Director
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(808) 537-6100

Education:
University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law
J.D. (2005)
Labor Employment Law Moot Court Team
Client Counseling Moot Court Team
Asian-Pacific Law and Policy Journal (Contributing Editor)
Advocates for Public Interest Law (Member/Secretary)
Phi Delta Phi
American Inns of Court

University of Hawaii, West Oahu
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature (2002)

Law Clerk:
Honorable Victoria S. Marks, Hawaii Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Areas of Practice:
Commercial Litigation, E-Discovery

Professional Activities:
Licensed in Hawaii
Hawaii State Bar Association
American Bar Association
University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, E-Discovery Law topics

STEPHANIE E.W. THOMPSON

Honolulu litigation attorney Stephanie E. W. Thompson is a Director of the firm. Ms. Thompson concentrates her practice in the areas of commercial and real estate civil litigation and e-discovery information management law. Ms. Thompson has assisted in the representation of various clients from multi-million-dollar corporations to small businesses and individual interests in legal matters ranging from wrongful termination and unfair competition, to negligence, commercial litigation, general business and trust disputes. Ms. Thompson has also participated in other legal matters involving construction and environmental issues, trust and estates, fraudulent transfers of land, and wrongful death claims.

Ms. Thompson has been named to ***The Best Lawyers in America®*** list in the practice areas of Appellate Practice, Commercial Litigation, Electronic Discovery and Information Management Law and Real Estate Litigation. She holds an ***AV Preeminent®*** rating from ***Martindale-Hubbell®*** for both her skill and integrity. Ms. Thompson has been recognized by ***Chambers and Partners USA Leading Lawyers for Business*** in the practice area of Litigation: General Commercial. Ms. Thompson has been selected for inclusion to the **Hawaii *Super Lawyers®*** list since 2021**,** in the practice area of business litigation . She was the 2015 Litigation Section Chair for the Hawaii State Bar Association, and a member of the board from 2011 through 2016. Since 2014, she has co-chaired the Hawaii State Bar's Litigation Academy, a two-day intensive course regarding litigation practice.

Electronic Discovery and Information Management Law

Ms. Thompson is the first and only E-Discovery and Information Management Law attorney who has been selected to the ***Best Lawyers in America®*** list. She was first selected to the list in 2025.

In addition to her litigation practice, Ms. Thompson has developed and presents workshops relating to eDiscovery for small businesses as well as ethical considerations relating to eDiscovery practice for attorneys. She has been a guest speaker at various civic organizations and has presented on the topic for bar organizations not only across the State of Hawaii, but also the nation. She has been a guest speaker on various radio programs including Hawaii Public Radio's *The Conversation*

and Think Tank Hawaii's *Life in Law* series. Since 2018, she has taught the course on eDiscovery at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii.

Some examples of her work include:

Commercial Litigation. Successfully represented a large financial institution involving employment contract related claims. Successfully resolved partnership claims involving a multi-million dollar real estate development company. Represented both individual land companies in arbitration resolving leasehold interests, ejectment and foreclosure claims.

Land use/Real Estate Litigation. Ongoing representation of homeowners against their association for violations of the association's governing documents and City/County ordinances. Successfully resolved association's claims against individual homeowners for violations related to the association's design/architectural standards.

Construction Transactions and Litigation. Ongoing revision and formation of construction contracts for construction corporations. Successfully represented private parties in a construction defects suit involving their multi-million dollar residence. Successfully resolved claims relating to allegations of failures to disclose defects in the purchase of real estate.

Labor/Employment Disputes. Successfully represented an employer in federal court involving claims of fraud and wrongful termination. Resolved claims relating to covenants not to compete on behalf of a private corporation through arbitration.

Trust & Estate Litigation. Favorably resolved claims against a major land-owning trust. Successfully represented an estate in the prosecution of claims relating to fraud and wrongful death.

Landlord/Tenant. Obtained a six-figure judgment against a tenant in a commercial landlord/tenant summary possession dispute. Successfully tried numerous cases relating to landlord/tenant disputes.

Pro Bono. Representation of a Hawaii non-profit in the analysis and revision of its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. Representation of several low-income families in matters related to adoption, child custody, and divorce issues.

What People Say About Ms. Thompson:

"Our primary attorney, Stephanie Thompson, worked with excellence and diligence until our case was fully completed. Successfully, I will add. Additionally, other attorneys and staff from Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher were also involved and made sure our case was

won."
Best Law Firms, Client Comment

"Stephanie Thompson possesses key expertise on litigation mandates, including IP and contractual disputes. She also maintains a significant pro bono practice. "
Chambers and Partners USA, Leading Lawyers for Business Comment

"Our attorney at Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher is Stephanie Thompson. She understands our concerns and acts accordingly. She is always willing to take extra time to explain the process. Best of all she does get the job done in a fair and equitable manner. I appreciate this organization and would recommend to all that needs their problems solved."
Best Law Firms, Client Comment

"My attorney from Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher was Stephanie Thompson. Throughout the entire process, her extensive experience, tireless work ethic, intellect, and patience shone through. Although I was a complete novice, she never made me feel that I was slow to catch on, although at times I surely was. The key document which was eventually drafted was thoroughly researched by Stephanie and her staff, and it ended up being exactly what I needed. It was well-written, easy to understand, and grounded in all the relevant legal history. To sum up, I highly recommend Stephanie Thompson to anyone who needs expert legal representation in the field of real estate litigation. She is the consummate professional, and was a real pleasure to work with."
Best Law Firms, Client Comment

"Stephanie E.W. Thompson of Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher is an outstanding lawyer and an overall amazing human. We met Stephanie when my husband and I were blindsided by a time-consuming and extremely costly legal nightmare. Stephanie was there for us every step of the way, making sure we understood the processes, helping us make strategic financial decisions, and being empathetic and strong when we felt we couldn't be. Her intelligence and understanding of the law put us in a position of power in a seemingly impossible situation. Trust me when I say, you want Stephanie Thompson in your corner."
Best Law Firms, Client Comment

When we got into a litigation matter in Hawaii, we got a reference to Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher. They not only exceed in their expertise, they understand the culture and politics of the area as well. Stephanie Thompson and the staff in particular showed impeccable integrity. I usually refrain from participating in these types of surveys, but I wanted to share how great this firm is."
Best Law Firms, Client Comment

"Stephanie and Trevor, at Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher, helped us through a very difficult case with patience, compassion and diligence. Their attentiveness and candor got us the best possible outcome. I highly recommend!"
Best Law Firms, Client Comment

"Stephanie is a strong advocate for her clients." "She is professional and knowledgeable,

and provides excellent insights to clients."
Chambers and Partners USA, Leading Lawyers for Business Comment

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Chambers and Partners USA, Leading Lawyers for Business Comment

"The Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher firm specifically Ms. Thompson are competent professionals who always have my company's best interests in mind. I am always informed when and included and feel our company is in good hands. What I appreciate and like about Ms. Thompson the ability to remain calm in crisis situations."
Best Law Firms, Client Comment

Learn more about Ms. Thompson, Pacific Business News, Executive Insight, September 27-October 3, 2024. Click the link, or read below.

Executive Insight

STEPHANIE E.W. THOMPSON

Director and partner, Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher

BY KATIE HELLAND | khelland@bizjournals.com

LEW HARRINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY

Q&A

As a kid, Stephanie E.W. Thompson would borrow her father's briefcase and pretend to be a lawyer. He eventually built her a desk where she kept files and a toy phone, she recalled in an interview with Pacific Business News.

"I don't know where that came from," Thompson said. "We laughed about it a lot because nobody in my immediate family were lawyers."

Today, she's living her childhood dream as a director and partner at Starn O'Toole Marcus & Fisher, where she focuses on commercial and real estate civil litigation. The firm has 25 attorneys, she said.

Thompson graduated from University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law as a single mother of three teenagers when she was 42 years old. Previously, Thompson had been a middle school French teacher, but she decided to become a lawyer after family changes left her wanting a career with a higher salary to support her children.

"The question was put to me: 'What is it that you've always wanted to do?' Believe it or not, I always wanted to be a lawyer," she said.

When Thompson is not working, she is also a triathlete, marathon runner and surfer.

She spoke with PBN about her hobbies as well as industry trends, challenges and advice for lawyers starting out in the profession.

Is there any overlap in the skills you build through your hobbies and those you use at work? [My sense of competition in my hobbies has decreased quite a bit], so more and more I'm out there for the community and the pure enjoyment of it and meeting my own personal goals. And then transfer that to the office – in so many cases, we're zealous advocates for the people that we represent, and there are a lot of things that are out of our control, and yet we've got to find a way [to] push forward ... and still, on a personal level, have it be rewarding and fun. In many instances, it's very much like [a] triathlon. And I was really attracted to my particular law firm because at the time that I joined my law firm, there were two very good triathletes there.

What trends are you noticing in litigation right now? Well, one of my focuses is on the practice of e-discovery and information governance, and that's an area of litigation that deals with digital records and documents. The technology has just exploded in the last 10 years, and a big part of litigation has to do with collecting and reviewing the documents that made a deal, and most of it's in digital format. ... Now, one of the hot ticket items that people are collecting from are the links embedded inside emails. ... You have a collaborative document, right? And you have a link, and everybody contributes, or they make edits, or they make comments about this and this and this. You have now this document – which is a contract that's in dispute – and you want to see who said what about what provision or who deleted what. You've got to go back and you want all those documents in their original format when you sent it back in 2022. These types of software – and ways to go do that – preserve those types of links and allow you to go back and review all those changes. It's really a super interesting part of litigation.

What is your biggest challenge right now? I think the biggest challenge is staying abreast of the case law and technology, while at the same time keeping a balance in personal and family life. It's always a challenge. ... But I think that's not just in the legal field. I think that could be said of most everybody and what they do and how they do it. I think in the legal field, we're feeling the impacts of artificial intelligence [and we're trying to use it] to do our job smarter and better – so that the client gets better service for less money. And [it's] good for the client, because in many aspects, legal representation is so expensive. One of the things near and dear to my heart is this concept – which Hawaii is out in the forefront of – of access to justice, where people who need representation but can't afford it, can get it. And I think that this whole push for AI and technology and things like that will make it a little bit easier for almost everybody to have the legal representation that they need.

What advice would you give someone going into the legal profession? I would say "do it" because there are so many skills that you glean in just having to think and analyze like a lawyer. I forget the statistic, but very few people stay as active attorneys. They branch out into so many different areas of business. To be able to communicate succinctly and precisely – verbally and in writing – will serve anyone anywhere, anytime.

ABOUT STARN O'TOOLE MARCUS & FISHER

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