



Ian Falefuafua Tapu

Associate

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itapu@hooperlundy.com

CAPABILITIES

Litigation, Mediation,
Arbitration

Medical Staff Operations and
Disputes

EDUCATION

University of Hawai'i William
S. Richardson School of Law,
J.D., cum laude, 2020

Dartmouth College, B.A.,
2008

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, 2024

Hawai'i, 2021

CLERKSHIPS

United States District Court
for the District of Hawai'i,
Hon. Jill A. Otake

Hawai'i State Supreme Court,
Chief Justice Mark E.
Recktenwald

Circuit Court of the First
Circuit of Hawai'i, Hon.
James. H. Ashford

"I've always appreciated the intersection of medicine and the law and how the practice of the latter can improve the practice of the former. I feel fortunate to be a part of those efforts."

Ask Ian Falefuafua Tapu to define how he approaches the practice of law, and the words that come to mind are "laulima" and "galulue fa'atasi." Meaning "to work together" in Native Hawaiian and Samoan respectively, this phrase captures the fierce commitment and collaborative spirit Tapu brings to his work. They are among the many characteristics that make Tapu an exceptional litigator, an effective advocate, and an attorney who impresses and inspires clients and colleagues alike.

Tapu brings a wealth of diverse experience and insights to his representation of providers, organizations, and other clients in a wide range of health care litigation. Having served as a law clerk to three judges in Hawaii at the state and federal level, each with their own distinct approaches, styles, and priorities, Tapu developed an appreciation for how judges make decisions and the types of arguments and strategies most likely to create the desired impact and result. This 360-degree perspective informs his powerful and persuasive oral and written advocacy and led to an impressive record of results. Tapu's experience before joining HLB also includes representing clients in complex commercial litigation matters.

As a first-generation college graduate and attorney from a large but close-knit family, Tapu intuitively understands the importance of listening to a wide range of views and the indispensability of collaboration when advocating for his clients. He takes immense pride in his Pacific Islander heritage and recognizes the privilege and responsibility of representing that heritage in the legal profession. Inspired by his grandparents and their journey navigating healthcare as immigrants, Tapu is passionate about health care law and understands the impact his work can have on patients' lives.

Tapu has always been deeply committed to giving back to others, including maintaining an active pro bono practice. While in law school, Tapu interned for the LGBT and HIV Project of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York City, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the American Indian Policy & Regulation practice group of an international law firm in Washington, D.C. He

has also published extensively on topics related to the U.S. territories and Indigenous rights, winning several notable awards.

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County
- California Society for Healthcare Attorneys
- Dartmouth Lawyers Association
- LGBTQ+ Lawyers Association of Los Angeles
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Insights

- HLB's Health Equity Essentials Update