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Damon Key Director Christine A. Kubota Elected President

Damon Key is pleased to announce that Christine A. Kubota, attorney and Director, has been elected by the board to serve as the firm’s President. This change in leadership comes at an opportune moment in the firm’s 60-year history, as we look forward to continuing to meet the needs of our clients and the community with excellence. In this new position, she will oversee the firm’s operations, as well as its vision, strategy and workforce development.

“The directors were unanimous in electing Christine as the firm’s next leader,” said Damon Key Vice President Douglas Smith. “Her extraordinary legal background and business and community acumen make her uniquely qualified to guide Damon Key through the next chapter of its journey.”

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Christine joined the firm in 1988 and has been a director since 1994. She has a long history of professional and community accomplishments, making significant contributions at Damon Key and many other organizations. Born and reared in Japan, Christine initially built her legal career addressing the needs of her Japanese-speaking clients. Today, she practices in the areas of business & commercial law, employment, immigration & naturalization law, real estate, and wills, trusts & estates.

“I’ve been a part of the Damon Key ohana for 35 years, and the success of the firm and its many clients is always my goal and focus,” said Christine. “It is my greatest honor to be elected by my colleagues to serve as President of this special firm, with its talented team of attorneys and staff.”

The focus of Christine’s noteworthy career has been to assist Japanese investors and businesses – such as Ito En Hawaii, Hawaii Tokai International College, Kintetsu Hawaii, Arancino Restaurants, Sendai Ikuei, Herve Chapelier, and many other individual investors – to acclimate to Hawaii and the legal challenges they face that may be very different from Japan. Christine examines and explores the differences between cultures and the business environment and addresses complications before they arise. She assists with due diligence in purchase transactions, the opening of bank accounts, retention of consultants, and navigating Hawaii’s challenging probate process.

A trailblazer on many fronts, Christine is the first woman elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Waialae Country Club. She also serves on the Board of Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream Foundation, focusing on early literacy and family engagement in Hawaii.

Christine’s leadership in the Japanese community in Hawaii spans decades. It includes serving as past board chair of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, United Japanese Society of Hawaii, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and co-chair of the 150th Anniversary of the Gannenmono Celebration. She currently serves as director of the Pan-Pacific Festival Foundation, Hiroshima Kenjinkai, and Hawaii Aloha Life Enrichment Association. She is an honorary member of the Shufu Society of Hawaii and a member of the Board of Governors of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.



In 2019, Christine was one of 2,000 distinguished guests from around the world to personally witness the Sokuirei-Seiden-No-Gi, the official enthronement proclamation ceremony for His Majesty Emperor Naruhito in Japan. She was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in 2018 from the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu for her role in the Gannenmono Celebration.

In 2023, Christine once again was selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® for her work in Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Corporate Law, Real Estate, and Employment Law-Management. She is a past director of Meritas, a worldwide affiliation of commercial law firms with members in over 255 global markets.

Christine earned her law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She is also a graduate of Chaminade University, where she earned her B.A. in International Relations and Asian Studies.

The firm looks forward to many exciting and productive years ahead under Christine’s keen and thoughtful leadership.