

Nov 16 - 18

Utah State Bar

FALL FORUM

at Little America in SLC



PATRICK ANDERSON

PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

Patrick Anderson has been the Director of the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association since 2008. He graduated from the University of Utah, College of Law in 1986. Mr. Anderson began his legal career in 1986 as a civil litigation attorney for Fabian & Clendenin in Salt Lake City.

In 1990, Mr. Anderson joined the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association (LDA) as a misdemeanor trial attorney and progressed to being a felony trial attorney. He left LDA in November of 1993 and practiced as a sole practitioner, as well as in a private criminal law firm from November 1993 to March 2001.

In March of 2001, Mr. Anderson returned to LDA and resumed practice as a felony trial attorney. In 2002, Mr. Anderson was named as the Misdemeanor Chief where he supervised and trained new misdemeanor attorneys and also carried a felony caseload. That same year, Mr. Anderson assisted in the development and staffing of the first Mental Health Court established in Third District Court in Salt Lake County, Utah. Mr. Anderson also transitioned the initial Mental Health Court from a misdemeanor court to a felony court. He worked as the Mental Health Court LDA attorney for eight years and served as Chief Misdemeanor attorney for approximately five years. Mr. Anderson was then named Assistant Director at LDA and stayed in that position until he became Director in December 2008. Mr. Anderson has served on numerous statewide and local committees involving the advancement of criminal law. Among other things, he served for 16 years on the Utah Supreme Court's Evidence Advisory Committee. He also has served on the statewide USAAV Committee, the Utah Sentencing Commission, the Salt Lake County Criminal Justice Advisory Council, the statewide taskforce on indigent defense, the Family Justice Center Advisory Council, and the Utah Indigent Defense Commission which was established in 2016.



Gregory G Skordas

OUTSTANDING PRO BONO SERVICE

Greg Skordas is a shareholder in the firm of Skordas, Caston & Hyde, LLC. His practice focuses primarily on criminal defense, criminal appeals, attorney disciplinary matters, juvenile defense and police labor law. Greg is the former Chief Deputy Salt Lake County Attorney, where he worked as a prosecutor from 1987 until 1995. Prior to his employment at the Salt Lake County Attorney's Office, he worked for the Salt Lake Legal Defender's Association.

Greg is a past President of the Salt Lake County Bar Association and Criminal Law Section of the Utah State Bar. He has served on the Utah Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice, the Utah Sexual Violence Council, and on the Boards of the Children's Justice Center at the Utah Law Related Education Project, as well as serving as attorney for the Board of the Rape Recovery Center and Intermountain Specialized Abuse Treatment Center. He has also served as legal advisor to the Intermountain Division of the National Ski Patrol.

Greg was the 1993 recipient of the Distinguished Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Utah State Bar. In 1991, he was the first recipient of the Scott M. Matheson award for service to law related education. He has been an instructor at the National College of District Attorneys and currently instructs at the State Police Academy. Greg is also an adjunct professor in trial advocacy at the University Of Utah S.J. Quinney College Of Law, which is where he received his B.S. and J.D. degrees.

In 1990, and 1991, he was honored by the Legal Assistance Program at the Salt Lake Community College as the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award. He received a Peter W. Billings Excellence in Teaching Award from the University Of Utah College Of Law in May, 2005. Greg has also received special recognition awards from the Salt Lake Area Gang Project in 1992, the Utah Courts in 1993, and the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Association in 2006.

Greg has been named one of the best 100 lawyers in Utah. He has tried over 200 jury trials, 200 bench trials and represented over 1,000 corporate and individual clients.



BLAKE HILLS
OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

Blake Hills is a Deputy District Attorney for the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. He graduated from the University of Utah College of Law in 1998. He then clerked for the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals for two years and wrote approximately one hundred appellate court opinions in criminal cases. Blake joined the District Attorney's Office in 2000. Since that time, he has been on nearly every team in the office and has been the Team Leader of the Narcotics, Screening, and Special Victims teams. He has successfully prosecuted numerous homicide cases, including the last death penalty case to go to trial in Salt Lake County. He was selected as the Attorney of the Year for the District Attorney's Office in 2011 and 2013. Blake also serves on the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee for the Utah Rules of Criminal Procedure and on the Third Judicial District Victims' Rights Committee.



Andrea Martinez Griffin

OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

Andrea Martinez Griffin was raised in Salt Lake City, Utah and Orange County, California. She received a B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1997. Following graduation, Andrea was an Americorp VISTA Volunteer with Big Brother's Big Sisters of Utah. Ms. Martinez Griffin, subsequently received her J.D. from University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in 2003. During law school, she was the Public Interest Law Organization President and a Note and Comment Editor with the Journal of Law and Family Studies. Ms. Martinez Griffin, previously worked as a Deputy District Attorney for Salt Lake County working in the juvenile, misdemeanor & felony divisions. Further, she gained extensive experience in juvenile court representing indigent juveniles as a Senior Attorney with the Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys. Currently, Ms. Martinez Griffin works as a felony trial attorney with the Salt Legal Defender Association.

Andrea has served on several boards and committees including the; Third District Judicial Nominating Commission from 2011-2015; Utah Sentencing Commission's subcommittee on Juvenile Competency; S.J. Quinney College of Law Young Alumni Board; YWCA Parent Advisory Board; Public Service Chair with the Juvenile Law Section. She currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Homeless Youth Legal Resource Center, and the Utah Supreme Court's Ethics & Discipline Committee. She, also, serves as a mentor for new attorneys with the Utah State Bar's New Lawyer Training Program. In 2015, she received the Raymond S. Uno Award from the Utah State Bar and Service to the Courts Award for her work on the nominating commission. Additionally, she is a member of the Salt Lake County Bar Association, Minority Bar Association and Women Lawyers of Utah.

In in her spare time, Ms. Martinez Griffin is busy raising two boys, Colin and Reece. Andrea loves volunteering at their school and reading, exercising and playing sports with her children.



JoLynn Spruance

COMMUNITY MEMBER

JoLynn Spruance learned the value of giving back at an early age.

A California native, she grew up watching her father, a water law attorney, volunteer hours to pro bono outside his area of expertise designed to help seniors in the community. Her mother set an example of serving others by volunteering for an organization that aids disabled children and volunteering by volunteering to help resettle refugee families in the community.

By high school, Spruance was spearheading volunteer efforts of her own—and it was a passion that blossomed over time, including into her current position as director of the Pro Bono Initiative (PBI) at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law and as the Utah State

Bar's newly named "Community Member of the Year."

The PBI Spruance oversees is a unique noncredit volunteer program that allows students to build real world problem-solving skills to serve their community. The program has a three-part mission: to provide skill building legal opportunities under the direct supervision of attorneys; to develop placements where alumni can volunteer, network and serve as mentors to law students; and to demonstrate the professional responsibility of those in the legal profession to provide pro bono legal services to the underserved in the community who otherwise would not have access to the justice system. The U's PBI operates ten free brief legal consultation clinics throughout the Salt Lake City and Ogden areas, including: American Indian Law; Debtors Counseling; Expungement; Family Law; Medical-Legal; Rainbow Law; Street Law; Community Legal Clinics.

Spruance recently played an integral role in developing three new "free brief advice" legal clinics in partnership with LDS Charities, including the newly opened Community Legal Clinic: Sugarhouse, located in the Deseret Industries building in Salt Lake City's Sugarhouse neighborhood. The additions add to an already robust set of clinics that serve hundreds in Utah every year.

Spruance has helped build the program, connecting law students with practicing attorneys who help to mentor clients who do not have access to justice. Today, she's also watched former law students who started as volunteers with PBI turn into practicing attorneys who now counsel students on how to best help clients—a particularly rewarding aspect of the work.

Prior to arriving at the S.J. Quinney College of Law in 2004, Spruance managed a number of community outreach programs. She coordinated volunteer efforts for the Sacramento-based Mustard Seed School/Loaves and Fishes Charities, a charity assisting homeless populations. She also worked with Hope House in California, providing grief counseling and support services to people with AIDS and their families. At the time, Hope House was the first non-profit to provide AIDS Hospice.

Spruance earned her bachelor's degree in human development from the University of Utah as well as a master's degree in gerontology, also from the U. Outside of her work at the U, she is a community volunteer in Utah, including membership positions with the Asian Leadership Coalition, Indian Walk-In Center Board, the S.J. Quinney College of Law Diversity Committee and Utah State Bar 3rd District Pro Bono Committee. She is the recipient of the Loaves & Fishes Award of Excellence, Young Lawyers Liberty Bell Award and the S.J. Quinney College of Law's Barbara McFarlane Service Award.



Ken McCabe

PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

After graduating high school Ken enlisted into the United States Army. His first assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division as a combat medic. After only a few months with the 82nd he tried out for Special Forces and made it through the almost two year training and was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group as a Combat Medic on a Special Forces Operational Detachment that included specialized training in Military Freefall (HALO), Underwater Operations (Combat Diver), and as a Dive Medical Technician.

After this tour, Ken went back to San Diego and attended college, while remaining in a Special Forces Army Reserve unit. He obtained a B.S. in Mathematics from San Diego State University but returned to Special Forces in an active duty capacity upon graduating college.

Ken rose quickly through the ranks and through various assignments and deployments in Special Forces. On September 11, 2001 as the Command Sergeant Major of the 19th Special Force Group and deployed a battalion to Afghanistan in October 2001. Later assignments included the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Joint Special Operations Task Force in the Horn of Africa combating terrorism throughout the region. His final assignment was as the Special Operations Liaison to the U.S. Ambassador in Yemen where he provided coordination and oversight for all special operations activities in the country.

Ken retired from the military in 2007 with thirty years of service, over 400 static line and military freefall parachute jumps, numerous deployments worldwide to include multiple combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2007 Ken received a teaching license in Utah teaching math at East Hollywood High School in West Valley City and also teaching college math as an adjunct mathematics professor for Salt Lake Community College. When his youngest daughter graduated high school in 2012 Ken took the opportunity to go to law school at the University of Idaho. While attending law school Ken participated in the C.A.S.A guardian ad litem program and represented several children in court proceedings. Ken volunteered to work with an attorney in Moscow, Idaho where he represented clients in family and criminal defense matters with an Idaho Limited Law License. Ken interned for the City Attorney in Saratoga Springs and the City Prosecutor in the summer of 2014.

Ken took and passed the Utah bar in March 2015 but returned to teaching math for the 2015-2016 school year at Bryant Middle School in Salt Lake City while he learned the actual practice of law by taking pro bono cases from Utah Legal Services, the American Bar Association's Veterans program, and the Court's pro bono programs; in the end taking over 50 pro bono cases in family, landlord tenant, guardianships, and bankruptcy law less than one year after passing the bar exam. Ken was recently hired by Utah Legal Services as a staff attorney.