

1 EMCEE HOWARD: How about a hand for the panel?

2 (Audience applause.)

3 EMCEE HOWARD: Thank you very much, Andon Amaraich,
4 for your words of wisdom and funny jokes. I also want to
5 acknowledge, you know, thank Danny for his presence, and thank
6 you, James Naich, for being a great moderator.

7 We are going to go on a 15-minute break. But
8 before we go, I want to remind you that we're gonna reconvene at
9 10:15.

10 (Recess taken, 10:00 a.m. to 10:28 a.m.)

11 EMCEE HOWARD: Welcome back. May I ask everyone to
12 please go back to your seats. We're going to start pretty soon.
13 Okay, is everybody ready?

14 You know, I regret not doing this earlier, but it
15 was brought to me by some of my colleagues out there that we
16 wanted to give a (indiscernible) a symbolic of appreciation for
17 all the sacrifices that the Hawaiians have done for us, the
18 hosting culture have done for the Micronesians here, to Senator
19 Kalani English. But he had left. So I just wanted to show you
20 that. So we were gonna give him this.

21 So right now, I would like to introduce
22 Mrs. Lillian (indiscernible) Segal-Harper. And she will
23 introduce to you her panel.

24 Our theme right now -- well, I guess before we
25 even go there, I would like to recognize one more person in this

1 crowd and that is Dr. (Indiscernible). Because when we first
2 moved, when I first came to Hawai`i and many of the Micronesians
3 who are here today helping out, we know that we are here in a
4 new place and it's a different place from where we come from.

5 And we also realize that we have to learn our
6 responsibilities and our rights here in Hawai`i, and he was one
7 of the very person, first people that help us understand that.
8 So please, Dr. (Indiscernible), can you stand (indiscernible).

9 (Audience applause.)

10 Topic 4: Educating about Rights,
11 Responsibilities, and Representation

12 Introduction

13 BY MS. LILLIAN SEGAL:

14 (Speaking in foreign language.) Good morning and
15 thank you for your attention to this panel which is educating
16 about rights, responsibilities, and representation. This is the
17 fourth topic of this conference.

18 Just a few things before we get started. The format
19 of this panel would be each presenter will speak for about 12
20 minutes. And we ask the audience to please state your questions
21 till the end. And if time permits, then hopefully we will have
22 up to 30 minutes for audience to then use the microphones in the
23 aisles here to pose questions.

24 And at that time, audience members, something that we
25 (indiscernible) yesterday and are requesting today is that you

1 please mention your name and your organization before you pose
2 your questions. That would be greatly appreciated.

3 So we'll get started. Actually, I had one more,
4 (indiscernible) unrelated, but I think sort of related theme
5 also that I wanted to say before we get -- (indiscernible).

6 I just wanted to say it's a big privilege for me to be
7 sitting up here on this panel before you with Micronesian women.
8 And I'm bringing it up, because in Micronesia, we know women do
9 have an important role in Micronesia. But these roles are often
10 done with grace and behind the (indiscernible). And this is a
11 first for me to be sitting with a panel that is made of entirely
12 Micronesian women speaking to Micronesians in the audience and
13 the others who are interested (indiscernible) Micronesia. So
14 thank very much.

15 I also wanted to salute you and all the Micronesian
16 women in the audience, as well as the women who have made it
17 possible for us to be here today, who have helped to teach,
18 shape, and influence us so that we could be here to share some
19 perspectives about educating on rights, responsibilities and
20 representation.

21 So with that, beginning our topic, I thought it would
22 be fitting to share a little bit -- in August of 2007, I had an
23 opportunity to attend a United Nations (indiscernible) sponsored
24 training in Canberra, Australia, about conflicts prevention and
25 peace building (indiscernible) of indigenous peoples of the

1 Pacific.

2 At this conference, I learned many things, and I'm so
3 glad I finally get an opportunity to share with my fellow
4 Micronesians and others. One of our trainers was Dr. James
5 Anaya who's professor of the University of Arizona, College of
6 Law, a professor of human rights law and policies.

7 And the biggest thing that I took away from -- because
8 in thinking about rights, when we think about rights in terms of
9 the individual and promoting the individual, this is a very
10 different way of being and different from the values that guide
11 us Micronesians. Because in Micronesia, the group or the
12 community takes precedence over the individual.

13 And as a matter of fact, I don't know if there's any
14 Micronesian language that has the word for rights, in terms of
15 the individual's rights. But when we think about right in terms
16 of pono, the Hawaiian concept of pono, then we Micronesians can
17 understand. When we think about rights in terms of human
18 sacredness, compassion, and respect, it fits the Micronesian way
19 of being.

20 And a little bit on self-determination --.
21 Self-determination I learned from this training was that it's a
22 (indiscernible) of system in place where people can live without
23 oppression and be self-determined. It's about building a
24 construction of relationships where people can connect,
25 reconcile, and coexist. It's a tool that builds solutions.

1 Decolonization in itself is not self-determination.
2 It doesn't really free a country and all of its people of
3 oppression, as we seen happening in the Micronesian nations
4 today. And as we heard earlier, self-determination requires
5 responsibility. And that's why we are here today.

6 And so with that, I would like to introduce our first
7 panelist, Ms. Elfriede Suda. Elfriede Suda is from Weno, Chuuk,
8 and is a graduate of Xavier High School, which is also in Weno,
9 Chuuk.

10 After high school, she attended the College of
11 Micronesia-FSM where she received her liberal arts degree and
12 also attended the Fiji School of Medicine for a year to pursue a
13 diploma in pharmacy.

14 After graduation from COM-FSM, she moved to Honolulu
15 with a full scholarship to attend a clinical psychology summer
16 program at the University of Hawai`i Manoa, and returned back to
17 Micronesia -- I'm sorry -- this time to Saipan where she worked
18 as a computer data analyst.

19 In 2000, she moved back to Chuuk and worked as a
20 volunteer teacher and administrative assistant for a year; then
21 moved back to Hawai`i to pursue an undergraduate degree in
22 speech here at the University of Hawai`i Manoa.

23 While doing this, she was introduced to The Judiciary,
24 State of Hawai`i, Office on Equality and Access to the Courts,
25 and became an interpreter. She is now officially registered

1 with the judiciary as a freelance interpreter and as also been
2 appointed by the Hawai`i state chief justice to represent the
3 Pacific region and the committee on court interpreters.

4 In 2006, she started her studies here at the
5 University of Hawai`i Manoa, Center for Pacific Island Studies,
6 School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies. Her area of
7 research is in language access in the legal setting for Chuukese
8 immigrants in Hawai`i.

9 In the project related to her studies, she is
10 currently working on an arraignment-and-plea legal glossary in
11 the Chuukese language, and this will be made available to the
12 (indiscernible) of interpretation and translation here at the
13 University of Hawai`i Manoa.

14 THE JUDICIARY - STATE OF HAWAI`I, COURT INTERPRETERS
15 BY MS. ELFRIEDE SUDA:

16 Thank you, Lillian. Before I (indiscernible) with
17 whatever I have to say today, I do want to pose a question to
18 the audience or even fellow Chuukese or fellow Micronesians who
19 are (indiscernible; not speaking into microphone).

20 Why do I have a job at the court? What needs to take
21 place in order for me to (indiscernible) interpreter? If no one
22 can answer, I do have an answer for you. The state has to
23 accuse you or the Chuukese of violating the Hawai`i Revised
24 Statutes or the Revised Ordinances of the City and County of
25 Honolulu or violate the Hawai`i Administrative Rules.

1 And when you do, when you do go to the courts, that's
2 where I step in. My role there is not to advocate, but I
3 function there as a conduit of words. And that means to
4 maintain as impartial as possible and not to function as an
5 attorney.

6 Although I may understand the system, I am very
7 limited in my role there. As much as I'd like to advocate for
8 my fellow Chuukese (indiscernible), I regret to say or to
9 apologize to the clients who go there, that I am not trained in
10 the law or I am not a trained attorney. And I must admit that I
11 always envy the service providers for -- the service providers
12 for having the opportunity to advocate.

13 But today, I'm very fortunate to ask you a question of
14 why are you (indiscernible) advocating for us, the Chuukese? Do
15 you (indiscernible) for us? Or do you want personal
16 enhancement? Or do you just want (indiscernible) for, you know,
17 personal gain?

18 If you are doing it for personal gain, I think you're
19 in the wrong position. You should be able to feel like I feel
20 when I'm at the courts. And because I'm very limited, like I
21 said earlier to my position, I'm very sorry to fellow Chuukese
22 that I cannot advocate for you at the courts.

23 As an interpreter, we are expected to be skilled
24 professionals who fulfill a (indiscernible) role in the
25 (indiscernible). And how is that acquired? I have to be

1 skilled in language of the courts, that is, English, in order to
2 translate into the Chuukese language.

3 And that poses a difficult thing for me as a Chuukese
4 interpreter because there is not one word for any legal terms in
5 the Chuukese language. When I was introduced to the job as an
6 interpreter, I was not trained in the legal field. As Lillian
7 may have shared with you in a brief bio, I was personally
8 health-related matters, because it was at that time when I was
9 young, relevant to the needs back home.

10 But now, I am pursuing things that are legal that
11 would not only benefit the Chuukese clients that I work with,
12 but also my fellow Chuukese interpreters. And in doing that, I
13 realized that when I became an interpreter, I had no Chuukese
14 resource available; or if there may be one, I was not able to
15 locate one.

16 And if there was a Chuukese language dictionary, it
17 was done by a (indiscernible). Most of the languages, most of
18 the words, the terms, to find it in a (indiscernible) were
19 languages that was not relevant to the work that I'm currently
20 doing.

21 So when I started studying, when I finished my
22 undergrad here, I was in speech. That position that I took up
23 as an undergrad studies was to empower me to be able, to be able
24 to speak in front of a lot of people, which I was never given an
25 opportunity back home to have the opportunities (audience

1 interruption) and talk like this, like I am doing right now.
2 And I was very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to
3 further that study here.

4 And then having to work as an interpreter, I realized
5 that I needed to advocate in a way to help the Chuukese clients
6 who constantly go to the courts. And in doing that, I decided
7 to take up a class offered to the Center For Interpretations and
8 Translations which I was very inspired, very much inspired that
9 I have to --.

10 In order to best help the Chuukese clients to go to
11 the courts, I have to know what a legal term is. And in order
12 to provide that legal interpretation, I have to know what it is
13 first in English.

14 But then when I researched it in English and I said
15 where is the Chuukese dictionary or legal dictionary? Then I
16 was inspired to put up this arraignment-and-plea legal glossary
17 which is still in the process of becoming a -- projects -- and
18 this is to help the fellow Chuukese interpreters who are trying
19 our best to provide the best service at the courts to insure
20 that the Chuukese have the right to equal access, to equal
21 access to the courts.

22 Like I said earlier, the (indiscernible) as
23 interpreters have a professional code of conduct to abide by.
24 And in order to do that, we have to understand it and abide by
25 it.

1 And one of it is to maintain as neutral as possible.
2 And then I was exposed to the problem, and I said, what does
3 neutrality mean? That means if you, for example, if you know a
4 client that goes to the courts and you should disclose that
5 information to the court or the judge, and the judge will
6 determine, who's the only neutral party there, to determine
7 whether you can interpret or not to interpret.

8 But it's almost difficult to say I don't know this
9 client because he's not related to you. You must know him
10 somewhere, maybe at Wal-Mart, or you must have seen him that
11 summer. It's a small community.

12 Although people might say there's a lot of Chuukese,
13 but we still connect somehow and we still belong to each other.
14 That feeling of belongingness, it's almost impossible for me to
15 say I don't know that person. And my job there is to make sure
16 I disclose that information, to abide by that written code of
17 conduct.

18 I would like to also reflect on the idea of advocacy.
19 And like Dr. Hilda Heine mentioned yesterday in her
20 presentation, she mentioned in her or she posed a question about
21 accountability for COFA problems here in Hawai'i.

22 Who is accountable for the individual who goes to
23 court, not knowing what's wrong? Or who is the conduit for that
24 Chuukese client that goes to the court? Is it the individual?
25 Is it the government, the sending government for not educating

1 that person about the expectations or what to expect in coming
2 to the United States, that there are certain rules and
3 regulations that we have to abide by?

4 Or could it be, for example, where a (indiscernible) a
5 common violation that I dealt with (indiscernible) is driving
6 without an insurance or driving without a license.

7 First of all, I would like to emphasize the idea that
8 it's not my interpretation here is my interpretation. It
9 doesn't reflect that of the courts. And I wanted to make that
10 out available to the audience.

11 And I think when we don't, we Chuukese don't have a
12 driver's license, it's because maybe when we first go to the
13 satellite city hall, (indiscernible) you call that, office, we
14 don't know the language of the written exams or we may not be
15 able to understand it.

16 And maybe the problem here is not being able to
17 comply, to fulfill the requirement, I mean, to take -- I mean,
18 to have a driver's license in the first place. So it's not
19 ignorance. Maybe instead of saying ignorance, I would like to
20 say that it could be maybe not understanding the language of the
21 (indiscernible).

22 What I would like to recommend for today, maybe for
23 the policymakers here, if we could make the language of the
24 written exam available in different languages. This issue was
25 raised at the symposium a long time ago. It held at the state

1 capitol. (Away from microphone.) And I don't know; it
2 (indiscernible) progress or it has been taken action
3 (indiscernible) it was just (indiscernible). But I would like
4 to see some action taken upon that.

5 Or can, if you recognize as individuals or immigrants
6 in the United States or in Hawai`i contributing to the economy,
7 can you also or would there be, who did this (indiscernible) to
8 recognize our Chuukese driver's license? Because sometimes when
9 the clients come to court, they do have a Chuukese driver's
10 license. (Indiscernible) cited for driving without a
11 (indiscernible) license.

12 Then they would be penalized for driving without a
13 license. Or can we reinstate the citations with (indiscernible)
14 for policymakers to consider that. (Voice fading.)

15 And I think my interpretation of why we go, constantly
16 go to the courts is we don't plan to fail -- we as a people plan
17 to fail here. The reason why we moved here is for all to share
18 the American dream, fellow citizens (indiscernible) like
19 everyone, everyone else.

20 When we come here, we don't plan to fail. But what I
21 would like to say is that maybe we failed to plan. And U.S.
22 policymakers, I challenge you to please help us, if you can help
23 us to plan so that we don't constantly go back to the courts.
24 Thank you.

25

* * * * *

1 (Audience applause.)

2 EMCEE HOWARD: Thank you so much, Elfriede. That was
3 very enlightening for me too. I've done a little bit of
4 interpretation of the (indiscernible) the court, but not that
5 degree.

6 So to recap, you're talking, it sounds like
7 you're talking about --. Well, I thought it was interesting
8 that most of the Micronesians' first introduction to the legal
9 system here is when we get in trouble with the law and how maybe
10 some of that can be avoided with language issues being bridged
11 across English and the other Micronesian languages.

12 So I hear you largely talking about access in
13 terms of language, the importance of translating the legal
14 vocabulary. And thank you for your hard work in you're doing
15 right now in translating (indiscernible) you are for the
16 Chuukese. Hopefully, it's a model for some of our other
17 Micronesian languages. And thank you for the policy
18 recommendations that you're making.

19 And I have also often wondered about that
20 possibility of the Micronesian driver's licenses being accepted
21 here in Hawai`i. But thank you very much.

22 So moving to our next panelist, we have Ms. Emma
23 Reimers. Emma comes from the Marshall Islands where she was
24 born and raised. Her mother comes from Arno, and her father
25 comes from Majuro.

1 She works at Big Brothers and Big Sisters as a
2 mentor who interviews all incoming families and matches the
3 children with a mentor or big brother or big sister. I've
4 always wondered what a big brother or big sister was, but Emma
5 explained to me earlier, they're mentors.

6 She came to Hawai`i six years ago to attend
7 college and is currently pursuing her master's degree in social
8 work at Hawai`i Pacific University.

9 For the last eight months, she has been a student
10 intern at the Lighthouse Outreach Center in Waipahu, which is a
11 shelter supporting people in need, including people who are
12 homeless. And today, she is here to share about what she does
13 at the lighthouse center and is not here as a representative of
14 Big Brothers Big Sisters.

15 THE LIGHTHOUSE OUTREACH CENTER

16 BY MS. EMMA REIMERS:

17 Hi, everyone. (Speaking in foreign language.)

18 So I'm at the Lighthouse Outreach Center which is an
19 emergency shelter out in Waipahu. We have about 95 percent
20 Micronesians that reside at the shelter. We serve both
21 families, couples, and singles. And we as case managers,
22 students interning there, we help our clients with their basic
23 needs, such as housing, finding healthcare, jobs, further
24 education. Just about anything that they may need.

25 And I would like to piggyback on what Elfriede was

1 saying about translating forms for Micronesians to better
2 understand, 'cause we have a policy form that we give rules and
3 regulations for our clients. And I was just mentioning the
4 other day too, one of my classmates, like maybe we should
5 translate (indiscernible) to Chuukese and Marshallese because we
6 cannot assume that they're going to understand English.

7 And I (indiscernible) a lot of you are looking up
8 here, like, she's Micronesian? I get that a lot. Everyone
9 always (indiscernible), you don't look Micronesian. Well, I am.

10 So anyway, we help our clients become self-sufficient,
11 by helping them budgeting their money because with Hawai`i
12 Public Housing (voice fades) of their income.

13 And I would also like to thank Barb (audience
14 interruption) for all your help from the Department of Health.
15 They come to our shelter once a month and (voice fades). And
16 she's really helpful and always, if she finds out that any of
17 her clients need other services, she's always working with us
18 and helping us (voice fades). So thank you very much.

19 And also, with Josie Howard from Imi Loa, she's also
20 been very successful with us, with her resource of
21 (indiscernible) clients with job training, employment services,
22 and other resource and referrals. So it's really helpful to
23 have her and Mary Milne, who's Marshallese, to help our clients
24 who are from those islands.

25 And sorry. I'm really nervous today.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're doing fine.

2 CONTINUED BY MS. REIMERS:

3 So I guess I would like to share a little story with
4 you guys about myself. When I first moved to Hawai`i, I faced a
5 lot of the challenges that a lot of Micronesians face when they
6 move here. I was always, I came here, just like Hilda Heine, I
7 came here. I came here for school (indiscernible) and a place
8 to live.

9 But, and then my sister had brought me (indiscernible)
10 to prepare me, to make sure I had everything in mind before
11 school started. She walked me to the registration office; and
12 the counselor's talking to me. I'm like, (indiscernible), tell
13 her that. She's like, Emma, you have to speak for yourself.
14 Like what are you gonna do if I leave (indiscernible). No, I'm
15 scared.

16 I was always scared of speaking out, even in class,
17 asking questions with the teachers. I was afraid that it took
18 me a long time to come out of my shell and be able to ask those
19 questions.

20 And those are some things that a lot of the students
21 at the Lighthouse Outreach, they're always asking, how come they
22 never ask questions or how come they never say anything? It's
23 not that they're, you know, being disrespectful. But it's part
24 of their culture.

25 And we have a word that's called (speaking in

1 foreign language) which is asking too many questions. And for a
2 child, it's okay for them to ask as many questions. But for an
3 adult to ask too many questions is kind of considered rude or
4 disrespectful.

5 So I hope that can help some of you (indiscernible),
6 some of you had that question, working with other Micronesians.

7 Another question that always comes up is we tend to
8 always nod our head saying (demonstrating.) And a lot of us
9 think, okay, they understand. But really, they don't
10 understand, but they're just, you know, showing respect. That's
11 part of being afraid to ask questions.

12 So anyway, I'm not sure what else. I'm so nervous.

13 * * * * *

14 MS. SEGAL: And I'm learning a lot. And I'm
15 Micronesian, so you must be doing great.

16 MS. REIMERS: I guess I'll stop there (voice
17 trailing).

18 MS. SEGAL: Thank you very much.

19 (Audience applause.)

20 MS. SEGAL: (Indiscernible) talking about, you touched
21 also about the importance of language access with the policies,
22 and I think that's a really important message. And for those of
23 you who were here yesterday, (indiscernible) part of my
24 presentation, actually, I tried to show projects that were
25 created for and by Micronesian children and teachers, all in the

1 native language. So we know we are here --.

2 Actually, English in the official language in the
3 SFM because the Chuukese speak Chuukese, the Kosraean speak
4 Kosraean, and the Pohnpeian speak Pohnpeian, and the Yapese
5 speak Yapese. Maybe in the Marshalls, it's Marshallese.

6 So realize (indiscernible) purpose of English --
7 so I'm thinking more bilingual (indiscernible) helping our
8 people to understand the English, but also bridging, you know --
9 bridging two and two. That's what we're here for.

10 I also hear you talking about the importance of
11 the collaboration that's happening between the nonprofits and
12 service providers. And that's most of you here in the audience.
13 So congratulations for all of that awesome collaboration, and I
14 hope that continues.

15 And some what of I'm seeing happening yesterday
16 and today during the breaks, and probably at lunchtime and maybe
17 the reception tonight, is the networking and the passing out of
18 the business cards. So if you didn't bring your business cards,
19 make sure you start writing out your numbers on small notes of
20 paper.

21 And then I also hear you talking about the
22 knowledge of knowing or being familiar with Micronesian body
23 language and ways of being. And it's so true because, again,
24 some topics that we've already touched on, you're going to be
25 working with Micronesian people. You know, the Micronesians

1 come from an oral society, like maybe all of the rest of the
2 Pacific. And so a lot of our communication is done indirectly.

3 And you know, I'm half-American and I even
4 remember visiting family in America, and they would say, gosh,
5 it's so interesting how the Micronesians communicate. You're,
6 like, doing eyebrow things and (audience interruption) with your
7 nose. And we don't even realize that we do that because that's
8 just, you know, from birth until now.

9 So you're probably laughing because you've seen
10 some of this with the Micronesians and you're hearing from the
11 panelists and then (indiscernible). And as you continue to work
12 with Micronesians, you will learn more. And please share that
13 with the other non-Micronesians trying to help the Micronesians.

14 So anyway, thank you so much (indiscernible) for
15 those insightful information.

16 Now moving on to our third panelist, we have
17 Ms. Brengyei Katosang. And she comes from the beautiful islands
18 of Palau which is a northernmost island nation in the region of
19 Micronesia.

20 She has lived in Hawai`i for about four years
21 now. She first came here to Hawai`i to go to law school here at
22 the University of Hawai`i, William S. Richardson School of Law.
23 She is currently staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of
24 Hawai`i here on O`ahu. She just took her bar exam at the end of
25 February. So we'll all pray for the good news in May that she

1 passed.

2 She's in the housing unit at Legal Aid Society of
3 Hawai`i and is currently the only attorney at Legal Aid Society
4 from Micronesia.

5 LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAI`I

6 BY MS. BRENGYEI KATOSANG:

7 (Speaking in foreign language.) I just thought I'd
8 thank everybody for being here. I think it's amazing that we've
9 come this far to have -- well, people (indiscernible) that we
10 have a conference dedicated to us and how cool we are and
11 (audience interruption).

12 But what does it mean to be an advocate? To me this
13 means standing up for someone whose voice isn't being heard. My
14 challenge to everybody today is to be an advocate for people
15 from Micronesia.

16 We are the voices of Micronesia. We have been given
17 this honor of being the voice for our families in the homeless
18 shelters or families on the beach or families sitting in the
19 waiting room scared that we're not gonna get help 'cause
20 (indiscernible). We are their voices. We're the voices of the
21 kids who are at school who struggle and think that their only
22 voice -- their voice can only be heard through their fists,
23 through the violence that we're going through.

24 I don't want to cry. It's just my voice shaking, so
25 don't worry.

1 I have been given the opportunity to be a voice in our
2 community here. (Indiscernible) here in Hawai`i. Since
3 October 15, 2007, Legal Aid Society of Hawai`i has been able to
4 start serving people from Micronesia. And I want to take a
5 second to acknowledge Mr. Chuck Greenfield. He's the executive
6 director of the Legal Aid Society --

7 (Audience applause.)

8 Before October 15, 2007, Mr. Greenfield was -- at
9 first I wanted to say he was our only voice. But that might
10 send a message of disregarding all the other hard work that
11 other people have put into it. So I will say that within the
12 legal aid organization, he was the loudest voice.

13 And most recently, it was through his hard work and
14 dedication and love for us that made it possible for us people
15 from Micronesia to get assistance from Legal Aid Society of
16 Hawai`i.

17 So how are we at Legal Aid doing our part to be a
18 voice for our people? At Legal Aid, we provide free legal
19 service to very low income people in the community. Our areas
20 of law include family law. That includes, like divorce,
21 adoption, and people need help with getting power of attorney.
22 Also public benefits that includes welfare, food stamps, or
23 social security. We also have housing; that's the unit I'm in.

24 I help with people who have issues with
25 landlord/tenant issues, whether it's stuck in this place that

1 could be a whole lot better. I need to get my sewer fixed or my
2 pipes fixed, but my landlord can't do anything about it. What
3 can I do? I'm afraid to talk to them or they're ignoring me.

4 They can come to me. They can come to Legal Aid
5 Society. We're here for them.

6 I want to say that even though I'm the only person
7 from Micronesia working at Legal Aid Society, Legal Aid Society,
8 as a whole, we are one loud voice speaking for our people. So
9 don't feel intimidated.

10 I know a lot of my clients that I'd had recently, or
11 since I started, will say we want to come and ask for you. Can
12 we ask for the Micronesian attorney? And I'll say I can only
13 help in housing 'cause that's all I know.

14 But everybody at Legal Aid is really helpful -- our
15 staff, all the other attorneys. So even if there is that
16 language barrier, everybody's patient and willing and wanting to
17 help. So I just want to put that out there for everybody who
18 knows somebody who's looking for legal assistance and hesitating
19 to come to us.

20 What we don't do is criminal law. That means if we
21 have a cousin or a brother or a sister who has a DUI or got
22 (indiscernible) for fighting, we can't help them with that. So
23 I know we have a lot of questions or clients that come ask about
24 that. But we don't do criminal law.

25 So what other fabulous things has Legal Aid doing for

1 our people? And there's three things that I thought of when I
2 thought of this question.

3 First, we're doing outreach. So we're going out
4 (indiscernible) the community, giving people information about
5 what we do and our availability. So I talked to our outreach
6 direct -- or outreach queen, I should say, (indiscernible).

7 I talked to her this morning and she said that it's
8 okay for me to give her name. So if anybody or agencies or
9 groups or anybody who wants us to come and give information
10 about Legal Aid or give a little outreach to tell you what we
11 can do for you, then you can call us.

12 I also have brochures and my business card that you
13 can come meet me afterwards. I'll just put 'em up here after I
14 talk, and then it has information about what we do and our
15 contact information.

16 And also, we have, actually, a team, I should say, at
17 Legal Aid that goes to the homeless shelters and goes to the
18 beaches to try to get out there to the people who are, really
19 don't know about Legal Aid or hesitating to come. So we do have
20 people that are doing that.

21 Another area, the second area is fair housing. Fair
22 housing -- well, for me, I just do landlord/tenant, the
23 technical stuff. Like my stuff needs to get fixed or I'm about
24 to be evicted and I don't think should be (indiscernible).
25 That's me, or the specific area I'm in.

1 And then you have fair housing. Fair housing, they
2 deal with discrimination law. So that can be discrimination
3 based on disability, age, race, etc. So we have that in fair
4 housing.

5 And we are making, we're recognizing more that people
6 from Micronesia are being discriminated against. It's not
7 landlords as much as it's (indiscernible) everybody is really
8 nice. (Indiscernible) straight up say, oh, you're from there?
9 Yes. (Indiscernible) (audience interruption).

10 So fair housing is -- we have specifically fair
11 housing. So they have their own hotline and everything to help
12 that specific issue because it is such a major issue of
13 discrimination.

14 And lastly, what we've done -- and I think
15 (indiscernible) yesterday, was some of the other people were
16 saying that they provided agencies with trained (indiscernible).
17 They'll go to the agencies and talk to them about people from
18 Micronesia, cultural sensitivity stuff.

19 So I'd proud to say we've done that too. We had staff
20 training when I first started and we did that. We had some
21 people from the Micronesian community come and talk to us about
22 what we should be aware of, what we shouldn't do or we shouldn't
23 do. I think that's really important.

24 So I just want to thank everybody who are part of that
25 effort to educate agencies, because it really is important,

1 getting the information out is awesome -- and that there are
2 things such as fair housing laws that protect against
3 discrimination.

4 And how very true that we currently do have a lot
5 of Micronesians going through difficult issues with renting and
6 landlords. In Micronesia, we believe having many children are
7 our resource. It's hard to fit those big families in the one-
8 to two-bedroom apartments that are more affordable to our people
9 here.

10 And thank you for making that comment about
11 (indiscernible) having a familiar face. And that's one of
12 beautiful things about this conference is that I think it is, we
13 have familiar faces in all these different important offices and
14 organizations here in Hawai`i, here to support our fellow
15 Micronesians and here to partner with the service providers.

16 And like Josie was representing Dr. Craig
17 (indiscernible) who was also one of my professors during my
18 undergrad years at UH Hilo, how true and important it is to have
19 people who are not Micronesian themselves, but who are
20 advocates, like you again, and can be friendly and understanding
21 and reaching out to the Micronesian students and people. So
22 thank you very much.

23 And with that, I'd like to move on to our final
24 panelist, Ms. Catherine Aubuchon. Catherine is a citizen of the
25 FSM. She was born in Pohnpei and grew up in Kwajalein in the

1 Marshall Islands.

2 After graduating from Tulane law school in 1999,
3 she moved back to Pohnpei to work in government. She started as
4 assistant attorney general at the FSM Department of Justice
5 before moving to Hawai`i in 2003. At the Department of Justice,
6 she worked in the litigation division, prosecuting maritime and
7 fishery violations, as well as white collar crime and election
8 fraud.

9 Now she is an associate attorney at Bronster and
10 Hoshibata, a private law firm in Honolulu, with Margery
11 Bronster, former attorney general for the State of Hawai`i. Her
12 practice areas include business litigation, real estate
13 litigation, commercial litigation, trusts and estates,
14 administrative law, employment law, and civil rights.

15 Although Catherine's current practice does not
16 involve Micronesians on a regular basis, she is called on
17 occasionally to deal with Micronesians who have employment
18 issues or have been charged with criminal offenses.
19 (Indiscernible) contact with people involved in Compact offices
20 here and in the FSM, she keeps abreast of issues involving
21 Micronesians in the United States.

22 Her husband Jason Aubuchon, a former volunteer at
23 PATS, Pohnpei Agriculture and Trade School, used to be the
24 assistant director for Micronesian seminar, and is now program
25 manager for (indiscernible) school (indiscernible) in Honolulu.

1 His (indiscernible) Palau, American Samoa, Saipan, and Guam.
2 They have a seven-month old daughter, Lila.

3 BRONSTER AND HOSHIBATA

4 BY MS. CATHERINE AUBUCHON:

5 Thank you. (Indiscernible; not speaking in
6 microphone.) So thank you for inviting me.

7 Yes, my work currently does not, on a daily basis,
8 involve Micronesians. So I don't work with (indiscernible)
9 Micronesians directly.

10 And just a little bit about my work. The reason why
11 we don't deal with Micronesians (indiscernible) private. And
12 most of our work involves litigation, litigating (indiscernible)
13 corporate board disputes, and (indiscernible) those kinds of
14 issues.

15 So I don't usually work with Micronesians. But I do
16 have a lot of friends, relatives, and friends of relatives who
17 call me and say my nephew's in jail because he's been charged
18 with assault and he doesn't, can't post bail. What does he do?
19 What can he do and (indiscernible) public defender's office.

20 But the most common problem or issue that seems to
21 arise with Micronesians, or at least (indiscernible) the
22 telephone calls that I get from people I know, are in the
23 workplace and they're employment-related issues. They don't
24 know about employment benefits, what they're entitled to, what
25 their rights are. (Indiscernible) what their rights

1 (indiscernible).

2 So that seems to be a pretty big area, an important
3 area that very (indiscernible) for the Micronesians that are
4 here now. And for instance, recently, I received a call from a
5 Pohnpeian woman. (Indiscernible) she lives here now. She's a
6 mother, a grandmother, and is (indiscernible) pretty much the
7 whole family.

8 She worked for a very large retail store in Honolulu,
9 and I won't say which one. But it's huge and (audience
10 interruption). (Indiscernible) known for unlawful and illegal
11 labor practices. Like she's been working there for about three
12 or four (audience interruption) and is (indiscernible) very
13 responsible. She has (indiscernible) support. So I'm sure she
14 really (indiscernible).

15 And when she got hired, she was, you know, ecstatic.
16 She was happy that she had a job with a well-known large
17 corporation.

18 But she was fired. And the week before she was fired,
19 she suffered a work injury. She hurt her arm. I think she was
20 pulling something from the shelves and must have sprained it.
21 So it swelled up. She couldn't use it and had to leave work
22 early.

23 She told her supervisor. But as far as -- I think my
24 understanding of the situation is the supervisor or the employer
25 didn't report it, didn't report the work injury. And by law in

1 Hawai`i and I think elsewhere (indiscernible), all injuries that
2 occur at the workplace has to be reported immediately with the
3 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

4 Even when the employer (indiscernible) or doubts that
5 the injury was work related. (Indiscernible) to unwork-related,
6 they still have to report it and I think you dispute it later
7 on.

8 But as far as I know, there wasn't a report. She left
9 early that day. She couldn't get an appointment with the
10 doctor. I don't know if she didn't push it or didn't explain
11 that it was an emergency, she needed immediate medical
12 attention. But she couldn't get an appointment, couldn't get an
13 appointment for a few days.

14 So she couldn't come back to work because her arm was
15 such that she couldn't use it -- and called in to work.
16 Apparently with the company, there's a call-in procedure. You
17 had to call a 1 (800) number and get a -- some kind of
18 confirmation code that sort of gives you permission to be able
19 to come work that day.

20 She called it in, followed the procedure. And a few
21 days later, she received a letter in the mail that she had been
22 terminated for not having followed that procedure.
23 (Indiscernible). She has to find a job. She doesn't think that
24 she has any other, anymore healthcare benefits. She thinks that
25 her healthcare benefits have lapsed immediately.

1 And so she's gonna go to the doctor's and get her arm
2 treated. And her first concern is how am I gonna pay for it,
3 how am I gonna pay my bills, how I find another job.

4 (Indiscernible) another job immediately. And although
5 she feels that she's been wronged, it's more important to her to
6 find another job because she needs to support her
7 (indiscernible) family.

8 So she's not in a very good place right now. It
9 appears that she has been wronged. She's not very interested,
10 at least in this point, in pursuing a wrongful termination
11 aspect. She just wants another job. She wants another place so
12 she can earn a living.

13 She didn't realize that it's unlawful and illegal for
14 employers to fire somebody just because they suffered a work
15 injury. She didn't realize that. She also didn't know what her
16 rights were respect to COBRA, that she can extend her healthcare
17 benefits if she opted to do that.

18 And she didn't know that when you work and you suffer
19 a work injury while you're on the job, you're entitled to work
20 comp benefits. And that includes medical care to make sure that
21 (indiscernible) able to work again and (indiscernible) benefits
22 which means you get paid a certain percentage of your wage until
23 you are well enough to go back to work. She didn't know any of
24 that.

25 And also, she's getting correspondence and letters

1 from her employer that she needs to roll over her 401K fund into
2 another fund (speaker yelling) what. You know, she has no idea.
3 So, anyway, I'm going to see her next week to look over her
4 documents and help her figure out what she needs to do.

5 But (indiscernible) a common problem. It's a lot of
6 Micronesians. They don't understand what their rights are and
7 what benefits they are entitled to as far as workplace benefits.
8 And in Micronesia, we don't have a lot of these benefits
9 (indiscernible) there.

10 And here it's just the whole, the legal system and all
11 the rights and it's all very daunting -- you know -- because
12 Micronesians just want -- they just want to work. They want to
13 bring home a paycheck and earn a living, support their family.

14 So that's one instance. And like I said, sometimes
15 there is -- there are the one instance, and I'm sure there are a
16 lot of other Micronesians who are in the same predicament.

17 I think what would be helpful, and it's not
18 necessarily something (indiscernible) employers need to provide;
19 but it's something that the community can provide is some sort
20 of translation, as to other (indiscernible) commented, on what
21 these rights and in their own languages (indiscernible) to let
22 them know what -- that when you get hired, you're entitled to
23 health insurance, worker's compensation for your injury, and TDI
24 if you're (indiscernible) unwork-related reasons and that cannot
25 be fired (audience interruption) whatever is out. There are

1 certain obligations that employers have to you as an employee.

2 So that's one instance, and I think the employment
3 area is where there are a lot of -- there's a lot of
4 (indiscernible) Micronesians. Another area or problem that I'm
5 aware of is, uh, involves fishermen. There are a lot of
6 (indiscernible) fishermen in Micronesia, obviously, because
7 (indiscernible).

8 (Indiscernible) fishermen to come here to work on
9 fishing boats. And (indiscernible) passports are taken away.
10 And they have to work off their plane fare before they get any
11 wages. And a lot of these fishermen, they probably didn't
12 graduate from high school. So they're (indiscernible). They
13 don't know that much.

14 But my cousin came over. He came over to fish on one
15 of the fishing boats (indiscernible), Korean fishing boat, at
16 least the captain was Korean. But his passport wasn't taken,
17 but he was required to work off his plane fare.

18 He didn't get paid, according to what he was led to
19 believe he'd get paid. He didn't have a social security number;
20 his employer didn't tell him he needed one. So he was working
21 without having paid taxes or the employer withholding taxes and
22 didn't get any benefits at all -- worked for months and months
23 under very difficult conditions and left with barely enough
24 money to pay for airfare back home.

25 And in the end, he could have made much money at

1 staying home. But obviously, he was wronged before
2 (indiscernible). He was definitely on (indiscernible). But as
3 soon as he got on the plane, I'm sure somebody picked him up and
4 took him to the fishing boat and -- to get back to work.

5 So it's for a lot of -- yeah, in a lot of these
6 instances, it's just sometimes there aren't very many
7 regulations or controls over it. And because of the
8 (indiscernible) between (indiscernible), there's very little
9 control. And a lot, you know, a lot of Micronesians (voice
10 trailing away).

11 So these are the areas that definitely need to be
12 addressed. So I hope that this will shed some light on what
13 Micronesians do know or don't know and the challenges they face
14 (indiscernible). But hopefully, we can fix it. Thank you.

15 * * * * *

16 MS. SEGAL: (Indiscernible) thank you for sharing this
17 very personal story of the realities of some of our Micronesian
18 brothers and sisters and what's happening in their lives right
19 now.

20 I hear you repeat the importance of language
21 access and the need for translation of legal rights. So I
22 understand that your work is mostly in terms of representing
23 people, or at least with Micronesians in the workplace, and
24 educating people on their rights in the workplace.

25 And it's so true. Information is empowerment.

1 And what you're doing is helping to empower Micronesians by
2 providing that information. But it's also a responsibility that
3 we don't or shouldn't just wait for others to put on
4 (indiscernible) persons here, we also need to be educating
5 yourselves. But because of people like you, that can happen.
6 So thank you.

7 So time, we have a little bit of time for panel
8 questions. We have until 11:35 and it's 11:26 now. So I'd like
9 to open this time. Looks like I have one person so far.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER NATHAN KWOCK: I'm Nathan Kwock from
11 Department of the Attorney General (indiscernible) branch. I,
12 too, worked for Margery Bronster. That was my privilege to do.

13 I have one comment and then a question. If an
14 employee has taken away somebody's passport and not paid them
15 the proper wage, that started to sound like human trafficking.
16 And the U.S. Department of Labor, (indiscernible) I think he'd
17 be very interested in knowing about that. He's part of the
18 human trafficking task force that is being set up in Hawai'i.

19 One of the things I deal with on a different
20 matter is violence against women grants. And we fund a lot of
21 service providers, especially in domestic violence and sex
22 assault. And sometimes the providers tell us that one of the
23 issues is that people of some cultures, outreach is needed
24 because they tend not to report the crimes, and therefore they
25 tend not to get services and assistance as victims.

1 For example, we have one project we're funding
2 outreach to Filipino communities in domestic violence. We have
3 another one for Chinese immigrants in domestic violence
4 (indiscernible).

5 So I guess my question, or I'm asking to be
6 educated, is in Micronesia, what is the cultural understanding?
7 Would you tend to report these crimes, not report these crimes?
8 Or how can service providers best to outreach? Thank you.

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE PANELIST: (Not speaking into
10 microphone.) I can try to address that. I mean, Micronesia, we
11 don't have human trafficking (indiscernible). You're being
12 taken advantage of, eventually (indiscernible) speak up about
13 it. But initially they don't. And there's a long period of
14 tolerance. There's a high level tolerance for injustices. So
15 there isn't the level that that degree of (voice fading) rarely
16 occurs. But yeah, (indiscernible) is a problem.

17 I'm sorry, what was your other question?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER NATHAN KWOCK: I think it was
19 culturally Micronesian women tend to seek services for domestic
20 violence or sex assault, or is it your understanding different,
21 they may not think it's a crime?

22 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE PANELIST: Hopefully, it's not a
23 crime. It's a (indiscernible) that happens every day: abuse in
24 the home; (Indiscernible) women and children. It's just --
25 (voice fading).

1 And so culturally, women rely on the families to
2 help them. You know, there is a very strong family unit and
3 bond. And when the woman is being wronged, (Indiscernible).
4 Most people expect that the families will take care
5 (indiscernible) and others. And that will -- eventually, that
6 wrong will be righted. And (indiscernible) involvement from
7 (indiscernible) government (indiscernible), very family-oriented
8 (indiscernible).

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE PANELIST: If I could just add. I
10 think so that a lot of that is not reported because a lot of the
11 time the women don't want to bring shame to the family. If
12 anyone finds -- if they tell someone, the whole community knows.
13 The islands are really small, so I think a lot of it is shame.
14 They don't want to bring shame to the families.

15 MS. SEGAL: Just to add a little bit more. You know,
16 the Micronesian seminar is a great source for knowledge on
17 issues and Micronesian society, both now, but also in the past.
18 And it's almost like (indiscernible) writing. He's the director
19 of the Micronesian seminar. He talks a little bit about women's
20 issues and violence.

21 It was interesting to read that -- you know, Lee
22 [Phonetic] says it's because of the change in the family
23 structure, that's also why I think, you know, it's not
24 traditional. Women were respected. In Micronesian culture,
25 they were mostly, matrilineal. And until today, in some of the

1 islands, it's passed through the woman.

2 But what's changed is from having to live in an
3 extended family where you have your male relatives there to
4 protect you as well, we are becoming westernized and we are now
5 living now, in terms of nuclear family, and we don't have the
6 protection of the extended family as much as before.

7 So please just keep that in mind.

8 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE PANELIST: (Indiscernible) that we
9 don't (indiscernible) idea of collectivism. We belong to a
10 larger family. So anything that is too confidential to disclose
11 (indiscernible) reflect the whole family (indiscernible) family.

12 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I think I saw
13 Dr. (Indiscernible) at the seminar.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER DR. CRAIG: Sorry, by I'm actually
15 gonna make a suggestion instead.

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: And if you could just
17 tell us name and your organization.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER DR. CRAIG: Craig Severens.
19 [Phonetic.] I'm a supporting member of a very new and
20 struggling group on the Big Island -- Micronesians United Big
21 Island. We got one more (indiscernible) grant. We're about to
22 get the county, uh, pass the building grant from Hawai`i County
23 (indiscernible).

24 You know, the Big Island is not like O'ahu.
25 (Indiscernible) Micronesia which makes it attractive to a lot of

1 Micronesians. We're a very small struggling group, but we do
2 have some members, both Micronesian and non-Micronesian, who are
3 involved in advocacy, and we found a couple of things that work.

4 One very simple thing is to have a business card
5 with Micronesians United on the title of it so that when one of
6 our Micronesian members goes with someone to a service agency,
7 either a private agency or a public agency on an issue of
8 housing discrimination -- on an issue of wrongful termination of
9 employment for injuries; and on some other issues including
10 court issues; on any issue where the agency doesn't have the
11 capacity and the funds, even though by state law they're
12 supposed to provide translation services -- just show the card
13 to the agency person.

14 All of a sudden, the agency person says, wait a
15 minute, there's someone here who knows the rights Micronesians
16 have, and we'd better be careful about simply brushing them off,
17 simply saying, I'm sorry, that service is not available to you,
18 especially if you know that that service is available to you.

19 The other thing, and this is risky in a way
20 because we've got some major confidentiality issues. We have a
21 little paper form and on that paper form there's a date; there
22 is people who are present. And it's a, kind of a record of the
23 interaction between the service agents personnel and the
24 Micronesians. And we keep that on file.

25 So we are going to be developing a kind of a case

1 file of incidents (indiscernible) used to call critical
2 incidents: incidents of misunderstanding, culture
3 miscommunication, and sometimes unintentional acts of
4 discrimination. And sometimes, frankly, more blatant acts of
5 discrimination.

6 The reason I stood up now instead of keeping my
7 big mouth shut is because the two cases you heard from
8 Catherine, we all know of many more cases than those. And I
9 think that, collectively, we're really only seeing the very tip
10 of the iceberg of the amount of cases where people are either
11 not being provided the services that they're eligible for or
12 they're being asked for things that they don't need, like the
13 green card, or because of the language barriers and the lack of
14 translation services and the lack of state funding to provide
15 those services. The services are really not being as effective
16 as they should be. (Leaf blower interrupting.)

17 What I like about this conference -- and then
18 I'll shut up -- is it clearly shows that there are a lot of
19 people in the agencies who care and want to learn. It clearly
20 shows that there are a lot of Micronesians who have already
21 developed the capacity to communicate and provide supporting
22 effort.

23 But there are also a lot of Micronesians out
24 there who weren't being reached yet. And lot of employers, in
25 particular, who either don't understand or taking a chance by

1 actively discriminating, which is certainly the case with the
2 Pohnpeian woman that Catherine described.

3 Thank you and I'll shut up.

4 MS. SEGAL: Thank you so much. Thank you for sharing
5 the ideas and for letting us know that there is a Micronesians
6 United chapter in Hilo.

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. I just
8 want to make clarification in regard to the question or comment
9 about the possession of passport by employers. This was a major
10 problem, especially to the Mainland U.S., where employers took
11 away passports of the citizens.

12 (Indiscernible) this is government property. A
13 passport is a government property. So it's not something that
14 employers should possess or take away.

15 So if (indiscernible) your work of employers
16 taking away (indiscernible) some passports or especially if it's
17 a passport, please contact the FSM consulate here in Honolulu --
18 or the same in Washington. Thank you.

19 MS. SEGAL: We have time for one quick question. Oh,
20 I'm sorry.

21 (Two speakers talking at the same time.)

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's usually a problem when
23 we come (indiscernible) the time and then people don't see me.
24 I didn't know the microphone was --.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, no problem.

1 DR. HEINE: Yeah, I just want to make a few comments.
2 The gentleman raised some comments about domestic violence. And
3 I'm very interested in that issue.

4 And I know that as a matrilineal society, we do
5 have our own ways to deal with domestic violence. And
6 culturally, it is something that is handled in the family --
7 families. But I guess, you know, as life is changing and there
8 are lots of families, the support, the network support that
9 comes with an extended family is not as strong in many cases as
10 it used to be.

11 And essentially when you're out in -- you know,
12 you're a migrant, you're by yourself in communities like
13 Hawai`i, the network is not necessarily that strong. And so
14 there are many cases of domestic violence, and that not effect
15 only the women, but many children are affected -- you know,
16 their (indiscernible) and their education, their health is
17 affected by domestic violence in the family.

18 This is something that, at least in the Marshall
19 Islands, we're beginning to (indiscernible) with women's group
20 with surveys to look at how many cases of domestic violence, how
21 spread the issue is in our communities. We're finding that it's
22 a very -- it's an issue that is prevalent. The incidents are
23 really, really high.

24 And so it's something that we can choose not to
25 address and it's already something that we (indiscernible)

1 address as cultures and of people with, uh, cultures that are
2 strong. We find that when we begin to talking about it, then a
3 lot of people come out and want to talk about it and address it.

4 And so I think what I'm offering here is I think
5 we need to educate ourselves, especially the women, about the
6 issues and where they can get help if they want to get help.
7 Maybe some hotline where they can call.

8 But I think the idea of an outreach for women to
9 understand the issue -- and it's almost like, you know, we have
10 traditional medicines and we have modern medicine, and you know
11 about both and you choose to take which one is good for you.

12 And I think this is the case of domestic
13 violence -- you can choose to keep it within your family because
14 of shame and not talk about it. But you can also choose to seek
15 help if you know where you can get help.

16 In our culture, we have what we call a -- we have
17 a very strong saying that talks about a man coming to the aid of
18 the women, their mothers, their sisters. And that used to be
19 very strong. If your husband raise your hands to the woman, to
20 the mother, to the sisters -- your brother or your uncle will
21 fight for you. That, you know, doesn't happen as much anymore.

22 And so because the culture is weak in that sense,
23 I think we need to address that, we need to acknowledge that,
24 and we need to find ways to educate our own women about how
25 (indiscernible) rights or how they can be helped. They want to

1 seek that help.

2 And I think that's my comment. I want to add to
3 the comments that were raised, just to share that that's a
4 passionate issue for me and that's something that I'm very
5 familiar with and, you know, I want to talk about it with other
6 women as well. Thank you.

7 (Audience applause.)

8 MS. SEGAL: I'm so glad we got to hear your
9 perspective on that, Dr. Heine. Thank you. And maybe some day
10 we will have women's shelters or something of the sort that
11 works in our culture in Micronesia.

12 So I think this concludes the panel on Educating
13 About Rights, Responsibilities, and Representations. We thank
14 you so much for your attention. And I will let the mistress of
15 ceremonies bring us to the next point.

16 EMCEE HOWARD: (Indiscernible) I learn about the good
17 things, I learn in America is some of the slang. Scared of you.
18 I think these are powerful voices of Micronesia right here,
19 sitting right here.

20 Okay, before we go to lunch -- by the way, thank
21 you very, very much. Before we go to lunch, I have four
22 announcements. Number one is Mr. Andon Amaraich said to me
23 please tell them that the old man said if they have any
24 questions, you can come and see him and ask your question
25 personally.