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## Testimony in Support of Camille Nelson's appointment as Law School Dean

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Lea Hong <leaoshong@yahoo.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 9:45 AM

To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Aloha Board of Regents:

My name is Lea Hong and I am a graduate of William S. Richardson School of Law, and serve on its Friends Board and the Advisory Search Committee for the Law School Dean. This testimony, however, is submitted in my personal capacity only. I strongly support the appointment of Camille Nelson as the next law school dean and urge the Board of Regents to approve her appointment.

We are very lucky and grateful that Dean Nelson has indicated she will accept the appointment, if confirmed by the Regents. Dean Nelson was one of the strongest candidates on paper, and the strongest candidate in person. She is an impressive scholar, law school administrator, and fundraiser. She has a strong commitment to equity and diversity. And her authenticity, ability to make personal connections, and past experience teaching in Hawai'i bodes well for her future here. I give her my strongest recommendation.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and thank you for your service on the Board of Regents.

Lea Hong  
3335 Loulu St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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## Camille Nelson April 16, 2020 Confirmation Hearing Questions re faculty viewpoint diversity

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kyrobbamrap@aol.com <kyrobbamrap@aol.com>  
Reply-To: kyrobbamrap@aol.com  
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>

Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 10:02 AM

Some civil rights questions for Camille Nelson at her confirmation hearing on April 16, 2020:

- 1) Are you in favor of intellectual or viewpoint diversity in the composition of the Law School faculty?
- 2) If so, what will you do to make sure that conservative law professors are represented in significant numbers on the William S. Richardson School of Law faculty to balance the current dominance of liberal professors on staff? Has former dean and current Professor Aviam Soifer ever commented on the political makeup of the faculty to you?
- 3) Can you name even one conservative law professor at present on the UH Law School faculty? How much time is allotted in constitutional law classes to positions of justices such as Byron White, William Rehnquist, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito, as opposed to those of justices such as Arthur Goldberg, Harry Blackmun, William Brennan, and Ruth Ginsberg? Are articles by liberal professors such as Laurence Tribe balanced by articles by jurists such as Robert Bork? How many UH law graduates leave school without knowing who Edmund Burke is?
- 4) If you are not in favor of intellectual diversity, how do you justify giving UH Law students a one-sided, that is, biased, view of US jurisprudence?

Note the complaints of US law school professors in the below representative stories:

<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/briannaheldt/2018/09/07/stanford-study-finds-conservative-professors-shunned-by-law-schools-n2516882>

<https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/msen/files/law-prof-ideology.pdf>

[https://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof\\_blog/2017/02/28-conservativelibertarian-law-profs-demand-that-aals-take-action-to-address-political-imbalance-of-.html](https://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2017/02/28-conservativelibertarian-law-profs-demand-that-aals-take-action-to-address-political-imbalance-of-.html)

Thank you,  
Concerned Hawaii resident

Excerpt from the last source cited:

"... letter to the Executive Committee—drafted by Case Western Reserve law professor [George Dent](#), who led our effort. (I will be happy to publish in this space any reply that the AALS may wish to make.)

"February 24, 2017

"To the Executive Committee, Association of American Law Schools,

**"There is growing awareness that conservative and libertarian scholars are grossly underrepresented in American colleges and universities and that this imbalance results from political discrimination.** For several years now a number of legal scholars have asked the AALS to support the commitment to viewpoint diversity stated in its by-laws. Some officers have taken our concerns seriously. Immediate Past President Kellye Testy was most cordial to us, as were her immediate predecessors, Dan Rodriguez and Blake Morant. I have spoken briefly to the new President, Paul Marcus, and I hope that he will do likewise...." [Emphasis added.]



## Support for Dean Camille A. Nelson

1 message

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**Daphne Barbee-Wooten** <daphnebarbee@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Mon, Apr 13, 2020 at 1:55 PM

Please see attached letter of support for Dean Camille A. Nelson. Thank you.

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 **lt2bdregents.pdf**  
363K

# DAPHNE E. BARBEE

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
CENTURY SQUARE, SUITE 1908  
1188 BISHOP STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
808-533-0275  
daphnebarbee@gmail.com



April 13, 2020

University of Hawai'i  
Board of Regents  
2444 Dole Street Bachman 209  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

**RE: MEETING DATED APRIL 16, 2020  
SUPPORT DEAN CAMILLE A. NELSON, UH LAW SCHOOL**

Dear University of Hawaii Board of Regents:

I am President of The African American Lawyers Association (AALA) in Hawai'i. I understand that Dean Camille A. Nelson has been recommended to be the next Dean for the William S. Richardson School of Law. Our organization has heard excellent things about Dean Nelson from our members and friends in the legal community. We urge you to please approve this recommendation and make her the next Dean of Richardson School of Law. She will add diversity, scholarship and enhance the law school's reputation. She was the first black woman to Clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada and the first to become a Dean at Suffolk University of Law School. Her specialty is Intersection of Critically Race Theory in Cultural Studies. She was born in Jamaica, an island nation which makes it more fitting that she come to the Hawai'ian Islands to teach and provide guidance at UH Law School. She would be very comfortable with island life in addition to adding expert academia at UH in critical race theory. We look forward to having her as the Dean at the UH Law School. Should you have questions or concerns feel free to contact me by email at [daphnebarbee@gmail.com](mailto:daphnebarbee@gmail.com). Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daphne E. Barbee  
Attorney at Law  
President  
African American Lawyers Association of Hawai'i



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## Letter of Support Dean Nelson.pdf

1 message

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**Leslee Matthews** <lesleedm@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 12:15 AM

Dear University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

Please see the attached letter of support for Dean Camille Nelson.

Aloha,

Leslee Matthews, Esq., LMSW  
Attorney | Social Worker | Advocate  
[lesleedm@hawaii.edu](mailto:lesleedm@hawaii.edu)  
817-988-7001  
<http://linkedin.com/in/lesleematthews>

~Believe in Yourself, Your Goals Can Be Met~



**Letter of Support Dean Nelson.pdf**

49K

## Leslee D. Matthews, Esq., LMSW

Letter of Support, Dean Camille Nelson

University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,

It is an honor to recommend Dean Camille Nelson for the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I had the pleasure of having Dean Nelson teach Torts to our Ulu Lehua Scholars cohort. Dean Nelson taught this course in a practical manner and was ready to answer any questions posed to her. Dean Nelson would always stay to talk with students about law school and life after law school. I can say without a doubt, Dean Nelson is one of the reasons I stayed in law school, graduated and passed the bar exam. She is committed to growing legal scholars, the community and the profession of law. Every year, the graduating scholars of the Ulu Lehua program are celebrated at a banquet. To my great surprise and joy, Dean Nelson flew all the way from Washington D.C. to Honolulu to celebrate the students she taught.

Dean Nelson has started some amazing, innovative programs. I look forward to the great things she will do for our law school and our communities. It is without reservation that I submit this letter of support for Dean Camille Nelson.

Sincerely,

Leslee D. Matthews, Esq., LMSW

Attorney | Social Worker | Advocate

[lesleedm@hawaii.edu](mailto:lesleedm@hawaii.edu)



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## Consideration of Camille Nelson as the New Dean of Richardson Law school

1 message

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**Gary Slovin** <gslovin@icloud.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 1:30 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I write to you in support of your confirmation of the selection of Camille Nelson to succeed Avi Soifer as the Dean of the Richardson Law School.

As in the case of Dean Soifer, Ms. Nelson has also spent time teaching at Richardson prior to her being considered as a candidate for the Deanship. I recall the enthusiasm with which her teaching was greeted. I also feel very strongly that her prior experience in Hawaii will be an important asset toward her being a successful Dean.

While I did not participate in her interviews, the feedback I heard has been universally positive. Further, I have had the opportunity to discuss her qualifications with Dean Soifer and have been impressed by his enthusiasm. I can add that I have observed Dean Soifer's tenure as Dean during my time as a member of the Friends of the Law School Board..I think Avi's service as the Dean has been exceptional. If he supports Ms. Nelson with such enthusiasm, that is very high praise.

For the foregoing reasons, I do hope you will confirm the decision of the Selection Committee and name Camille Nelson as the Dean of the Richardson Law School.

Respectfully,  
Gary Slovin

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

David M. Forman

**Your Organization (optional)**

Environmental Law Program, William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

dmforman@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I share the enthusiasm of my colleagues at the prospect of Dean Camille Nelson succeeding Dean Aviam Soifer. During challenging times, it is crucial that the Law School have someone with Dean Nelson's expertise and proven track record at the helm. Among many other reasons, she was the only law school dean on a recently published list of the Top 35 Women in Higher Education (*Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine). I am looking forward to the opportunity to build our Law School's national and international reputation under the leadership of Dean Nelson. Mahalo nui loa,  
David M. Forman  
Director, Environmental Law Program

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Barbara Richardson

**Your Organization (optional)**

Search Advisory Committee for Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

Richardson.barbara.p@gmail.com

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

As a member of the Dean Search Advisory Committee, I had the opportunity to review Dean Camille Nelson's outstanding credentials, interview her both by video conference call and during her campus visit, and I was able to attend her public presentation. There is no doubt in my mind that Dean Nelson is an excellent candidate to replace Dean Avi Soifer.

Dean Nelson understands that the William S. Richardson School of Law is a special institution with an important mission to educate ethically responsible, competent and effective advocates and leaders.

I respectfully encourage the Board of Regents approve Dean Nelson's appointment to the position of Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Dina Shek

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

dshek@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Dear UH Board of Regents,

I am pleased to share my enthusiastic support for the appointment of Dean Camille Nelson to serve as the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRSL). As a proud WSRSL graduate and a current tenured Faculty Specialist, I am thrilled at the prospect of having Dean Nelson join us and lead us into our next phase.

Dean Camille Nelson was the most outstanding candidate of an excellent pool of finalists, and the entire law school community was invigorated and inspired by her visit. Most significantly, Dean Nelson is the leader we need to shepherd us through the next phase of the Law School's development, especially now as the University and the entire world face unprecedented challenges.

As we head into a time of great uncertainty and change, Dean Nelson's unwavering vision and proven leadership is exactly what we need. There will surely be severe cutbacks and harsh challenges ahead. But I am confident that with the strong and unifying leadership of Dean Nelson, WSRSL will continue to thrive in the years to come. She will be a great asset to our Law School and to the entire University of Hawaii community.

Thank you for your consideration of this strong support for Dean Camille Nelson to become the next Dean of our beloved William S. Richardson School of Law.

Sincerely,

Dina Shek  
Faculty Specialist, William S. Richardson School of Law  
Legal Director, Medical-Legal Partnership in Hawaii

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**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Rachel James

**Your Organization (optional)**

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

rjames9@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Dear Regents,

Thank you for continuing to address the concerns of the University and the surrounding community that the University supports during this unprecedented time. I am writing to express my support of the appointment of Camille Nelson as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRL).

I had to good fortune to meet Dean Nelson during her visit earlier this year, and was impressed not only with her credentials, but more importantly with her knowledge of and affinity for Hawai'i. While meeting with students, alumni and others during her visit, Dean Nelson shared her hopes for the law school, her ambitions for applying for deanship, and her intent to make Hawaii her family's home. Dean Nelson also revisited experiences she treasures from the times she taught at WSRL. The content she shared reflected a deep and growing knowledge of Hawai'i and an appreciation of the WSRL's namesake and his legacy embodied in the law school. Dean Nelson also spoke candidly about how addressing challenging components of her work as Dean of the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. and what she learned from those experiences and how she would bring those lessons to bear at Richardson. What struck me most in her sharing was her commitment to remaining relevant, and her willingness to step out ahead of the "norm" to ensure her students are well equipped to provide excellent and necessary legal services to their communities.

Since WSRL is Hawaii's only law school, it is imperative that the institution remain relevant, in order to meet the needs of the community it serves as well as the changing landscape of the legal community broadly. In Dean Nelson's three years as Dean of the American University College of Law, the law school launched a new Health Law and Policy Program, established a new Office of Academic Excellence to support students, enhanced online offerings with a new Master's in Legal Studies degree, and expanded programmatic endeavors in the areas of Business Law and Environmental Law among other areas.

Knowing Dean Nelson's long list of accomplishments and having had the honor to meet and speak with her during her recent visit gives me confidence in her ability to honor CJ Richardson's legacy and usher the law school into the coming decade. I am certain that Dean Nelson will not only serve the WSRL 'Ohana with excellence, but that she will be of great service to communities across Hawai'i as well.

I fully support her appointment as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Thank you selecting such a capable and committed candidate and for your time and consideration of my letter of support.

Sincerely,

Rachel James, Esq.  
WSRL Class of 2019

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Katherine Vessels

**Your Organization (optional)**

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

kakivessels@gmail.com

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

To Whom It May Concern:

I submit my testimony today in support of Camille Nelson being selected as the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am a 2016 graduate of William S. Richardson School of Law, and I attended all of the evening presentations by the dean candidates. Camille Nelson was undoubtedly my preferred candidate. She clearly understands what the William S. Richardson School of Law students, alumni, and community need. She was the only candidate to truly have a plan to address the issues she identified in her short time here and is passionate about serving as a leader in addressing those issues. She was also the only candidate that truly inspired the students and community members attending her presentation... in less than 30 minutes. Ms. Nelson's innovative insight, down-to-earth and team-based approach to strategic problem solving, proven transformational impact on a law school, and her desire to become a part of and contribute to the community make her the ideal candidate for the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law.

I am truly excited for the future of the William S. Richardson School of Law under the leadership of Camille Nelson, and I fully support her confirmation as dean.

Many thanks for your time,  
Katherine "Kaki" Vessels, Esq. (WSRSL 2016)

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Letter of Support for Dean Nelson

1 message

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**Chad Au** <chadau@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 1:18 PM

Aloha Board of Regents,

Please see my attachment which is a letter of Support for Dean Nelson.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Chad Au



**Chad Au, JD, MPH**  
chad.lee.au@gmail.com  
Honolulu, HI



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 **Letter of Support - Dean Nelson.pdf**  
73K

DATE: April 14, 2020  
RE: Letter of Support, Dean Camille Nelson  
  
TO: University of Hawaii Board of Regents  
FROM: Chad Ken Lee Au, MPH, Esq.

With great honor and aloha, I strongly recommend Dean Camille Nelson for the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Dean Nelson has proven to me that she is the best candidate for this deanship. In 2016, I had the pleasure of having Dean Nelson teach my Tort Law course. During my academic scholarship at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I have had many instructors, and Dean Nelson has shown the highest level of dedication, commitment, and passion for education for her students. Dean Nelson successfully challenged our minds and encouraged innovative thinking and would spend time after class to discuss legal theories and philosophy. Additionally, Dean Nelson has continued to keep in contact with me and many of my colleagues and still inspires me to strive for greatness in my profession. I am honored to call Dean Nelson an instructor and mentor.

I strongly believe that Dean Nelson embodies the legacy and core values grounded in the school by the late Chief Justice William S. Richardson and will be an invaluable asset for the University of Hawaii.

Warm Aloha,

**Chad Ken Lee Au, MPH, Esq.**  
[chadau@hawaii.edu](mailto:chadau@hawaii.edu)  
[chad.k.au@honolulu.gov](mailto:chad.k.au@honolulu.gov)



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

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## Testimony in support of Camille Nelson's Deanship

1 message

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**Larry Foster** <lawrence@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 4:43 PM

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 **camille Nelson.docx**  
14K

June 14, 2020

Chair, Board of Regents

University of Hawaii

Dear Chair:

I am writing to voice my STRONG support for the candidate to be the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, Camile Nelson. I commend Provost Bruno and President Lassner for nominating her.

I have known Camile for a number of years and believe she is an excellent choice to be the next Dean of our law school for a number of reasons.

She is a national figure in legal education, so she will be able to continue the tradition of promoting our small law school at the national level.

She is innovative, very energetic, and her enthusiasm is infectious.

She relates well to everyone.

She knows Hawaii and respects our unique history, culture, traditions, and customs.

I believe she will stay on as our dean for some time.

In the early years of our law school, the deanship was a revolving door. However, beginning back with Dean Harrison, then myself, and now Dean Soifer, we have established a strong precedent of long-standing deanships.

You cannot build and maintain a great institution if you are constantly changing leadership.

At the large community dinner (over 600 in attendance, including several governors) celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the law school and the transition from my deanship to Avi's, I noted that the proudest achievement of my deanship was to have raised the level of the law school to a level where we would attract a new dean of the stature of Avi Soifer.

With the selection of Camille, the bright future of the law school is assured.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence C. Foster

Professor of Law Emeritus and Former Dean

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Denise Antolini

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

antolini@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Dear Regents,

I write with **enthusiastic and unqualified support** for **Camille Nelson** as the next **Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law**. Dean Nelson is an extraordinary scholar and leader who perfectly fits the special mission of the Law School to provide excellent legal education to Hawai'i residents and those who come to the Richardson in order to contribute to our island communities and our global legal community.

I have known Dean Nelson since 2009 when she first started coming to the Law School to teach summer classes, and I remember being instantly impressed with her at the first meeting - and then each time taught with us for three additional summers. The student reviews about her dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm quickly spread on the coconut wireless. They wanted her back - and we kept asking her to come back because she was an excellent teacher and colleague. I was thrilled when I heard she was applying for the deanship. I'm truly delighted that she is the selected candidate for your approval.

I served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Law School for 8-½ years, under the exemplary leadership of Dean Avi Soifer. I was also on the advisory search committee that led to the selection of Dean Soifer 18 years ago. I have a deep understanding of the Law School's mission, needs, and opportunities - and of the challenges of finding "the right" Dean for our special Law School. Our Dean must be someone with unquenched passion for justice, unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of the islands, top-notch scholarly accomplishments, a strong administrative track record, the ability to garner broad donor support, have the full respect of the legal community, and be able to navigate and connect diverse interests and sectors.

I am confident that **Dean Nelson** has this unique set of talents for our Law School and University, and that she will build with vigor and excitement on the remarkable accomplishments of Dean Soifer and the Law School 'ohana for years to come. I hope that you will approve her as the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I would be very proud and honored to have her as our next Dean.

Sincerely,

Denise Antolini  
Professor of Law  
Former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached



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## BOR Personnel Action - re. Dean Camille Nelson, Item A-1 for Approval

1 message

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**Mark Levin** <levin@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 8:58 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Regents:

Please accept this brief note as testimony in support of the candidacy of Dean Camille Nelson to be the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Dean Nelson brings so much to our community — in terms of her experience and expertise as a Dean at Suffolk University and American University Law Schools, as well as her time and aloha for the Hawaiian Islands, the University of Hawai'i, and our Law School.

As a member of the faculty with over 20 years of service at the University, I can not imagine a better qualified candidate or someone who offers so much to us in terms of readiness to lead our school through challenges that surely lie ahead in these times. We've also a particularly notable bright spot on the horizon — our 50th Anniversary coming soon, and Dean Nelson is perfectly primed to help us celebrate that occasion and allow us to make the most of it to have the institution's value extend and grow well through its second 50 years.

Mahalo for your consideration of these thoughts and this question. We hope for your positive review and approval.

Aloha,

Mark Levin



**Mark Levin**

*Director, Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Program and Professor of Law*

**P** (808) 956-3302 | **F** (808) 956-5569 | **E** [levin@hawaii.edu](mailto:levin@hawaii.edu)

**SSRN:** <http://ssrn.com/author=624452> | **LinkedIn**

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Nicholas Mirkay, Director of Faculty Research & Professor of Law

**Your Organization (optional)**

University of Hawai'i at Manoa Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

namirkay@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I enthusiastically support the appointment of Camille Nelson as the next dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Camille possesses the leadership skills, experience, drive, and vision that is crucial to the future of the Law School. She understands the uniqueness of our school and the need to position ourselves (via planning and priority setting) for the next generation of legal education. We are so fortunate to have someone with her skill set, contagious enthusiasm, and reputation as a consensus builder interested in leading our Law School. I highly recommend that the Board approve her appointment.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

John Barkai

**Your Organization (optional)**

U H Law School

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

barkai@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I strongly support the appointment of Camille Nelson as dean of the law school. Dean Nelson had the near unanimous support of the law faculty after the 3 candidates interviewed for the position, and I believe the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the community would have even greater support for her now. She would continue the course Dean Soifer has put us on, and be the perfect person to lead us in the future. Having been the Dean at two other law schools, she has - "been there and done that" in very positive ways. I've been a full-time faculty member at the UH law school for 42 years, with 5 years as a full-time faculty member before UH in Detroit. Dean Nelson is "the real deal" and we want her as our next Dean.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Richard Chen

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

rcchen@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Camille Nelson is the candidate we dreamed of when we began the dean search at the Law School. The energy and buzz around the building during her visit were off the charts. People were taken with her passion and empathy. When she described something she had done at Suffolk or American, we all nodded enthusiastically as we pictured how that would help us here. And most of all, we appreciated that she used her limited time to listen to issues we raised and brainstorm together ways that we could tackle them.

Colleagues around the country have described Dean Nelson as a superstar that Richardson would be very lucky to get. From my perspective as a relatively new faculty member who has taught at other schools, I see the unique opportunity that Richardson has to become a real model of legal education as it continues to undergo important changes. Dean Nelson has a deep understanding of the present challenges and a track record of navigating them as the leader of two other institutions that are themselves very different from each other. That she accomplished so much under different circumstances bodes well for what she will do for us.

It can be difficult to bring in people from the mainland without knowing whether they will be a good fit for the culture and community here. Dean Nelson's past visits here and the strong ties she built are further proof of the unique opportunity

we have to bring in this national leader to take us to the next level.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Calvin Pang

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

calvinp@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Oppose

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I am a tenured professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I wholeheartedly support the recommendation to appoint Dean Camille Nelson as the next dean for our law school. Dean Nelson has amassed impressive records at the law schools she has led or is leading. In addition to being a proven, excellent law school dean, she remains an accomplished scholar, an outstanding teacher, and a committed servant leader in the communities she has touched.

Apart from her fine established record, Dean Nelson has a manner that makes her perfect for our island community and state. She will fit well here. She would bring both a broad world view and a common, intimate touch. We know her from her past experiences on our campus. She has earned our deep respect and warm affection. Little wonder that when our faculty gathered to discuss the dean candidates, it was clear how strong our collective support was for Dean Nelson. We are heartened to learn that our voices were heard.

We hope you hear our voices now. Please appoint Dean Camille Nelson to become our next dean. Bring her talents, skills, intelligence, and heart here. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Vicki Szymczak

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

vjs777@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I am writing in support of hiring Camille Nelson as the next Dean for the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Dean Nelson is a leader in legal education. She would bring to our law school her significant experience as a Dean of two other law schools. Dean Nelson's demonstrated talents for building excellent programs will be an asset to the University as well as the local legal community in general. She is a proven success, and I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with her in making the William S. Richardson School of Law a model of legal education excellence.

In addition to her obvious administrative proficiencies, Dean Nelson is a well-known criminal law and critical race theory scholar. These are areas that fit well within our law school curriculum, and we need this expertise in criminal law in Hawaii. She will bring an added depth to our exceptional reputation in this specialty and will be a valued resource for our law students who often graduate into the field of criminal law.

We should not miss out on having such an esteemed scholar and administrator in our community. Dean Nelson has significant support from the law faculty, staff, and students. I hope she has the support of the Board of Regents as

well. We will be greatly rewarded if you choose to hire Camille Nelson as our next law school dean and I urge you to make a positive decision on her hire.

Thank you for your consideration and time,  
Vicki Szymczak  
Law Library Director  
Associate Professor of Law  
William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Eric K. Yamamoto

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

ericy@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

To: Board of Regents

Professor of Law, William S Richardson School of Law

Date: April 14, 2020

Re: Letter of Support for Camille Nelson

Fr: Eric K. Yamamoto,

As a Professor of Law at William S. Richardson School of Law, I am writing to give my wholehearted and enthusiastic support for Camille Nelson as in-coming Dean for the law school. I grew up in Hawai'i and have taught at our University's law school for 35 years under four deans. I have also served as a visiting professor at law schools in Berkeley, New York and Santa Clara and have interacted closely with deans at those schools. I am deeply connected to our graduates and the Hawai'i legal community.

Dean Nelson brings exceptional deanship experience, extraordinary administrative and fundraising skills (and record of accomplishments) and inspirational leadership for student learning and faculty teaching and scholarship. She also brings close ties to and a love for Hawai'i – having taught several times in our summer law program (and linking closely with our Ulu Lehua Program, formerly Pre-Admissions Program) and through other visiting stints at the law

school. Through the years and during the dean search process, she deeply impressed all at the law school who interacted with her with her outstanding teaching abilities, institutional acumen, support for scholarship and strong-yet-sensitive way of interacting with people. She is a listener, envisions, inspirer and doer.

Dean Nelson brings a national reputation for law school administration during challenging times, having adroitly guided law schools through rough recessionary periods. And especially during rough times she has lived up to her commitment to offer all capable students – particularly those facing social or financial hardships – a supported opportunity to enter and succeed. Her institutional experiences and personal contacts throughout the country will be invaluable for the challenges facing legal education generally and our law school specifically.

For these reasons, the law school faculty has voiced overwhelming support for Dean Nelson. She has united us in our clearest sense that she is the person to lead the law school through the present and into the future. She has the mind, experience and heart we need.

I am therefore writing personally to most strongly support Camille Nelson's appointment as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Eric K. Yamamoto  
Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Carole Petersen

**Your Organization (optional)**

Professor, William S. Richardson School of Law & Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

carolep@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I strongly support the recommendation by President Lassner and Provost Bruno to appoint Professor Camille Nelson to be the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. These are challenging times and it is important that the Law School have an experienced and highly skilled Dean. I attended Professor Nelson's public lecture and also participated in a meeting with her for the faculty. I was extremely impressed by her knowledge and experience, as well as her energy, creative thinking, and willingness to listen. She has an excellent reputation in the academic community and we are very fortunate that she wants to join our Law School. With her leadership, I believe that the Law School will be able to build on our successes, address the challenges that we face, and move up to the next level in legal education.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Troy J.H. Andrade

**Your Organization (optional)**

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

tandrade@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Please see attached letter.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

[Andrade Letter in Support of Nelson Appointment.pdf](#) (64.8 kB)

April 14, 2020

**Submitted via Online Form**

University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents  
2444 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822

Re: Agenda Item VII.E: Personnel Action (Appointment of Ms. Camille Nelson as Dean, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa)

Aloha nō,

I write in strong support of the appointment of Camille Nelson as the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Dean Nelson has the necessary experience and vision to ensure the continued success of our Law School and the University of Hawai‘i.

As her CV details, Dean Nelson brings a wealth of academic and “deaning” experience that will enable her to hit the ground running. Having worked her way through the ranks of academia (thereby understanding the needs of junior faculty and tenured faculty) and then through two appointments as dean at Suffolk University Law School and American University Washington College of Law, Dean Nelson intimately understands the challenges and opportunities facing law schools today. She has taken on those challenges and seized those opportunities to effectively institute positive changes at her institutions. Most importantly, however, she has put students front and center of her many successful initiatives. She tackled bar passage and the need for financial support for those most vulnerable. Despite her many other obligations, she spent many summers here in Hawai‘i teaching our Ulu Lehua Scholars, the program for which I now serve as director, which provides a legal education to students who have overcome adversities in their lives. It was, thus, no surprise to me when her past students from our Law School and even from Suffolk attended her community presentation earlier this year.

Her vision for our school, framed around our core Hawaiian values of kuleana, nā‘au pono, aloha aku aloha mai, huli ao, mālama kekahi i kekahi, kūpale, ho‘owaiwai; and no‘eau, is encapsulated in her belief that a legal education is a “passport” that can allow one to access otherwise inaccessible sites and opportunities. This metaphor of a passport is particularly apt given the struggles we will continue to face in our community and the important role that our law school will play in shaping the future of law and access to justice in Hawai‘i and beyond. We need a bold visionary, grounded in our values, that will open the doors of the law school and the profession to those that will serve all of our community, particularly those most vulnerable. Dean Nelson is the person that can and will do it.

I urge your support of Dean Nelson’s appointment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [tandrade@hawaii.edu](mailto:tandrade@hawaii.edu).

Me ke aloha pumehana,

/s/ Dr. Troy J.H. Andrade  
Assistant Professor of Law  
Director of the Ulu Lehua Scholars Program

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Justin Levinson

**Your Organization (optional)**

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

junxtin@hotmail.com

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I am writing in strong support of the approval of the Personnel Action in A-1, the appointment of Dean Camille Nelson as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am a Professor of Law at the Law School, and have served on its wonderful faculty since 2004. I regularly maintain contacts with a range of faculty and administrators across the country and follow the trends in legal education, including deanship appointments. I have also known Dean Nelson since she served as a Visiting Professor here at our law school more than 10 years ago. I can say with full confidence that campus leadership's decision to hire Dean Nelson is a tremendous one.

Dean Nelson is a highly respected leader, scholar, manager, and fundraiser. As Dean of American University's law school, a well respected national (and global) law school, she has already demonstrated her energetic, collaborative, and versatile approach to leadership. As a former Visiting Professor at our law school, and a regular visitor, she knows our unique community and appreciates what a wonderful and special University and legal community we have. She will, without a doubt, hit the ground running here-- with enthusiastic faculty, staff, and student support-- and will continue to lead this law school exactly where it should go.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Susan Serrano

**Your Organization (optional)**

Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

susanks@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Please see attached document.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

[Support for Camille Nelson - Agenda item VII.E. att. A-1 \(BOR mtg. 4-16-20\).pdf](#) (64.8 kB)

To: University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents  
From: Susan K. Serrano, Faculty Specialist, William S. Richardson School of Law  
Date: April 14, 2020  
Re: **Agenda Item VII.E., Attachment A-1 — Testimony in strong support of Camille Nelson’s appointment as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law**

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I am writing in very strong support of the appointment of Camille Nelson as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am a tenured Faculty Specialist, the Associate Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, and a proud graduate of the Law School.

Ka Huli Ao is an academic center that promotes education, scholarship, community outreach and collaboration on issues of law, culture and justice for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific and Indigenous peoples. It significantly advances UH Mānoa’s strategic goal to become the world’s “foremost indigenous-serving institution” and the Law School’s mission to “lead in . . . Native Hawaiian law” and “advance justice.”

Dean Nelson is the exceptional leader that the Law School needs to further these strategic goals and objectives, as well as to lead us through today’s uncharted terrain. She brings extraordinary leadership and administrative experience, a deep love for Hawai‘i and its people, extensive fundraising experience, a strong commitment to justice, a record of excellent teaching and scholarship, and a warm, collaborative, and visionary style.

At the same time, her decisiveness and impressive successes in leading law schools through shifting financial difficulties will serve us well as we navigate the economic, health, academic, and social realities of this global pandemic. Her national connections and reputation, alongside her deep commitment to students and community, will be invaluable for the Law School. She will strive to maintain our place nationally as an excellent place of learning, and at the same time will prioritize the needs of our local student population in meaningful and innovative ways.

Finally, and just as importantly, Dean Nelson will be the Law School’s first Black female Dean. In light of the underrepresentation of women of color in law deanships nationwide, appointing Dean Nelson will make a powerful statement about the University’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. She has shown that it is not enough simply to hold the position of “woman of color Dean”; she has worked tirelessly to mentor, empower, and support others—particularly the historically underrepresented—as they embark on legal careers or step into leadership roles within and outside the academy.

Dean Nelson is the thoughtful, inspiring, and experienced leader we need now. For the above reasons and many others, I enthusiastically support Camille Nelson’s appointment as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law.

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Valerie Lam

**Your Organization (optional)**

Wm S. Richardson Law School - class of 1991

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

vjlam001@gmail.com

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Richard Wallsgrove

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

wallsgro@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Aloha Regents. As a faculty member at the law school, I am writing to join many of my colleagues in expressing **strong support** for the appointment of Camille Nelson as our new Dean. Dean Nelson brings a **proven record as a law school dean** who is committed to supporting students, staff, and faculty. She has an **outstanding national and international reputation** as a legal scholar and educator. And she is an experienced **boundary-breaking professional**. These traits, and others, make her an excellent choice to lead Hawai'i's law school.

I participated keenly in many of the opportunities to interact with Dean Nelson during her call-back to Mānoa. During those interactions, Dean Nelson conveyed a **sharp sense of strategic vision**, while also demonstrating her willingness to do the difficult daily tasks we ask of leaders. For example, she expressed **enthusiasm for the thankless task of fundraising**, and based on her experience, she outlined practical steps for fundraising success. She provided examples of how she has navigated difficult choices in law school governance, with a steady eye on **efficiently and effectively serving students**. As a junior faculty member, I appreciated her commitment to **supporting excellent faculty research** and professional development. And as an educator and a graduate of the law school, I appreciated her focus on professional opportunities for our students upon graduation. Importantly, Dean Nelson also conveyed an **understanding of the culture and values that are unique to Hawai'i** -- an understanding garnered from her time as visiting faculty

member at Richardson. Put simply, we are lucky that Dean Nelson has chosen the University of Hawai'i. I hope that the Board of Regents will similarly choose Dean Nelson.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Prof. Charles D Booth

**Your Organization (optional)**

Law School

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

cbooth@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I enthusiastically support the hiring of Dean Camille Nelson as the next Dean at the Richardson School of Law. I attended her public lecture and had two meetings with her. I was very impressed with her and believe that she has the skillsets and temperament to lead the Richardson School of Law to a higher level. Given the ongoing pandemic, we are lucky to have the opportunity to be able to hire her and if we lose this opportunity the law school will be in a very bad place, indeed,

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie

**Your Organization (optional)**

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

melodykmackenzie@gmail.com

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

[BOR - MacKenzie Testimony re Camille Nelson .pdf](#) (91.7 kB)

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie  
[melodykmackenzie@gmail.com](mailto:melodykmackenzie@gmail.com)

**In Support of the Appointment of Camille Nelson  
as Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law**

Meeting of the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents  
April 16, 2020  
Item VIIE – Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

Aloha Chair Kudo, Vice-Chair Sullivan, and Members of the Board of Regents:

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit brief remarks in support of the appointment of Camille Nelson as the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am honored to be a professor at the Law School, although today I submit this testimony in my personal capacity as a private citizen and as a graduate of the Law School.

I have reviewed Ms. Nelson’s CV and her extensive scholarship, and was also able to meet and talk with her when she came for her on-campus interview in January 2020. I was impressed not only with her knowledge of Hawai‘i, the community, and the Law School in particular, but also with her commitment to social justice and the values of the Richardson School of Law. Her experience in law school administration and her innovative ideas on legal education are also remarkable.

One of the innovations we discussed, something that other schools across the nation are considering, is offering basic law courses to undergraduates with a B.A. in Law as an option. This would not only help prepare a whole new generation of students for law school, but would meet an increasing demand for professionals with legal training in numerous fields and careers. Such a program would provide training in critical skills, such as problem-solving and the ability to make clear and logical arguments, that are marketable across professions. Graduates of the program would be well prepared for employment in an increasing number of jobs where legal training is an advantage, or to pursue further legal education.

I was also impressed by Ms. Nelson’s obvious care and compassion for students and her respect for her colleagues. During one of her public presentations, she discussed how she would approach taking on the responsibilities of being the Dean at our Law School and, from her remarks, it was clear that she had given this careful consideration. Her approach is collaborative, and she believes strongly in building relationships with the faculty and administrative staff, all with the goal of providing the best legal education to students. She also can be counted on to make the hard decisions that are necessary for an effective dean and leader.

Dean Avi Soifer has been a wonderful administrator and leader for the Law School during his tenure. I feel confident that Ms. Nelson is well-qualified and will be an equally committed and effective leader to guide the Law School during these uncertain times.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to provide these brief remarks.

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Ronette M. Kawakami

**Your Organization (optional)**

William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

ronettek@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Dear Honorable Chair Kudo and Honorable Regents:

Re: The appointment of Camille Nelson as the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law

I am writing in strong and unequivocal support for the appointment and confirmation of Dean Camille Nelson, for the position of Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. As a 1985 graduate of WSRSL, and as the current Associate Dean for Student Services, the future of the Law School is dear to my heart. The late CJ Richardson's vision for the mission of the Law School has come to fruition for so many, including myself. I am confident that Dean Nelson will continue that mission, with her energy, her reputation for excellence, and her desire to build on the great work of her predecessors.

It is an understatement to say that Dean Nelson blew everyone out of the water during her visit to the Law School. She was prepared, she was knowledgeable, and she exemplified a person truly committed to leading the Law School upward and forward for years to come.

She comes to us with substantial Dean-ship experience and thus understands the many challenges that all schools face-  
-alumni relations, fundraising, faculty-administration-staff relations, to name a few. And her experience shows that she  
has had to make hard decisions, but necessary ones. This is leadership that counts.

She understands that Hawai'i is a unique place, WSRSL is a unique law school, and she understands who we are, and  
embraces us. We are fortunate to have her.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Ronette M. Kawakami

---

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Trisha Nakamura

**Your Organization (optional)**

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

trishanakamura@gmail.com

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

[Final Testimony in Support of Dean Camille Nelson.pdf](#) (62.9 kB)

**TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA**  
P.O. Box 61619 • Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96839  
(808) 956-5561 • trishanakamura@gmail.com

---

To: The Honorable Benjamin A. Kudo, Chair  
The Honorable Jan N. Sullivan, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Wayne Higaki, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii

Date: April 14, 2020 Meeting Date: April 15, 2020

Re: Agenda Item VII.E (A-1): Personnel Action regarding Dean Camille Nelson

---

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Dean Camille Nelson.

I am the Director of Career Services and Professional Development for the more than 300 students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I am also a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, having received both my Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from this wonderful institution.

As the Law School works to develop strong Richardson attorneys, we need a leader who is both experienced in the management of law schools and committed to our students and community. Our state and communities, including the law school and its students, face uncertain and challenging times, resulting from a global pandemic. The next dean must be stalwart and possess the skills, courage, and vision needed to move us forward. I believe Dean Nelson is that person.

I was impressed by Dean Nelson’s contagious passion and energy. From the first day of her visit to the Law School, she engaged our students, alumni, staff, administration, faculty, and the community. She listened to questions thoughtfully and furiously took notes: a clear sign she was prepared to hit the ground running. She was not only using the time to respond to stakeholders’ concerns and gain buy-in, she was also assessing what challenges and opportunities she would encounter if given the opportunity. Her responses and conversations with faculty were honest and showed Dean Nelson’s awareness of what being a successful dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law would require.

Without fail, former students attended Dean Nelson’s job talks and waited to reconnect. Additionally, a colleague who graduated from Suffolk University Law School reached out to me to share his praise and respect for Dean Nelson. Our current students resoundingly responded to Dean Nelson.

As I work with our students and interact with members of the bar, I see the importance of someone who will uninhibitedly join our community and work to understand the history of Hawaii and legacy of CJ Richardson. Dean Nelson will invest time and energy into building relationships to advance the Law School, the University, and our State. We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber commit to our institution.

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Linda Hamilton Krieger

**Your Organization (optional)**

University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

lkrieger@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

[Camille Nelson Testimony.docx](#) (249.1 kB)



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

The William S. Richardson School of Law

Linda Hamilton Krieger  
Professor of Law

April 14, 2020

The Board of Regents of the  
University of Hawai'i  
Bachman Hall  
2444 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i. 96822

Re: Testimony Strongly Supporting the  
Appointment of Camille A. Nelson as  
The Next Dean of the University of Hawai'i  
William S. Richardson School of Law

Dear Chair Kudo, Vice Chair Sullivan, and Members of the Board:

My name is Linda Hamilton Krieger, and I am a Professor of Law at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law, where I have served since August of 2007. From that date until July 2018, I also served as the Director of the Law School's Ulu Lehua Scholars Program.

I write on my own behalf, and as a member of the Law School faculty, to urge you to approve the appointment of Camille A. Nelson as the next Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Early in my tenure as Director of the Law School's Ulu Lehua Scholars Program, I worked quite closely with Professor Nelson. During the summer of 2009 and the summer of 2010, she taught criminal law, and then torts, to the rising 2L Lehua cohorts. Because, in my role as Director of the Ulu Lehua Program, I was responsible for mentoring and overseeing the Lehua Scholars program of legal education, Professor Nelson and I spent a great deal of time working together during those two summers on matters pertaining to our respective teaching roles. We have kept in touch professionally since that time, discussing and working on various issues relating to expanding access to justice in underserved communities by expanding access to legal education for members of those communities. Throughout these years, it has been my hope that we could someday manage to have Professor Nelson join our Law School community.

Professor Nelson is a consummate legal scholar, a gifted administrator, and a wonderful human being. To a person, the Lehua scholars with whom she at the worked during those two summers absolutely adored her. They gained so very much by way of knowledge, self-confidence, and a strengthened sense of purpose through their experiences with her, and, like me, hoped that one day she might join our community on a more permanent basis. It gives me

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Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i  
April 14, 2020  
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tremendous joy to imagine her bringing her gifts to our entire student body, the University of Hawai'i and the broader Hawai'i community.

I am confident that the information you have available to you will reflect the tremendous enthusiasm that the Law School faculty, staff, and students hold at the prospect of having Camille Nelson serve as our next Dean. Her warmth, her dynamism, her intellect, and her enthusiasm absolutely galvanized us during her visit with us earlier this year. The reaction was electric.

These are challenging times, and as we move into the near future, I suspect they will become more challenging yet. But I feel heartened at the prospect of facing those challenges with Dean Nelson at the Law School's helm, and I know that I am not alone in that feeling. I urge you to approve her appointment as the Law School's next Dean.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Hamilton Krieger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Linda Hamilton Krieger  
Professor of Law

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

Julie Suenaga

**Your Organization (optional)**

Law School staff (assisted Dean Camille Nelson in the past when she was a visiting summer professor)

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

jsuenaga@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Dean Camille Nelson has always been a bucket full of sunshine with boundless energy and a passion for teaching. She treats everyone including myself with respect. When you go to speak to her, she listens giving you her full attention with a warm welcoming smile. She is sharp, a fast worker and cares deeply for students. The students love her because she is a great teacher. She knows how to deliver info and knows just how to do it effectively- a rare skill.

A couple of years ago, we invited her to a graduation reception for the Pre-Admission Program. The students she taught one summer were being honored and we sent an invitation so she knew they were graduating. She came all the way to Hawaii for that evening only because she really wanted to be there to congratulate the students. I was very surprised and I knew that she really cares deeply about people to go that far. The school and the university will benefit greatly by having this very amazing woman take the position of Dean of the Law School. Thank you for your consideration and time.

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

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## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

N. Mahina Tuteur

**Your Organization (optional)**

Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

ntuteur@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Camille Nelson as the next dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. As a Post-Juris Doctor Fellow at the law school, I am excited about the experience, skills, and energy she will bring to advance the vision of CJ Richardson. She demonstrates a commitment to the success of students, staff, and faculty that is inspiring. Dean Nelson is also dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive campus community, which includes promoting UH as a Hawaiian Place of Learning and furthering our social justice mission.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to voice my support,  
Mahina Tuteur

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

No file attached

## Public Testimony Form - University of Hawaii Board of Regents

*Please provide your testimony on this form for the next University of Hawaii Board of Regents meeting. Make sure you include all the requested information so that the Board of Regents is able to clearly understand the testimony provided.*

**Your Name (required) \***

D. Kapua'ala Sproat

**Your Organization (optional)**

Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, WSR School of Law

**Your e-mail address (in case we need to reach you) \***

kapuas@hawaii.edu

**Board of Regents Agenda Item (required) \***

VII.E. Personnel Actions (A-1 for Approval)

**Your Position (required) \***

Support

**Your Testimony/Comments**

Please see my attached testimony in strong support of Dean Camille Nelson. Mahalo!

**Your Testimony (pdf or word)**

[Sproat tes Item VIIE.pdf](#) (91.6 kB)

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I BOARD OF REGENTS

ATTN: CHAIR BENJAMIN KUDO & VICE CHAIR JAN SULLIVAN

**Testimony in Strong Support of Item VII.E:**

**Supporting the Appointment of Camille Nelson as  
Dean of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law**

**April 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Kudo, Vice Chair Sullivan, and Regents of our University of Hawai‘i:

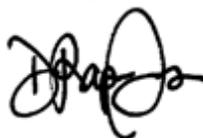
**I am testifying in strong support of Agenda Item VII.E, and urge you to please appoint Camille Nelson as our next Dean of the William Shaw Richardson School of Law.** As our President David Lassner put it best: we cannot have a Law School without a Dean. Dean Nelson has the experience, vision, and heart to effectively unite our community and move the Law School forward during one of the most uncertain times in history. She is the perfect leader to tackle current challenges in legal education and those facing our Richardson School of Law in particular.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Hawai‘i and am honored to serve as a Professor of Law and the Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at UH Mānoa. I participated extensively in the search process, reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and meeting with students, graduates, and others in our larger community about who our next dean should be. I was overwhelmed by the tremendous support for Dean Nelson. Everyone loved her, and she won the unanimous endorsement of the Provost’s Search Advisory Committee and so many others.

Our Law School faces significant challenges with bar passage, a state economy teetering on the brink of recession, and – now – the global pandemic COVID-19 that has changed life as we know it, including our approach to higher education. Dean Nelson’s national reputation for effectively guiding law schools through tough financial times, as well as her scholarship on and experience with change management, online learning, fund development, and public health issues, uniquely situate her to pilot our Law School through uncertain waters. Her experience as a dean at two other law schools has established her “street cred” as a data hawk who makes informed decisions while always keeping the interests of our students, faculty, and the larger community at the forefront. This is precisely the kind of leadership that we need now at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Please vote to appoint Dean Nelson today.

Mahalo for your time and consideration on this issue of grave importance to Hawai‘i, our University, and our Law School.

Mahalo piha,



D. Kapua‘ala Sproat

E: [kapua.sproat@gmail.com](mailto:kapua.sproat@gmail.com)



BOR Testimony &lt;bortest2@hawaii.edu&gt;

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**BOR Mtg April 16,2020**

1 message

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**SHAROL AWAI** <sharolawai@gmail.com>  
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Wed, Apr 15, 2020 at 9:00 AM

To the Board of Regents and BOR Executives,

My name is Sharol Awai and I live on Hawaii Island, and am an alumni of UH Hilo.

The topic of Mauna Kea is the reason for my testimony. The successful removal of 5 telescopes and bringing back the sites to its original state is the only concern or discussion that you should be taking into consideration at this time.

Thank you  
Sharol Awai  
[sharolawai@gmail.com](mailto:sharolawai@gmail.com)

Sent from my iPad