Ruth Tone Kawashima was born in Grinnell in 1930, the daughter of Thomas and Frances Tone.

She graduated from Grinnell High School (1949), University of Iowa (BA, 1953), Indiana University (MA, 1962), and New York Law School (JD, 1974).

She worked at two major publishers in New York City as an English textbook editor for over ten years, before moving to El Paso, where she had been practicing law since 1974.

She had also been an adjunct professor at the University of Texas-El Paso since 1984, teaching technical and legal writing, until she retired in 2006.

She was the author of many books and articles on American law and legal history and was active in community activities, including the Norwegian Society of Texas, Sol Hjem Chapter.

She is survived by her husband, Yasuhide Kawashima, UT El Paso history professor; by her brother Melvin Tone, retired John Deere engineer, and his wife Rosanne; two nephews, Thomas and David Tone; three great nephews and nieces; and by two brothers-in-law, Takehide and Takenari Kawashima, one sister-in-law Kiyoko Iwata, and their four children and two grandchildren, all in Japan.

A memorial service is planned for June 27 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Grinnell. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the church.