associate to find some matter they are passionate about and treat it as something important, not something that distracts from their "real work."

Second, we believe that it is imperative for lawyers to recognize the "justice system" is strengthened if the poor, as well as the rich, have access to the courts and skilled advocates. So, we look for opportunities to be advocates for the voiceless. Thus, for example, in 2008 we represented homeless children in a class action against the Department of Education and obtained an injunction, and then a settlement, that gave these children better access to education. The psychic rewards of doing this work are immeasurable.

Third, we recognize that, as a law firm, it is important that we must use our skills to strengthen our community, not just profit from being in the community. Lawyers are often criticized for caring and doing too little for the well-being of the community.