



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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Former Bishop Estate Trustee Dickie Wong Loses Federal Damage Suit for Alleged Civil Rights Violations

United States District Judge Alan C. Kay has ruled that former Bishop Estate trustee Richard (Dickie) Wong cannot pursue his action seeking millions of dollars from present and former employees of the Department of the Attorney General who worked on the trust proceedings that resulted in his removal as trustee or on the criminal indictments against him that were ultimately dismissed. Wong sought money damages from former Attorney General Margery Bronster, former Special Assistant Cynthia Quinn, present First Deputy Thomas (Rick) Keller, and present deputy attorneys general Larry Goya, Dorothy Sellers, and Hugh Jones.

Judge Kay granted the defense motion for summary judgment as to Wong's claims for money damages. The court held that the States' lawyers were clearly acting in their roles as advocates for the State of Hawaii and were fully entitled to absolute immunity. First Deputy Attorney General Keller noted that taxpayer money is wasted when disenchanting litigants sue the lawyers representing the State of Hawaii. "Judge Kay's opinion makes clear that such suits cannot succeed." Keller said.

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