

DAISY LYNN B. HARTSFIELD

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Seasoned social services and legal professional with over 20 years of combined experience in public administration, family law, social work, and criminal justice, with a specialty in child welfare cases. Proven leader with expertise in managing complex programs, building community partnerships, and providing strategic oversight of multi-disciplinary teams. Adept at navigating legal, social service, and policy issues with a focus on improving client outcomes and fostering collaboration across public agencies and community stakeholders. Passionate about ensuring justice, equity, and social support for vulnerable populations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Attorney

Law Office of Daisy Lynn B. Hartsfield

2018 – Present (limited practice after March 2019)

- Sole proprietor specializing in criminal/traffic defense, family law, and selective civil litigation (contract disputes, foreclosure defense, and employment law).
- Represented clients in Family Court as Guardian Ad Litem on cases involving juvenile matters, involuntary commitments, and other family law issues.
- Counsel for the Court-Appointed Special Advocates Program and Guardian Ad Litem for Legal Aid Services of Hawaii in child welfare cases.

Social Services Division Administrator

State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Social Services Division

October 2020 – October 2025

- Oversaw the Division's daily operations, including financial management, personnel, and direct service matters, ensuring effective and efficient service delivery to vulnerable populations. Programs in the Division include: Adult Protective and Community Services Branch, Adult Protective and Community Services Program Development, Support Services Office, Staff Development Office, Child Welfare Services Branch, and Child Welfare Services Program Development.
 - Improved the Division's budget from being "in the red" to having a surplus.
 - Provided leadership and supervision to Branch and Program Administrators, fostering a collaborative and results-driven environment.
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- Monitored compliance with federal, state, and local regulations, policies, and procedures, ensuring high standards of service delivery and operational excellence.
- Cultivated and maintained strategic relationships with community partners, local organizations, and service providers to enhance program reach and effectiveness.
- Spearheaded initiatives to improve operational efficiency, strengthen program quality, and drive positive outcomes for the Division's diverse clientele.
- Actively involved in the legislative process, which included drafting bills and written testimony, testifying at legislative hearings, and presenting at informational briefings.
- Provided special attention and guidance to child welfare matters to support efforts to improve the system with a realistic timeline.

Special Assistant to the Director

State of Hawaii Department of Human Services, Director's Office

March 2019 – September 2020

- Managed special projects and initiatives on behalf of the Director's Office, ensuring timely execution and alignment with Departmental priorities.
- Assisted with complex litigated cases in which the Department was party to so that a favorable disposition would result.
- Coordinated and monitored ongoing litigation involving the Department, serving as the primary point of contact for legal matters and managing case updates.
- Participated in meetings on behalf of the Department as delegated by the Director, e.g., Board meetings of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.
- Drafted and monitored contracts for services procured by the Director's Office, ensuring compliance with state regulations and standards.

Of Counsel

TMLF Hawaii, LLC

2015 – 2018

- Litigated judicial foreclosure cases representing plaintiffs and provided legal counsel on bankruptcy matters.
- Provided consultation to law firm attorneys in various stages of litigation, with a focus on appellate cases.

Associate Attorney

Dubin Law Offices

2012 – 2013

- Defended clients facing foreclosure, drafting complaints, discovery requests, and appellate briefs.
- Successfully negotiated settlements and delays, helping homeowners retain their properties.

- Conducted depositions and participated in mediation to resolve complex cases outside of litigation.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney**City & County of Honolulu, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney**

2011 – 2012

- Prosecuted a wide range of criminal cases from misdemeanors to Class B felonies, achieving high conviction rates through trial and negotiated pleas.
- Ensured that victims were informed and involved throughout the legal process, advocating for their rights within the criminal justice system.

Hawaii Drug Court Program Supervisor**Hawaii Judiciary, Adult Services Branch**

2010 – 2011

- Supervised the Hawaii Drug Court Program, which provided substance abuse treatment and supervision for non-violent offenders.
- Coordinated with community programs to address clients' housing, mental health, and employment needs, promoting successful rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.
- Partnered with the Department of Public Safety regarding client admissions and discharges from the jail.

Deputy Attorney General**Hawaii Attorney General's Office, Family Law Division**

2004 – 2009

- Provided legal counsel and representation to state agencies in Family Court cases involving child welfare, health, and education matters.
- Served as a member of the Standing Committee on Children and the Courts, representing the Attorney General's Office in critical policy discussions.

Deputy Public Defender**Hawaii Office of the Public Defender**

2003 – 2004

- Represented indigent clients in a variety of criminal cases, including juvenile matters and parole hearings.
- Successfully defended clients in misdemeanor and felony cases, advocating for their legal rights.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Social Work – Concentration in Child and Family

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Psychology

University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Arts & Sciences

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- Program Management & Leadership
 - Legal Research & Litigation
 - Contract Negotiation & Compliance
 - Public Administration & Policy
 - Community Engagement & Partnerships
 - Familiarity with the Legislative Process
 - Crisis Intervention & Conflict Resolution
 - Budgeting & Financial Management
 - Mentoring & Team Development
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Former child abuse investigator
 - Former juvenile probation officer
 - Former Law Clerk for the Honorable Karl K. Sakamoto
 - Externed for the Senate Judiciary Committee while a law student
 - Pro bono legal services to Oahu Filipino Community Council
 - Former coach for Waipahu High School Moot Court Team
 - Former board member of the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund
 - Former Hawaii Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Administrator
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