

RENEE R. SONOBE HONG

Education:

Hastings College of the Law, Juris Doctor, 1991
University of California, Berkeley, B.A. Legal Studies, 1988

Experience:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, STATE OF HAWAII

Deputy Director, Law Enforcement

January 2, 2017 – present

Responsible for the Sheriff Division and the Narcotics Enforcement Division. Coordinate and collaborate with federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies as well as with the Judiciary and other state, county, and private agencies to maximize the quality of services provided to the public, such as the State Opioid Action Plan, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion initiatives, issues addressing homelessness, and computer interface and interconnections to improve processes and services provided.

Sheriff, Sheriff Division

October 16, 2015 – January 1, 2017

Responsible for all Sheriff Division employees, including support staff and over 300 deputy sheriffs in providing law enforcement services. Performed administrative functions of the division, including personnel matters, managing the budget, administrative disciplinary investigations, and coordinating training. Drafted proposed legislation; monitored bills pending before State Legislature. Coordinated and collaborated with the Judiciary and other state and county agencies to provide better services to the public.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF HAWAII

Deputy Attorney General

December 2012 – October 2015

Public Safety, Hawaiian Home Lands, and Housing Division

Provided legal advice and representation to the Department of Public Safety, the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and the Crime Victim Compensation Commission. Advised and represented client agencies in civil actions; engaged in civil litigation, including researching, drafting litigation as well as appellate pleadings, and interviewing witnesses. Represented and advised the Department of Public Safety to successfully comply with the federal court settlement agreement regarding mental health services at Oahu Community Correctional Center, resulting in the dismissal of the lawsuit. Drafted proposed bills as well as administrative rules; reviewed legislative proposals, drafted testimony, and testified at legislative proceedings.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

First Deputy Corporation Counsel

September 2012 – December 2012

Administrative Deputy

May 2011 – September 2012

Acting Corporation Counsel December 2012. Performed administrative functions of the department, including personnel matters, attorney and staff recruitment and hiring; prepared responses for departmental audits; reviewed and managed contracts; coordinated continuing education and training; supervised externs and volunteers. Assisted with budget planning and preparation. Reviewed and prepared department resolutions for City Council approval. Reviewed bills and resolutions before City Council. Reviewed settlement of small claims brought against the City. Reviewed pleadings and correspondence for Litigation matters.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

October 1991 – May 2011

Division Chief, Misdemeanor/Traffic Division

2002 – May 2011

Supervised and managed 45 Division personnel, including attorneys, support staff, and victim witness counselors, responsible for prosecuting cases in the District Court of the First Circuit. Trained deputy prosecutors in case preparation and trial advocacy. Participated in the implementation of the first Mental Health Court Program in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii. Conducted training for outside agencies. Participated in statewide multi-agency meetings as well as Task Force meetings, including meetings for the Hawaii State Traffic Commanders, the Hawaii Integrated Justice Information Sharing Program, the Jail Diversion Advisory Council, and the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant Task Group. Supervised attorneys assisting with the Prosecution Clinic at the UH William S. Richardson School of Law.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Sexual Assault Team

1998 – 2002

Prosecuted sexual assault cases involving adults and children as victims. Convicted "Mililani rapist" who abducted at knifepoint and sexually assaulted several teenage girls.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

1991 – 1998

Prosecuted felonies in Circuit Court, including homicides, attempted murders, robberies, burglaries, organized crime, drugs, domestic violence cases, and career criminals on probation or parole. Handled felony conferrals and intake, including grand jury presentations, search warrant reviews, and preliminary hearings. Successfully prosecuted double murder of Japanese national extradited from Japan. Prosecuted cases in District Court and cases against juvenile offenders in Family Court.

Other Experience:

Adjunct Professor, University of Hawaii Prosecution Clinic, Fall 2006.
Board of Directors, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, 2004 – 2005.
Member, Hawaii Integrated Justice Information Sharing Program, 2007 – 2010.
Member, Hawaii Strategic Highway Safety Plan Leadership Implementation Committee, 2007.
Advisory Council, Jail Diversion Program, District Court of the First Circuit.