

Sharon Burnham

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Work History

Owner, GardenVitals LLC 2008-present

GardenVitals is a garden information and consultation service, with a particular focus on native plant habitats. Extensive native plant garden is used as a demonstration project.

Lectures

Habitat Gardening, Birds and Butterflies in the Garden, Right Plant – Right Place, Waterwise Gardening, Drainage Issues in the Landscape, Removing Invasive Ivy, Proper Pruning, Small Fruit in the Garden, Extending Your Harvest, Growing Hydrangeas, Small Bulbs in the Garden, Container Gardening, Gardens of Normandy, Raising Composting Worms, and others.

Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Virginia

Asset Forfeiture Chief 1997-2014

Developed unit into the top small district office for forfeiture collections. Supervised three staff persons. Provided training to attorneys, agents, and support staff nationally and internationally. Developed an innovative database system for managing cases. Participated in the working group to revise Virginia forfeiture laws. Participated in DOJ forfeiture working groups. Also conducted criminal prosecutions involving environmental crimes, fraud, cigarette and alcohol laws, technology transfer, counterfeiting, drugs, and violent crimes.

Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney 2009-2014

Supervised Community Relations Unit with five staff members, overseeing district-wide public initiatives addressing prescription drug abuse, elder fraud, and immigration issues.

Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Hawaii 1989-1997

Extensive criminal and civil forfeiture casework as well as criminal prosecutions involving drugs, violent crimes, fraud; civil actions involving medical malpractice and employment discrimination.

Attorney, Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (now WilmerHale), Washington D.C. 1987-1988

Significant responsibility for preparation of defense to an action brought by the Consumer Product Safety Commission against the All-Terrain Vehicle Industry, and for the subsequent negotiation and implementation of a ten-year consent decree.

Attorney, Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, Honolulu, Hawaii 1985-1987

Personal injury defense, commercial litigation, and professional malpractice defense.

Chemistry and Math Teacher, The Kamehameha Schools, High School Division, Honolulu, Hawaii 1981-1982

Marine Environment Chemist, Naval Oceans Systems Center, Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe, Hawaii 1979-1981

Distinctions	Special Commendation for Outstanding Service in the Civil Division, Department of Justice, for the forfeiture of over \$276 million from The Purdue Frederick Company.	2007
	Award of Merit , Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and Asset Forfeiture Program, Department of Justice, for the multi-million-dollar forfeiture against an international cigarette smuggling operation.	2004
	Director's Award for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney, Department of Justice, for an innovative prosecutive strategy resulting in a multi-million dollar forfeiture against multiple alcohol smuggling operations.	2002
	Director's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Asset Forfeiture, Department of Justice, for a record-setting series of forfeiture actions.	1991
Education	J.D. William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii	May 1985
	University of Hawaii Law Review Member	1983–1984
	University of Hawaii Law Review Business Manager	1984–1985
	Publications "Circumstantial Evidence as Proof of Defect in Strict Products Liability," 6 U. Hawaii L. Rev. 335	1983
	Graduate study in Marine Organic Chemistry, University of Hawaii.	1978–1979
	B.S. in Chemistry , minor in math, with distinction. University of Redlands, CA.	June 1977
Academic Honors	Michael P. and Janet K. Porter Award and Hornbook Award To the law student in each class who achieves the highest scholastic average for the academic year.	1983
	Corpus Juris Secundum Award For the student in each class who has made the most significant contribution to legal scholarship.	1983 & 1984
Professional Associations	Member, Roanoke Master Gardener Association Part of team to train new Master Gardeners, teaching the sections on native plants and habitat gardening.	2009–present
	Member, Plant SWVA Natives Group Part of the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS). Developing a plant guide and a marketing plan to promote native plants for Southwest Virginia.	
	Member, Ecological Landscape Association	
Personal Interests	Travel – Extensive travel in Europe, South America, Japan, South Pacific, and Mexico. Language – Some Spanish, Japanese, French, and German language ability Basketweaving – Specializing in materials I grow or collect Cooking and Mixology – Specializing in using plants from my garden and in international flavors Music – Piano for a lifetime; ukulele for 10 years Hiking – I solo walked the Camino de Santiago for over 500 miles in Spain in 2016, staying in communal housing.	