

Elizabeth T.K. Akau

ASSOCIATE

Elizabeth “Kalei” Akau is an associate in the Litigation Department.

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Overview

Elizabeth “Kalei” Akau is an associate in the Litigation Department.

Prior to joining Cades Schutte, Kalei served as the administrative law clerk to Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald and then Acting Chief Justice Sabrina S. McKenna of the Hawai i Supreme Court.

Kalei obtained her Juris Doctor with a certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the University of Hawai i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law, *summa cum laude*. During law school, Kalei served as Co-Executive Editor of the University of Hawai i Law Review and provided research assistance to Professor Miyoko T. Pettit-Toledo. She also served as a judicial extern to Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald and the Honorable Jeannette H. Castagnetti of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai i.

Born and raised on O ahu, Kalei is a graduate of Punahou School and an avid hula dancer with Hālau Hula O Maiki. She received her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College where she majored in Anthropology modified with Native American Studies and minored in Government.

Noteworthy

Awards

- CALI Excellence for the Future Awards for the highest grade in Advanced Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law II, Lawyering Fundamentals II, and Second Year Seminar

Credentials

Practices & Industries

Litigation

Education

- J.D. (2024), William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai i, *summa cum laude*
- B.A. (2018), Anthropology, Dartmouth College, *Honors*

Admission

- Hawai i State Bar (2024)
- United States District Court for the District of Hawai i (2024)

Membership

- Hawai i State Bar Association

Clerkship

- Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald, Supreme Court of Hawai i (2024-2025)
- Associate Justice Sabrina S. McKenna, Supreme Court of Hawai i (2025-2026)

Publications

- *Healing Intergenerational Wounds in Present-Day Jeju Redress: United States-South Korea-Jeju Support for the Jeju 4.3 Trauma Healing Center*, 14 World Env't & Island Stud. 107 (2024) (with Miyoko T. Pettit-Toledo).