



BAR & BENCH

SALT LAKE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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SUMMER 2022

President's Message

by Jonathan Pappasideris

Salt Lake County Bar Association President

A few months ago, while on a trip to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, I spent some time at the Head of the Rocks Overlook on Highway 12, gazing down upon the rugged beauty of the land and marveling at its sheer enormity. Staring at the distant majesty of the Henry Mountains, the Circle Cliffs, and the Kaiparowits Plateau, the “Leave It Better Than You Found It” motto popularized by the Parks Project – a maxim my grandfather also often recited to me, albeit in a different context – seemed more relevant than ever. And as my term as President draws to a close, I hope we (the 2021-22 Executive Committee) fulfilled our obligation to adhere to that ethos to the best of our collective ability.

If you joined us for one of our unique CLE seminars – such as “Trialpalooza” or “An Evening with Reginald Dwayne Betts” – we hope you found the content interesting, informative, and insightful. If you attended one of our signature social events – like the New Lawyers & Judges Reception; Holiday Dinner Dance; or Cheese, Chocolate and Wine Mixer – we hope you enjoyed delicious food, refreshing libations, and the company of friends and colleagues both old and new. Likewise, we hope this thrice-yearly newsletter is occasionally enlightening, frequently entertaining, and consistently keeps you abreast of all things SLCBA. And we hope you thought the special “In Memoriam of The Honorable Dee Vance Benson” edition appropriately paid tribute to a beloved jurist. Finally, we hope you

are excited by the establishment and initial funding of the “SLCBA Endowed Scholarship” at the S.J. Quinney College of Law and the opportunity to assist future generations of attorneys with their legal education.

In short, we hope your SLCBA membership has been of value to you both personally and professionally, enhanced your relationships with the bar and bench, and generally made practicing law in Salt Lake County more fun and fulfilling. If that hasn't been your experience, we want to hear your feedback and suggestions for improvement, as our foremost objective is to serve you – our members. Similarly, if you particularly liked this year's programming, have an idea for a new event or concept, or want to become more involved with the SLCBA, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. We recognize there are many worthy entities with which you can associate, and we sincerely appreciate you choosing to entrust some of your precious time and resources to us.



Jonathan Pappasideris

Finally, I'm deeply grateful to the twenty-one creative, thoughtful, and dedicated individuals who volunteered their time and talents to the Executive Committee over the past twelve months. They truly exemplify the ideal of “Leave It Better Than You Found It” and I'm confident their excellent stewardship will help the SLCBA reach new heights in the years to come. I'm excited for what the future holds, and I hope you are too!

Recent Precedents

By: Ruth Hackford-Peer

On Friday, May 13, members of the Salt Lake County Bar gathered at Caputo's to hone their cheese and chocolate tasting skills. Not only did we gather in community – meaning we actually gathered in person – for food and drink, but we also learned more than we ever knew there was to learn about these two tasty morsels. The cheese was good. Don't get me wrong. The cheese was probably great, but let's get real. I'm writing this almost a month after the event so it's the chocolate that I recall in vivid detail.

And I learned answers to questions I didn't know I had. Such as, that one is not supposed to let chocolate melt in one's mouth (like M&Ms) but is supposed to bite down with the front teeth and chew it. I learned that if you call your chocolate flavor "duck shit" folks will still buy it. I learned that the chocolate bar is a relatively new "invention." And I learned that grocery store chocolate tasted perfectly fine... at first.

We started the class by tasting perfectly fine grocery store chocolate, sampling a few tasty craft chocolate bars and then going back to the grocery store chocolate, which, to my surprise, suddenly tasted much less desirable. (I mean, it's still chocolate. I'm not complaining, but the other stuff was divine.)

One of the morsels we tasted was the WildJurua 70%. This bar is made from a unique strain of cacao that only grows along the banks of the Jurua River in Brazil's Amazon jungle. Its packaging is reminiscent of the Three of Swords Tarot card with a mysterious jaguar chewing cacao on the center. Those familiar with Tarot might know that the Three



Cheese and Chocolate Tasting

of swords is a fundamentally sorrowful experience.

The Jurua itself was on a sorrowful journey when the pandemic struck in 2020. A community along the Jurua river depended on the cacao and the bar for their livelihood, but because of the pandemic, as well as predatory vendors, it looked like that chocolate bar would cease to exist.

Caputo's knew that it would take years of investment to make this particular chocolate bar economically viable but decided to invest in this small village and its cacao. Caputo's prepaid for the next year's harvest and made sure the small community in the Jurua had the money and the guidance to harvest the incredible cacao, sustainably and without the predatory practices it had been plagued with. So while the story started out a sorrowful one, it's a joyful one now. I highly recommend the \$14.99 investment to try one of these chocolate bars and know that you are helping ensure this special cacao and the village that grows it will be protected for future generations.

The class definitely didn't make me an expert. But I will say this. I took full advantage of the discount coupon we obtained at the end of the class, and I bought a half dozen (or so) different new chocolate bars. I won't lie. I used the same trick I use at the wine store: I bought the stuff with the cool labels. I bought a bar with crushed raspberries slathered across it. Quinoa added crunch to another bar I purchased. A peacock spread its feathers in yellow and blue hues in a Bolivian grown cacao.

It's a worthwhile experience folks. So get out of those pandemic comfy pants and head over to Caputo's for a nice night of chocolate. Oh, and cheese. There was cheese too.

Cheese and Chocolate Tasting

Continued



Recent Precedents

Summer Dinner Dance and Annual Meeting

Last month we said goodbye to summer with a beautiful evening on the Salt Lake Country Club patio. The festivities included a long-awaited ice luge and a kickoff fundraiser for the SLCBA Endowed Scholarship.



More photographs from this event are available online!



View and download at: [SLCBA Summer Dinner Dance 2022](#)

Practitioner Profile

Andrea Martinez

By: Michael Langford

Andrea Martinez is not a stranger to many of you. Her work ethic and knowledge of the law are well respected in our legal community. What is not as well known is that Andrea's commitment and passion for criminal justice and public service was shaped by her humble beginnings.

Raised by a single mother, Andrea's childhood was spent moving from state to state. She was born in Idaho Falls, spent her early childhood in Salt Lake and graduated from Huntington Beach High School. She then fulfilled a childhood dream by attending UCLA, where she majored in history and minored in women's studies. After graduating in 1997, she returned to Salt Lake and worked for AmeriCorps, helping disadvantaged children in its Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Because of the adversity she faced as a child, this job was very much a natural fit. Working with disadvantaged youth forged her desire to pursue a career in public service and criminal justice. She felt that a law degree would help her achieve her professional objectives.

In the Fall of 2000, Andrea enrolled at the University of Utah College of Law. Though she enjoyed the intellectual challenges of law school, she most liked the clinical opportunities; her favorites being family law and criminal law. She also clerked at the Salt Lake County District Attorney's office where she gained hands on experience working in the criminal justice system.

Following law school in 2003, she worked as a prosecutor for the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office where she cut her teeth working on drug, juvenile, and misdemeanor cases. Her experience working on juvenile cases motivated her to broaden her work experience and join the Utah Juvenile Defenders Office in 2007 where she relished defending the rights of indigent children.

Andrea returned to the DA's office in 2014 where she tried a number of serious cases including homicides and sex cases. Again, wanting to broaden her experience, she began working for the Salt Lake Legal Defender's Office in 2016 where she not only made a positive impact for her clients but for other young attorneys. Hillary King, who is a trial attorney at the Salt Lake Legal Defenders Office says, "Andrea was an incredible mentor to me when I first started at the Salt Lake Legal Defender's Office. As a young woman starting out in criminal defense, she took me under her wing and helped me gain confidence. She is incredibly passionate and has a wealth of knowledge and it clearly shows in her work. She is zealous advocate who truly cares about her clients."



Andrea Martinez

Indeed, one would be hard pressed to find an attorney with a more complete experience in criminal law. She is one of the few attorneys that has tried a homicide case as a defense attorney and as a prosecutor. Salt Lake City Justice Court Judge Katherine Peters worked with Andrea at the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office and offers these thoughts on her, "Andrea is not only kind, compassionate, and empathetic but she can also be firm and assertive when necessary. I have always admired Andrea's

Andrea Martinez

Continued

ability to identify and individual in need or an underdog and immediately step in to address their needs with every possible way she can help. I have watched Andrea's dedicated work in her career as both a prosecutor and as a defense attorney. Andrea is always working for the most just outcome and never takes the easy way out."

Andrea says that the best piece of advice was given by the late great Honorable Judge Robert Hilder who said, "Never sacrifice your professional reputation for one case." She is an active mentor and shares with her mentees that the guiding principles of advocacy are professionalism, respect, and knowledge.

Andrea is now in private practice; however, she still fulfills her belief in indigent defense, as she is a felony conflict attorney for the Salt Lake Legal Defender's Office.

When she is not in court, Andrea can be found cheering for her teenage boys in their athletic pursuits. And, in the fall, she can be found cheering loudly for her UCLA Bruins and of course cursing their sworn enemies – the cross-town USC Trojans.

Practitioner Profile

Christian Silva

By: Kirsten Allen

Christian Silva is not your typical Utah attorney. Though he has the academic chops and personal charm to sit comfortably at the Big Law conference table, Silva's personal experiences ally him with the traditionally disempowered.

Silva was born in Uruguay. After personal experiences with crime, rising unemployment, and a deteriorating economy in Uruguay, Silva's parents made the decision to leave Uruguay for the United States, bringing then two-year-old Silva to Utah where they had connections through the LDS Church.

As he grew, Silva attended Utah public schools. He became the translator – both of language and culture – for his parents, who had arrived in Utah knowing only a few words of English.

Inspired by the election of President Obama, Silva's childhood dream was to become President of the United States. Upon finding out that, because he was not a natural born citizen, he could not hold this office, Silva settled for dreaming of becoming a U.S. Senator and an attorney.

On his way, Silva became the first person in his family to graduate high school – graduating at only age 17. Not knowing the U.S. education system, his parents had enrolled him a year early.

Silva went on to obtain his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Utah in 2018, graduating magna cum laude. While completing his undergraduate work, Silva served as an intern at the Utah State Capitol during the 2017

legislative session. During this internship, Silva discovered that he did not love politics, which he learned had a skewed ratio of campaigning to law-making. Nevertheless, his interest in law combined with early experience navigating the U.S. immigration system drew him towards a career as an attorney.

Silva earned his J.D. from the University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, graduating with High Honors in 2021. There, Silva was a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Team, Quinney Research Fellow, William Leary Scholar, and he received multiple additional academic awards. Silva says that among his favorite things about law school was the work he did as a research assistant to Professor Clifford Rosky, investigating and writing about the First Amendment and the harmful effects of so-called “conversion therapy” on LGBTQ+ minors.



Christian Silva

Silva currently serves as an associate attorney with the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis – where he focuses on the formation of investment funds and complex business transactions and devotes pro bono hours to helping other immigrants seek asylum and obtain citizenship. He also hopes to devote pro bono time to helping members of the LGBTQ+ community. He previously worked as a litigation associate at Fabian VanCott and a summer clerk at the Salt Lake City Attorney's Office.

As an LGBTQ+, first-generation, Hispanic professional, Silva is committed to uplifting voices of marginalized communities and issues relating to the intersection of immigration and LGBTQ+ identities.

Christian Silva

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Being a relatively new attorney, Silva says he is most surprised at how much there is to learn about being a lawyer and the law, how little law school prepares students for the practice of law, and challenges individuals often face in obtaining quality legal representation. He plans to continue to offer pro bono services to traditionally underserved communities. For fun, and to stay sane, Silva rides his road bike and travels.

Silva plans to return to Uruguay next year, the first time he will have visited the country since leaving as a baby. Given the privileged course his life has taken, he is eager to explore his connections to the family and country that remained behind.

Congratulations

to our past SLCBA Presidents!

The SLCBA would like to congratulate two of its past Presidents on their recent appointments. We are thrilled for your new positions. Thank you for your longstanding support of the SLCBA.



Justice Diana Hagen
SLCBA President 2008–2009

Justice Hagen was appointed to the Utah Supreme Court in March 2022 by Governor Spencer Cox.

Justice Hagen received her law degree Order of the Coif from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in 1998. Following law school, she served as a law clerk for United States District Court Judge Tena Campbell and then began her practice at the law firm now known as Parr, Brown, Gee & Loveless. In 2001, she joined the appellate section of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Utah and later became the Appellate Chief, a position she held for nearly ten years before being promoted to First Assistant. Prior to her appointment to the Utah Supreme Court, Justice Hagen served on the Utah Court of Appeals, having been appointed in June 2017.

The SLCBA was fortunate to have Justice Hagen as its President from 2008–2009.



Trina Higgins
SLCBA President 2010–2011

Trina Higgins was nominated as the United States Attorney for the District of Utah by President Biden in January 2022. She was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 27 and sworn in on May 4, 2022.

Trina received her law degree from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in 1995. Following law school, she worked in the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney for seven years. Since 2002, Trina had served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Utah, holding several leadership positions. Prior to her confirmation as U.S. Attorney, Trina was also an Adjunct Professor at the S.J. Quinney College of Law, where she taught trial advocacy for ten years.

The SLCBA was fortunate to have Trina Higgins as its President from 2010–2011.

Book Review

Playing to Win A Review and Confession

By: Brady Rasmussen

If you're a parent of school-age kids in America, chances are you rush out of your office on a Monday evening to run kids' sports carpool. And then again on Tuesday, Wednesday, and sometimes Thursday. Fall is a favored season in Salt Lake, but you spend most of your Saturdays chauffeuring young athletes to fields, gyms, rinks, courts, tracks, or trailheads. You act as an Uber driver for your kids and their pricey equipment and then anxiously watch them play...a *game*.

In *Playing to Win*, Michael Lewis, of *Moneyball* and *The Blindside* fame, reflects on his life as a "sports parent," grappling with the question: is it all worth it?

The Life We May Have Had

For Lewis' wife, Tabitha Soren (fun fact: of MTV News fame), the answer is a resounding, "No." Lewis describes what must have been a "Terrible moment of clarity" for Tabitha. She had just dropped off her daughter at a softball field somewhere out-of-state and had "gone looking for a gluten-free meal in a gluten-filled mall." "This is hell on Earth," she texts Lewis. "There is no reason for me to be *here*, doing *this*." "I just thought we would have dinners together as a family other than once a week," Tabitha laments. "And with that, she was done," Lewis concludes.

In tackling this question for himself, Lewis tells his story of being a sports parent while also offering listeners a deeper examination of this "strange new force at the center of American culture." It's amusing, educational, and part confessional. For many of us, Lewis is telling our story in real-time. More important, it just may help us navigate a better

ending for ourselves and our kids.

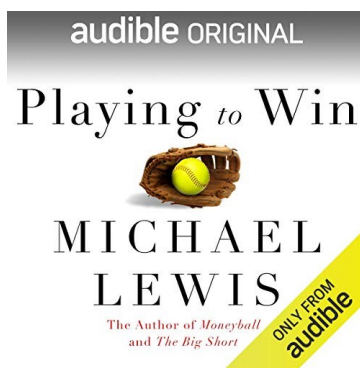
The Youth Sports Industrial Complex

In his classic fashion, Lewis explores the recent new American phenomenon of what he coins as "the youth sports industrial complex." The expanse of this new complex is mindboggling and frightening. In 2014, one of the first informal studies to measure the breadth of this new world determined that "30,000 new kids sports franchises sprang out of nowhere," representing a massive new and totally unregulated market. Driving this new market were competitive youth "travel teams." The travel teams concept springs from the idea that local competition is just not good enough. So, teams must now travel in search for the best competition. In talking of his daughter Dixie's own travel softball experience, Lewis confesses, "If all you knew about her was her itinerary you might have guess that she was an overworked salesperson for a mid-sized American company based on the west coast."

Out of this emerged a new market of businesses offering services for scheduling, plane tickets, hotels, and restaurants. All for a small fee, of course. In 2017, an economist at Utah State University "put the entire youth sports market at something like seventy billion dollars a year, which was bigger than all the major American professional sports combined." Repeat: "***bigger than all the major American professional sports combined!***"

The Parent is the Most Pathetic Character

In offering his listeners a sense of what it feels like inside our new youth sports industrial complex,



Playing to Win

Continued

Lewis describes what it's like for the parent: "the most pathetic character inside it." As a parent watching your kids play sports, "You are on your own" because "No one, and I mean no one, is as interested in the subject as you are." Moreover, "the center truth of this elaborate mechanism that we've built so that our children might compete against each other might be this: how little a parent can give to help the child." As a result, as Lewis says, "The overwhelming emotion of the sports parent is anxiety and the first thing you sense at the games is this tension." Any parent who has spent time on a sideline will relate.

As Lewis concludes, "If one day brain scientists seek to determine that the same brain chemical that triggers the aggression of a momma bear cut off from her cub also somehow drives human behaviors, they will set up their lab in a kids' ballpark."

My own wife once said to me after viewing a game from a distance: "It was nice to not have you muttering next to me." Ouch. So, instead of muttering, I excuse myself to pace in the background without anyone to mutter to but myself. It's silly, but as

Lewis explains, while some of us know enough to bottle up the emotions (unlike the bad behaving parents), "the emotions don't just go away." This leads to some bizarre coping behavior. So, as Lewis tells, "Timmy takes pictures, and Warren keeps a pointless scoreboard and Mike drinks spiked lemonade and [Lewis] walks 18 miles." And, I pace the sideline. Because as Lewis concludes, "All of us know that the worse we can do is express anything that we are actually feeling."



An Act of Privilege

In addition to creating heightened anxiety and smaller bank accounts for the parents, the new youth sports industrial complex has other unfortunate consequences. As Lewis tells, in sports the question we should ask is can you play, and not "how much [do] your parents make?" Yet, "we have arrived at the point where half the children never know if they can play as they don't have the money to find out."

The influx of money and pay-to-play leads to a lack of opportunity for poor kids in youth sports. Lewis tells of talking to a guy who is part of a think-tank exploring this emerging issue to one of his daughter's games. What this gentleman says to Lewis at the game is painfully poignant: "Midway through he swept his hand through the fields and said, 'The grass is lovely, but the kids of the parents who cut that grass those kids aren't here. This is an act of privilege.'" This is troubling. We must do better.

Competitors vs. Collaborators

As his daughter Dixie and her team got better, they move on from the *every kid gets a trophy* local city league, entering the competitive travel team world. As they traveled outside the city, "the play improved along with the size of the ice chests, and the cargo shorts, and the pick-up trucks in the parking lot." The teams they played against often had "outlandish grandiose names like USA Elite, All-American All-Stars or TABU," which stood for "Try An' Beat Us."

It was during this time that Lewis observed another "tension at the heart of American life," which he describes as the tension between competitors and collaborators:

The competitors despise regulation. The collaborators love it. The competitors believed that little [kids] need to learn that

Playing to Win

Continued

life was not always easy. That people did not always simply wish them the best. And to succeed in a market-driven society they would need to be warriors. The collaborators believed the wider world had been infected with a disease and the farther away from it we kept out little [kids] the better.”

I love this simple dichotomy. Which side do you fall on?

She Was Smiling

The Audible concludes with Lewis describing walking a college softball his daughter Dixie. As they walk, Lewis describes how he listed for Dixie all she had sacrificed in her journey through the youth sports industrial complex: the “vacations, school dances, weekend parties, and on and on. Roughly 1000 hours that she might have spent with our friends, she spent with me or her mother on the road. She paid such a price, I thought.” When he looked over to her for a response, she was smiling and answered, “Yeah, but look where it got me.”

Confession Time

For me, Lewis’ story plays like a confessional. And not just for him. If someone were to ask me why I was doing all of this with my boys, I would have same answer as Lewis. Sports was also “my solution to adolescence.” Like Lewis:

I want [my boys] to be good enough to play a sport and have so much fun playing it that one day they would play of their high school teams...I want them to know what it [feels] like to be on a team, learn how to win and lose with grace. I want them, even more, to make the connection between effort and outcome. I think I want most of all was for them to learn about

other people in the way that you can uniquely do by playing sports with and against them. There are people you want to have with you in a pinch and people you do not. **There are people who are 2.0 smart. And people who are 4.0 stupid.** In short, I view sports as a kind of magic pill for improving my child characters. I also [see] it as a tool that I could use to get to know my children and that they could use to get to know me if for no other reason that it would force us to spend vast amounts of time together.

Like Lewis with his daughters, I want these things for my boys. However, as Lewis implicitly warns, it is easy to be swept away, chewed up, and spit back out by this new youth sports industrial complex. *Playing to Win* provides its listeners with some space to reflect and take inventory of this part of our lives, and hopefully helps us find a similar ending: a smile from our kids.

Playing to Win is only available on Audible. Because who has time to read when you’re driving kids around?

Bar Review

Casot

By: Michael Langford

I knew I wasn't in one of my typical haunts when the server gave me a puzzled look after I asked him for a "Yellow Belly" (that would be a Coors Banquet bottle for all you that don't know any better — and you are forgiven for that). But then again, the art, crowd, and drink selection all should have made it clearly obvious.

Casot (pronounced cass-AUGHT) doesn't have Coors Banquet, Jägermeister, or pickled eggs, but it does have an extensive selection of fine wine, and lots of it. The 50 or so selections rotate and feature both wines that can be purchased locally and some that you cannot find at the local liquor store. Patrons can get wines by the bottle or wines normally not found by the glass in either 3oz or 5oz pours.

My first foray into its extensive wine selection was a rosé called Poe. It was delicious. It was so good that my wife had to remind me to slowly sip, not slurp, and that I was not at a Ute tailgate drinking Canadian Hunter — "the Hunter" — from a red plastic cup. It went down so easy that we decided to order some food from Finca, which is located right across the street and available for pick-up for Casot patrons. They also offer small bites such as a cheese plates. Admittedly, the wine paired better with our Patatos Bravas and Fidel De Alicante than "the Hunter" would have.

Dressed up, dressed down, all are welcome to come as you are. The owner, Scott Evans (as recently quoted in the Salt Lake Tribune) "wanted it to be super-casual, neighborhood-y, really fun place. My

goal is to make it as comfortable and casual as possible, with a really good wine list." And do they ever. Be advised, weekend evenings are bustling with a line out the door. But don't let that discourage you; some come for the night, while most enjoy Casot as their first stop in their evening festivities.

Most of the decor is eye-catching, has history and compels one to inquire as to its origins. For example, on the wall there are two 110-year-old Grenache Gris vines from California. The bar is also eye-catching, being centuries-old and imported from Milan



Initially, I was disappointed that Casot did not have my favorite bar activity, Karaoke, but my wife and the patrons were probably relieved lest I torture them with my go-to rendition of Lynard Skynard's "Simple Man." The absence of Karaoke does not make Casot any less collegial than a downtown tavern and it still manages to deliver on the owner's vision of a "super-casual, neighborhood-y" vibe. A lot of this experience is created by its small, intimate

space where patrons are encouraged to converse and laugh with one another. It lends itself to making new friends and getting closer with old friends.

They don't serve Yellow Bellies, but Casot will not disappoint.

1508 S. 1500 East
Casotwinework.com

Dicta

By: Nicole Salazar-Hall

The Utah Bar is no stranger to affinity bars and sections—Women Lawyers of Utah (WLU), Utah Minority Bar Association (UMBA), Hellenic Bar Association, LGBTQ & Allied Lawyers. Even yours truly, the Salt Lake County Bar Association, is considered an affinity bar. But what is an affinity bar and what do they do? Affinity bars promote unique interests and goals of their members, traditionally for members of marginalized groups, as many of the names suggest. WLU serves the goals and interest of women lawyers throughout Utah while LGBTQ & Allied Lawyers serves the goals and interests of LGBTQ lawyers and their allies in Utah. Formed in 1991, UMBA has long served the Utah Bar's racial and ethnic minorities. Given that Utah historically, and currently, is a majority white state, it comes as no surprise that UMBA has been the go-to organization for attorneys of color for so many years.

Thanks to the efforts and initiative of a group of black attorneys including Judge Shauna Graves-Robertson (Salt Lake County Justice Court), Amber Stargell (Salt Lake County District Attorney), and Engels Tejada (Holland & Hart), Utah will see its first ever affinity bar for Black, African American, and allied lawyers. Why, might you ask, do we need a new affinity bar serving Black and African American lawyers? The answer to this question starts with a bit of history lesson.

Black lawyers were not allowed to join the American Bar Association until 1950. In response to the ABA's racist restriction, a group of Black lawyers in Des Moines, Iowa formed the National Bar Association in 1925. The National Bar Association has grown from the handful of founding visionaries to over 60,000 attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, with 84 chapters throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Morocco, and the Caribbean.

New Utah Black Lawyers Association

Similarly, Utah did not historically allow Black attorneys admission to the Bar. In 1933, D.H. Oliver became the first Black attorney to be admitted to the Utah State Bar. D.H. Oliver's tenure as an attorney was not without difficulty. Mr. Oliver, being the only practicing Black attorney in Utah, was denied the basic courtesies from the Bar, Bench, and law enforcement that many of us take for granted. Mr. Oliver was disbarred several years after his admission under suspicious circumstances. Nevertheless, his legacy and struggle has inspired Utah's Black population for years. Judge Shauna Graves-Robertson recalls hearing her family talk about Mr. Oliver when she was a child. The experiences of Mr. Oliver and his successors were instrumental in the formation of the Utah Minority Bar Association.

UMBA was formed to give Utah's attorneys of color a source of camaraderie, networking opportunities, and professional support. At the time it was formed, Utah had so few attorneys of color, there were too few members to form separate affinity groups for the Bar's Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Black attorneys. Under these circumstances, UMBA sought to serve as an umbrella organization for diverse attorneys. Being an attorney of color comes with certain challenges that can be difficult to explain and share with our white allies. Though we love our white allies and wouldn't trade them for anything, it is often relieving to share our lived experiences with others who have had similar experiences. The founders of the new affinity bar hope to work with UMBA and other affinity bars to specifically focus on the needs and interests of Utah's growing Black attorney population.

The idea of forming an affiliate chapter with the National Bar Association has been on Judge Graves-Robertson's mind for years. Judge Graves-Robertson has long been involved with the National Bar Association and has served as the NBA's Director of Region X for the past two years. About 8 months ago,

New UBLA

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Judge Graves-Robertson's goal to establish a Black lawyer association became a reality when she approached about a dozen Black attorneys, including Amber Stargell and Engels Tejada, to help her spearhead this endeavor. True to form, they rose to the occasion and helped start the new Utah Black Lawyer Association (UBLA).

Amber Stargell was similarly excited about this endeavor. Amber started her law school career at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. Amber enjoyed the Black affinity groups who introduced her to other Black and African American law students and lawyers. The connections Amber built through the Houston Black affinity groups inspired her to create a similar experience for Utah law students and lawyers. Amber hopes to assist Black law students network and build connections to serve them throughout their careers.

Engels, a 2007 S.J. Quinney graduate, is well-acquainted with the Utah Bar and knew how many talented attorneys Utah had to offer but was also acutely aware of the lack of representation. Engels hopes the new Black lawyer association will help attorneys build their businesses and remain in Utah.

Both Engels and Amber shared overall positive experiences as attorneys in Utah, though sometimes isolating and intimidating. Their hope is the new affinity bar will help recruit and retain Black and African American attorneys in Utah. According to Engels, "we hope this organization will help us recognize the contributions that Black attorneys have made to our legal community over the years. Just as important, we hope it will help us convince more Black attorneys to lend their talent and passion for the rule of law to our communities and businesses."

The black lawyer association will work on outreach to Black and African American lawyers, law students, undergraduates, and high school students,

partnering with existing affinity bars, professional networking, and broader education efforts. The new Utah Black Lawyers Association will not be exclusive to Black and African American individuals; it will be open to anyone interested in the issues affecting Black and African American lawyers. Anyone interested in joining can email Engels Tejada (ejtejeda@hollandhart.com) or Amber Stargell (amber.stargell@gmail.com) to receive updates.

The Salt Lake County Bar Association is excited to partner with this new group.

Upcoming Events

Ongoing

Contribute to the SLCBA Endowed Scholarship

Please support the Salt Lake County Bar Association (SLCBA) in its efforts to support future SLCBA attorneys. The SLCBA has created a student scholarship fund at the S.J. Quinney College of Law. This scholarship fund will financially assist students who intend to practice law in Salt Lake County after graduation. Preference will be given to students who have experienced hardship and have demonstrated resilience and grit in the face of such adversity.

[Donate here!](#) We thank you for your consideration and support!

Oct. 27

New Lawyers and Judges Event

Join us in welcoming the newly-admitted lawyers and newly-appointed judges at this social. Drinks and appetizers will be provided

When: Thursday, October 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Ken Garff Scholarship Club at the Rice Eccels Stadium – 451 S 1400 E, Salt Lake City

Dress is business casual. Watch for additional information in the coming weeks, including how to RSVP.

Dec.
2

Save the date: Annual Holiday Dinner Dance

Don't put away your dancing shoes just yet! The annual holiday dinner dance will be here before you know it.

When: Friday, December 2 – cocktails 6:30, dinner 7:30, dancing to follow

Where: The Country Club

A formal invitation with additional details will be sent in the November.



e-SCLBA

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Looking for information about our upcoming events? Want to connect with other members, see pictures of our past events, or re-read your favorite editions of *Bar & Bench*? You can do all this and more by following the Salt Lake County Bar Association online!



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