

FINALISTS

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU SEAT

- **Simeon R. Acoba**
- **Anthony J. H. Ching**
- **Luanna H. Meyer**

Simeon R. Acoba

Associate Justice Simeon Acoba, Jr., (ret.) (B.A. '66 Manoa) was appointed to the Supreme Court of Hawaii in May 2000. He served until his mandatory retirement age in 2014. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he was an associate judge on the Intermediate Court of Appeals from 1994 to 2000, a circuit court judge from 1980 to 1994, and a per diem district court judge from 1979 to 1980.

Acoba is currently a lecturer at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is a member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, having been appointed as a regent from October 2014 to June 30, 2017, to serve the remaining term of a regent who had resigned in 2014. He currently serves on the academic and student affairs committee, the intercollegiate athletics committee, the budget and finance committee, and is a director on the board of the University Clinical Education and Research Associates, a separate non-profit corporation that is affiliated with the University medical school.

Acoba started his career as a law clerk to Chief Justice William Richardson of the Hawaii Supreme Court, and was a special assistant to UH President Harlan Cleveland. He then served as a deputy attorney general, and later was engaged in the private practice of law. During his practice, he also served as a special deputy attorney general for the Hawaii division of occupational safety and health; the campaign spending commission; and the Hawaii public utilities division; a Hawaii State House of Representatives majority attorney; and an adjunct professor at the Richardson School of Law.

He was the founding chair of the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, a 22-member board with representatives from the three branches of government and other legally related entities, from 2008 to 2010 and was again appointed Chair of the Commission by the Chief Justice in 2016. Appointed by the President of the Bar, Acoba is co-chair of the Hawaii State Bar's Judicial Administration Committee that is composed of judges and attorneys. He also serves as a director on the boards of the Hawaii Justice Foundation and of the Mediation Center of the Pacific.

Acoba is the 2013 recipient of the national Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence from the American Judicature Society, the Distinguished Service Award from the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Filipino Community (FilCom) Center, the Golden Gavel Award and the President's Award from the Hawaii State Bar Association, the Fellow of the Pacific Award from Hawaii Pacific University and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the UH Founders Alumni Association. He and his wife Carolynn have three children and two grandchildren.

Statement

The Board of Regents is the most important board in the state! All the regents and not the "I" must govern in the best interests of the university and our community.

Who am I?

1. Local boy, youngest of 5 children
2. Father inspired me to love God, "work hard", learn and take care of family
 - a. Father was a Maui boy. Sent off to China at 10
 - b. Returned to Hawaii and raised his family. Although limited by an eighth grade education, instilled the importance of higher education in his kids
3. Committed to God, family, Hawaiian and local culture, our community and country
4. Married with 5 children
5. Education
 - a. K-6 - Aliiolani Elementary in Kaimuki
 - b. 7th to 12th – Kamehameha Schools Kapalama Heights
 - c. B.A. Political Science – UH Manoa
 - d. M.A. Urban & Regional Planning – UH Manoa

What are my relevant life experiences?

1. Started work at 15 to pay for my high school (\$360/year), undergraduate (\$650/year) and graduate school (\$3,000/year) tuition
2. Worked at the Kahala Hilton as busboy, bar porter, bartender and sommelier
3. Served a one year internship at the Legal Aid Society
 - a. As a result, sought a career where I could help the less fortunate and serve our community
4. Worked as a planning professional for
 - a. DLNR State Parks Program
 - b. DBEDT Planning Division and Office of State Planning
 - i. Honolulu Waterfront Project
 - ii. Land Use Division
 - iii. Hawaii Environmental Scanning Project
 - c. DOH Office of Planning, Policy & Program Development
 - i. Legislative Coordinator
 - ii. Hawaiian Genealogy Project
5. Served as a Planning Program Manager for the
 - a. DOH Health Care Reform Project
 - b. DOH/DOE Felix Consent Decree Interagency Team
 - c. DOH Environmental Ombudsman

6. Administered State-Wide Programs and Regulations
 - a. DOH Deputy Director – Administration
 - b. Executive Officer – State Land Use Commission
 - c. Executive Director – Hawaii Community Development Authority
7. Community Service
 - a. Director and Vice President – Palolo Chinese Home
 - i. Established strategic plan for reinvention of facility and programs
 - ii. Established a Continuum of Care where previously was only a care home
 1. Adult Residential Care Home
 2. Intermediate Care Facility
 3. Skilled Nursing Facility
 4. Hospice Facility and Services
 5. Community Outreach and In-Home Services
 - b. Levite and Church Elder – New Hope Diamond Head (aka Christ Centered Community Church)
 - c. Volunteer Coach
 - i. Soccer – AYSO
 - ii. Baseball – Manoa Boys Baseball League (MBBL)
 - iii. Basketball - MBBL and Manoa Girls Athletic Club (MGAC)
 - iv. Softball – MGAC

Areas of Expertise

1. Professional Policy & Program Planner
 - a. Understanding current situation and needs
 - b. Compile Alternative Decision Making Scenarios and Implementation Strategies
2. Meeting and Group Facilitation
 - a. Facilitating Group Discussion & Action
3. Administrative Law
 - a. Public Notice & Outreach
 - b. Conducting Due Process Hearing
 - c. Compiling the Record & Decision and Order
 - d. Serving as a Hearing Officer
4. Organizational Management and Leadership
 - a. DOH - 2000+ staff and \$400M Budget
 - b. LUC – 6 staff and \$450,000 Budget
 - c. HCDA – 23 staff, \$2M annual operating budget, \$40+M asset

Luanna H. Meyer, Ph.D.

Dr. Luanna H. Meyer is Professor Emerita at Victoria University in New Zealand, where she oversaw faculty research development in education. She moved to New Zealand as Dean of Education and then Assistant Vice-Chancellor-Academic at Massey University. Previously, she taught and conducted research at the University of Hawaii, the University of Minnesota, and Syracuse University. She received her BA in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her masters and Ph.D. degrees in education from Indiana University-Bloomington. She and her husband moved back to Hawai'i in 2013.

Luanna has a lifetime of experience in higher education internationally. Her contributions and standing have been recognized through invitations to serve in roles such as Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Bibliographies Online (OBO) in Education (Oxford University Press, 2011-2017) and Chair of the Education Panel for New Zealand's 2018 Performance-Based Research Fund (one of 13 national panels to evaluate faculty research productivity from 2012-2017). She is on the editorial boards of several international journals (*Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, *Higher Education Quarterly*, and the American Psychological Association's *PsycCRITIQUES*). Her published work in higher education includes international research on fostering world-mindedness in university undergraduates, valid and practical university assessment practices, faculty workloads, faculty research development, academic governance, and quality assurance audit. She has chaired and served on academic audit panels at universities in both Australia and New Zealand, and she has extensive experience serving on grants and program panel reviews in state agencies, school districts, universities, and federal government departments in the United States, Australia, Qatar, Hong Kong, and New Zealand including the selection of Fulbright scholars. She has been an invited speaker in 9 countries and 30 U.S. states, and her 30 Ph.D. graduates currently hold positions in Australia, Gaza, Indonesia, Kenya, New Zealand, South Korea, Tanzania, Vietnam, and the USA.

Luanna's publications include 13 books, 4 journal special issues, 82 international journal articles, and 86 book chapters, government reports, encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and assessment tools. In addition to her higher education work, her research and publications have focused on children's social relationships; inclusive special education for students with severe disabilities; multicultural and indigenous education; student assessment; positive interventions for behavior problems; and restorative justice approaches to school discipline. She is a member of two research groups investigating culturally responsive practices and secondary school motivation and achievement.

Currently, she is also writing a series of short stories based on the social histories of extraordinary women leading ordinary lives. She is a Member (Letters) of the Honolulu Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, volunteers for the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and helps to educate the public about our endangered Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles as a Malama na Honu guardian at Laniakea Beach on the North Shore.