# Hawaiian Humane Society Estate and Planned Giving Attorneys

Below is a list of attorneys for information purposes. It does not constitute a recommendation by the Hawaiian Humane Society or its board of directors. There are well over 150 estate and gift planning attorneys in the State of Hawai'i. This list is to help donors begin the search for an attorney whom they would like to work with in this area. You should confirm that the attorney is familiar with the estate planning strategies that are of interest to you.

# Rhonda L. Griswold, Esq.

For over 30 years Rhonda L. Griswold has concentrated her practice in estate and trust planning, including the preparation of wills and trusts, using a variety of planning devices to reduce estate and gift taxes, and to make sure that her client's assets pass seamlessly and efficiently to their beneficiaries. Her practice integrates the personal and estate tax planning concerns of individuals with tax and business planning for their closely-held businesses, and other legacy properties. Ms. Griswold works closely with her clients and other advisors to create and implement personally tailored strategies to preserve assets and transmit wealth while minimizing transfer taxes. She advises clients on all aspects of high-net-worth trust administration, including valuation issues, allocation of assets and funding trusts. She is often sought after to counsel on the appropriate use of trusts, partnerships, LLCs and other vehicles to achieve planning goals. She is a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.\*

#### **Cades Schutte**

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#### Ray Okada, Esq.

Ray Okada is partner with Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stife. His practice focuses on serving clients in all aspects of estate planning, wills, trusts and probate, and business succession. He represents clients from diverse backgrounds, family situations and wealth. He also advises on planning and administering estates, as well as resolving will and trust disputes and tax controversies. Mr. Okada is a sought-after speaker for groups such as the Hawai'i State Bar Association (HSBA), Hawai'i Society of Certified Public Accounts (HSCPA), National Business Institute (NBI), Hawai'i Tax Institute and the University of Hawai'i Emeritus Program. He is a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.\*

**Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stife** 

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### Steven H. Reese, Esq.

Stephen H. Reese has been a practicing attorney for more than 30 years. He received his Juris Doctorate from Albany Law School of Union University in 1983. Following that, he moved to New York City where he practiced law for five years, primarily in the field of litigation. Steve was admitted to the Hawaii State Bar in 1988, at which time he began his career in estate planning. He has been in continual service to our community for more than 25 years and opened his own offices in 1995. Steve is a community leader in the fields of estate planning, charitable planned giving, and business planning. He has been recognized by the Hawaii Community Foundation with the 2013 Professional Advisors in Philanthropy Award. He is regularly called upon as a guest lecturer, presenting educational seminars on several subjects to organizations such as: East-West Center, St. Francis Healthcare System, Hawaii Senior Alliance, Morgan Stanley, National Association of Tax Preparers, Prudential Securities, and many other groups, some of whom Steve also serves in an advisory capacity.

# Law Office of Stephen H. Reese

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#### Stacy Takekawa, Esq.

Stacy attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Stacy earned her Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As a law student, Stacy clerked for the Hawaii State Department of Education's Civil Rights Compliance Office and the Animal Legal Defense Fund in Portland, Oregon. Stacy was also the President and Founder of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund chapter at Richardson. Following law school, Stacy served as a law clerk for the Honorable Derrick H.M. Chan of the First Circuit Court. Thereafter, Stacy was an associate at the law firm Cades Schutte in the Trusts and Estates Department. Stacy's practice focuses on estate planning, trust administration and litigation, estate administration and probate, and conservatorship and guardianship proceedings. Stacy is a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association and is admitted to practice before all state and federal courts in Hawaii. Stacy is a member of the Probate and Estate Planning and Elder Law Sections of the Hawaii State Bar Association, a member of the Hawaii Estate Planning Council, and an officer of the William S. Richardson School of Law Alumni Association.

# **Estate Planning Group**

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### Carroll S. Taylor, Esq.

Carroll S. Taylor earned his Bachelor of Arts in history from Yale University, and his Juris Doctorate from the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. He was admitted to practice law in California and Hawaii in 1969. Mr. Taylor has focused his practice on estate planning, probate, and trust and estate litigation matters. He has earned numerous accolades from the legal community for his work in these areas and has been recognized as a Superlawyer and one of the Best Lawyers® in America and Best Lawyers in Hawaii in the areas of trust and estates, and trust and estate litigation. Mr. Taylor has been a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel since 1981.\*

# Taylor, Leong & Chee

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# Libby Ellett Tomar, Esq.

Libby Ellett Tomar has been practicing estate planning in Hawaii since 1981 and has owned her own estate planning law firm since 1987. She prepares Wills, Living Trusts, Codicils to Wills, Amendments to Trust, Durable Powers of Attorney and Medical Directives. She also practices real estate law, primarily conveyancing (Deeds.) During this time she has served over 3,000 clients. Ms. Tomar is a member of the Hawaii State Bar, the Hawaii Board of Realtors, and is also a member of the Hawaii Estate Planning Council. Raised in Honolulu, Ms. Tomar attended both public and private school in Hawaii, and graduated from St. Andrew's Priory in 1969. In 1976 she received her B. A. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and her Juris Doctor in 1980 from Western New England College School of Law, located in Springfield, Massachusetts. She has been a frequent speaker before professional and civic groups and has been a guest lecturer on estate planning with the University of Hawaii Community College System, the Life Foundation of Hawaii and Kamehameha Schools.

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## Randall M. L. Yee, Esq.

Randall M.L. Yee is a partner and head of the Trust and Estate practice at Yee & Kawashima LLLP. Mr. Yee has over 30 years of experience as a trust and estate lawyer with a concentration in probate, trust and estate planning matters. Mr. Yee is also a certified Public Accountant. He graduated from Iolani School and received his Bachelors Degree in Accounting from the University of Washington and his Juris Doctorate degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Mr. Yee holds an AV rating from Martindale Hubble which is the highest rating received by votes from fellow attorneys and has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers® in America and Best Lawyers in Hawaii since 2001 in the area of trust and estates. Mr. Yee is licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii and in the U.S. District Court, District of Hawaii. He is a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.\*

### Yee & Kawashima, LLLP

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# Eric S. T. Young, Esq.

Eric Young concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning, estate, gift and generationskipping taxation, conservatorship and guardianship law, and probate, conservatorship and trust litigation and dispute resolution. Mr. Young is a graduate of Punahou School, Harvard University (with honors), and the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii, where he was a member of the Law Review. Admitted to the Hawaii Bar in 1992, Eric began his estate planning career at the law firm of Cades Schutte Fleming & Wright in Honolulu, and later served as a Deputy Attorney General, Tax Division, State of Hawaii, where he handled tax litigation and charitable trust oversight matters. He most recently spent five years as Of Counsel at Carlsmith Ball, LLP, before establishing his own law firm. Eric is an adjunct professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii since 2003, where he teaches estate planning. He is a past Chair of the Probate and Estate Planning Section (2005) of the Hawaii State Bar Association and past Chair of its Elder Law Section (2003). He is a courtappointed member of the Committee on the Uniform Probate Code and Probate Court Practices and has received a Martindale-Hubbell "AV" rating from his peers. In April 2007, after more than 15 years of practice, Mr. Young was elected as a Fellow to the prestigious American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.\*

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\*The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) is a group of peer-elected trust and estate attorneys across the US and abroad. It is not easy to become a Fellow in ACTEC. Fellows must have more than 10 years of experience in the active practice of probate and trust law or estate planning. Lawyers and law professors are elected to be Fellows based on their outstanding reputation, exceptional skill, and substantial contributions to the field by lecturing, writing, teaching and participating in bar activities. It is their aim to improve and reform probate, trust and tax laws, procedures and professional responsibility.