The Law Library hosts annual art shows featuring works from the Law School ‘Ohana: faculty, students and staff. Past themes were Social Justice (2015), Boundaries (2017) and Currents (2018). Each year, the Law School community is invited to interpret and create works according to those themes and exhibit their works at our beautiful Law Library.

Art Map @ the Law Library

These items have been donated to the Law Library by artists in the Law School ‘Ohana or from the community. Follow this art map to learn more about each work.
The University of Hawai‘i School of Law Library participates in the Art in Public Places Program offered by the Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. The items labeled A-M are items loaned to our public building for your visual experience. Look closer at these works by using the Art Map to find them throughout our library.

We also exhibit special art donated to our library by famous woodturning artists, Ron Kent and Dan DeLuz. Read on about the significance of these art works and the message of the artists who created them.

**Ron Kent: Master Artist of Rebellious Form**

Ron Kent is a Hawai‘i based wood worker who specializes in bowls and vessels known to have a translucent glow. His work has been exhibited in world renowned museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, to the Louvre, as well as in local galleries, fairs and art shows.

Kent discovered woodturning in 1975 when his wife Myra gave him a $35.00 toy lathe. His first carving was a piece of driftwood. Eventually, he wore out his first toy lathe for a professional one, making bottle forms, silhouettes with elongated necks and eggs. Then he incorporated oils to bring out translucent light in his works. Norfolk Island Pine, which grows in the South Pacific, became a common wood medium for Kent’s art.

He is considered both a classicist and minimalist, but he refuses to be pigeonholed. After being known for his translucent, thin bowls, he defied expectations by making thick and heavy forms expressed in concave, convex, saddle-shaped, wave sculptures. He also created organic Seaweed forms made of “interwoven randomness of capillary-tube sculptures, and the open-sided inner-mirrored pyramids.”

Kent is known to “rebel against the limitations that success brings. Just as it was experimentation that brought the artist critical acclaim, it was experimentation that freed him to follow his muse.”

**The Legacy of Dan DeLuz Bowls**

The wooden umoke and calabash bowls that are on permanent display at the Law Library were created by woodworker Dan DeLuz, from Pā‘auilo, Hilo. He worked as a roofing contractor on O‘ahu for many years, then returned to Hilo where he encountered a lathe. That is when he connected to his life passion of woodturning.

His first woodshop was Hawaiian Handcraft on Kīnō‘ole St., Hilo. This shop was moved to Kīlauea St. where it remains today under the name Dan DeLuz Woods.

Mary Lou, his wife, reminisces Dan’s happiness during his creative process. He would do a “rough turn” on a calabash but “leave it for a year before completing it.” Dan did not let deadlines dictate his passion. During his bouts of creativity, he was still “willing to take a break, to talk story, answer questions, and offer a cup of coffee.”

Dan also developed a knowledge and appreciation for trees and woods of Hawai‘i. He followed the Indigenous Hawaiian philosophy of “I ola ʻoe, I ola mākou nei” (my life is dependent on yours; your life is dependent on mine). As a woodworker, he made efforts to protect the living forest. He used wood taken from dead, fallen, dying trees or wood removed near homes for safety reasons and carved calabashes from them.

The function of umoke and calabash bowls represented his life philosophy of “sharing.” His shared his shop with cats, a dog and a cockatiel. He shared his life passion with others, building Hawai‘i’s woodworking community with the Big Island Woodturners Club, West Hawai‘i Woodturners Club, and Hawai‘i Wood Guild.

DeLuz passed away on Jan 15, 2012 at 77 years old. But the gallery is still open. Shaun, Dan DeLuz’s grandson, continues his grandfather’s tradition, while carving out his own style.