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- Legal Blogs
- Maritime and Aviation
- Developments in Employment Eligibility Requirements

## Discovering Damon Key's Legal Blogs Meet Damon Key's legal bloggers

How much would it be worth to hear your lawyer think out loud in his area of expertise?

What if we told you that you can eavesdrop on four Damon Key attorneys for free?

If this interests you, read on.

Blog is internet shorthand for web log, a web page set up as a topical journal or newsletter, containing short articles (known as posts). Although originally derided as guys sitting in their living rooms in their pajamas, blogs have matured from simple web diaries into the internet norm for delivering up-to-date news, commentary and analysis on a wide variety of subjects. CNN anchors and reporters have blogs. Sports stars and CEOs have blogs. Even Oprah Winfrey has a blog.

Lawyers are no exception. A law blog is a web site where an attorney posts articles about his or her area of expertise and interest -- these articles may provide in-depth summaries and analysis of recent cases or legislation, or may contain practical insight and commentary. Recent decision not reported in the traditional media outlets may be posted.

Most importantly, law blogs permit a direct view into the mind of the lawyer-author. As one blogger aptly observed, the main advantage of



Mark Murakami, Tred Eyerly, Robert Thomas, and Robert D. Harris, Damon Key's legal bloggers

blogs authored by attorneys is they allow the reader to overhear lawyers think.

Four Damon Key attorneys blog about their practices. Robert Thomas, Mark Murakami, Robert D. Harris, and Tred Eyerly write and publish blogs where you can find the latest news and articles about Land Use, Maritime, and Insurance law. Damon Key's legal blogs are written and published directly by our attorneys, providing the reader a direct line to their thoughts on these subjects.

Damon Key is at the forefront of law blogging both locally and nationally, and is the only Hawaii law firm that has taken to this new form of communication and information dissemination.

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Robert Thomas's [inversecondemnation.com](http://www.inversecondemnation.com)

For nearly two years, Robert Thomas, a firm director, has been writing and publishing [inversecondemnation.com](http://www.inversecondemnation.com), a blog about land use law, eminent domain, and property rights, and one of the first law blogs in Hawaii. His blog was recently cited in the Zoning & Planning Law Report as one of the nation's leading blogs in this area of law:

The blog, written by land use and appellate attorney Robert H. Thomas of Hawaii, is dedicated to recent developments and commentary on regulatory takings, eminent domain, inverse condemnation, property rights, and Hawaii land use law. The posts, updated several times per week, largely focus on recent case decisions dealing with this subject matter, as well as relevant news article and other current events. Postings are categorized for easy access under more than a dozen topics including: development agreements, due process, regulatory takings, and vested rights. This blog also contains links to briefs in some of the higher profile takings and eminent domain cases, and it provides links to other resources including oral arguments of the Hawaii Supreme Court. A section of links to other blogs on eminent domain and land use is provided, as well as information of books and upcoming conferences and programs. Readers may subscribe via feeds or e-mail.

Robert notes, "On Hawaii there is intense public interest in land use issues, eminent domain, environmental laws and property rights, and the blog is an accessible way for readers to obtain up-to-the-minute information about these topics, but in a format which is easy for everyone, not just lawyers, to understand." Robert's readers are not limited to Hawaii, and his blog has hundreds of subscribers from across the country.

Recent posts on [inversecondemnation.com](http://www.inversecondemnation.com) include:

- an analysis of a recent Ninth Circuit case about the City and County of Honolulu's repeal of Chapter 38, the City's Condo conversion law, which allowed apartment owners to use eminent domain to condemn their fee interest
- a review of a book on eminent domain and the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous 2005 decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*
- analysis of the Vacation rental controversy which has erupted on Maui, Kauai, and Oahu
- details on the latest county restrictions on shoreline development

Visit and subscribe to Robert's blog at [www.inversecondemnation.com](http://www.inversecondemnation.com), or e-mail him at [rht@hawaiilawyer.com](mailto:rht@hawaiilawyer.com) for more information.

Mark Murakami's [hawaiiocceanlaw.com](http://www.hawaiiocceanlaw.com)

Damon Key director Mark Murakami writes and publishes his law blog, [hawaiiocceanlaw.com](http://www.hawaiiocceanlaw.com), which is about (not surprisingly) maritime and ocean law in and around Hawaii, Oceania, and beyond.

Recent posts on Mark's blog include articles about:

- the expansion of the Coast Guard's Biometric fingerprinting-at-sea program
- the proposed Fuel Law for Kauai's Nawiliwili Harbor
- an analysis of a recent Ninth Circuit decision on the definition of "fishing vessel" under the federal Shark Fin Prohibition Act

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Mark appreciates the immediacy and direct contact his blog allows him. One of the great things about a law blog is that unlike a traditional web site, it allows the reader to organize the content, and current information arrives in real time. For example, a reader of Mark's blog may choose to request an email whenever Mark posts a new blog story, may subscribe by a RSS newsfeed, or may read the blog like a traditional web site. Subscribing to a blog lets readers closely tailor the way their information is delivered, he adds, and the information is presented in the way the reader, not the author, desires.

Mark's blog can be found at [www.hawaiiocanlaw.com](http://www.hawaiiocanlaw.com) , and you can contact him directly at [mmm@hawaiilawyer.com](mailto:mmm@hawaiilawyer.com) .

Robert D. Harris and Tred Eyerly @ [insurancelawhawaii.com](http://insurancelawhawaii.com)

Damon Key associates Robert D. Harris and Tred Eyerly, who practice in the firm's Insurance Law Group, write and publish a blog about Insurance Law named, appropriately enough, [insurancelawhawaii.com](http://insurancelawhawaii.com) .

Robert and Tred post articles with developments, updates, and key court decisions to their blog frequently -- often daily -- keeping their readers abreast of the latest information on these and other related topics. Recent posts include:

- an analysis of a Hawaii appellate court decision about fees charged to insurance companies are unconstitutional taxes
- a summary and analysis of a Ninth Circuit decision striking down Nevada's requirement that out-of-state insurance agents have an in-state agent sign-off on all insurance policies
- a report on the short-lived Hawaii Medical Malpractice Liability Bill
- an article by Tred entitled, Flood Insurance: To Buy or Not to Buy

Robert and Tred take a slightly different approach than their colleagues, since they produce their blog jointly, and alternate writing articles. We post to [insurancelawhawaii.com](http://insurancelawhawaii.com) between our daily work as firm attorneys, Tred notes, and it helps that Robert and I share posting duties.

Robert adds, One reason we started the blog on Insurance Law is that it is such a critical, yet usually obscure, area of law, and we hoped that we could provide an accessible way for our readers to understand what they need to know about the subject.

Visit Insurance Law Hawaii at [www.insurancelawhawaii.com](http://www.insurancelawhawaii.com) , or contact Robert at [rdh@hawaiilawyer.com](mailto:rdh@hawaiilawyer.com) , and Tred at [te@hawaiilawyer.com](mailto:te@hawaiilawyer.com) .

We hope you pay a visit to one or more of our firm's law blogs. If you want to overhear what our lawyers are thinking, visit the sites listed above, or check out all three at [www.hawaiilawyer.com/blogs](http://www.hawaiilawyer.com/blogs) .

We promise we're not wearing our pajamas.

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## Attorneys in the News

Tred R. Eyerly led a discussion at the April HSBA Insurance Practice Group meeting on the anti-concurrent clause provision.

Anna H. Oshiro taught at a seminar for Risk Management on Construction Projects for the ASCE.

Christine A. Kubota moderated the Ready, Set, Growth Building Hawaii New Economy panel discussion sponsored by DBEDT, HJCC International Business Development Committee and the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

Christine A. Kubota will be speaking to the Probate and Estate Planning Section of the HSBA on Estate Planning issues for Japan based clients.

Gregory W. Kugle spoke at the April 2008 annual meeting of the American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry, on what to do when you discover bones or other archeological resources on a construction site.

### Important Event

Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert  
Client Breakfast Update:

The next client breakfast is scheduled for June 24th and the featured speaker is Jim Donovan, University of Hawaii New Athletic Director.

Send us an email with your contact information to [clientbreakfast@hawaii.lawyer.com](mailto:clientbreakfast@hawaii.lawyer.com) if you are interested in attending.

