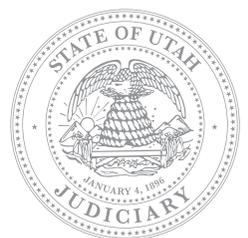




2018 Annual Report to the Community





The mission of the
Utah State Courts is
to provide an open,
fair, efficient, and
independent system
for the advancement of
justice under the law.

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Honorable Matthew B. Durrant and
Richard H. Schwermer

Introduction

Access, accountability, and fairness. These are general principles that take on a tangible, almost urgent meaning when one is talking about our courts. Few people choose to come to court, but when they do it is usually because of some sort of crisis. So, the courts owe particular care to those who find themselves in that situation.

We view access not just as being available; rather we seek out those who need the courts and engage them with information, tools, and services. We have several initiatives that seek to anticipate the needs of court users and to make their court experience easier, cheaper, and less intimidating.

Utah courts also lead the country in providing usable data. These data inform and hold accountable our internal operations, our timeliness, and our quality of service. We publish searchable court performance data, down to the courthouse level, on our website. The independent Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission likewise publishes objective performance data about every judge, and this year the Utah Supreme Court has undertaken a study of the discipline system used to hold attorneys accountable.

Finally, Utah's courts have a history of looking out for those who may not otherwise have a voice, a history of looking for solutions to unfair circumstances, and of seeking better ways of doing things; particularly ways of doing things that are informed by research, evidence, and objective analysis. In the past these issues have included justice court reform, drug and mental health courts, and indigent defense representation. This year our efforts have been directed at making the pre-trial release of people charged with crimes more fair for the offender, and more effectively targeted at public safety. We have also worked to implement juvenile justice reforms, and smarter sentencing initiatives in adult courts.

Utah courts are committed to providing access to all, accountability to policy makers and the public, and fairness to every person we serve. What follows is our report to the community on our efforts in 2017 and our initiatives through 2018.

Honorable Matthew B. Durrant,
Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court

Richard H. Schwermer,
Utah State Court Administrator.

Taking small claims online: Access to Justice through Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)

In July 2016, the Utah Judicial Council appointed a steering committee that was tasked to develop and build an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform for parties to resolve their small claims disputes at their own convenience online whether at home, on a mobile device, or public computer. The development of ODR was an opportunity to determine if innovations in technology could assist courts in improving access to justice and creating efficiencies in court processes by redefining how the courts operate in the digital age.

The steering committee focused on developing an online system that featured alternative dispute resolution, helped remove barriers for individuals to access courts services, simplified court processes, and reduced costs for all involved in these disputes.

ODR aims to educate and guide users to file and resolve their small claims disputes entirely online. The program allows parties to access their case information and documents, communicate and negotiate a resolution with all parties involved in the dispute, and receive individualized assistance from a facilitator who supports parties in resolving the dispute on their own. If parties are unable to resolve the dispute through agreement, the program guides users to their trial, which can be held either online or in a courthouse.

The steering committee is in the final stages of development of the ODR program and expects to begin testing the program in the West Valley City Justice Court in 2018. If successful, the program will be rolled out statewide and may help to lay the foundation necessary to move other case types online in Utah's courts.



Improving access to justice through MyCase

Imagine being able to get alerts on a hearing involving your court case on your computer or mobile device.

In an effort to improve access to justice this new web portal will allow any party to a case to access documents, review information, and subscribe to important notifications from the court online. MyCase will be available to any individual who has a case before a district or justice court anywhere in the state. MyCase is designed for the general public and only grants access to information on the user's case, including private information for that user only. Access to MyCase and the case information will be provided at no charge to the user.

MyCase includes the ability for users to subscribe to email and text notifications for activity on their case. Users will be able to get information on upcoming hearings, such as time, location, and hearing type. Users will also be able to review their transaction history and make payments through their MyCase portal.

MyCase will decrease the need for parties to physically visit a courthouse in order to access information. The MyCase portal will be available in 2018.

Utah courts continue to receive positive feedback from court patrons

Utahns reported a high level of satisfaction with access and fairness in the state's courts, according to results from a survey conducted during the summer of 2017.

The Access and Fairness Survey measured the views of court users on 20 topics, including business hours, time needed to finish court business, treatment by court staff, disability accommodations, language barriers, courthouse safety, the courtroom experience and ease of parking.

Survey results have been consistently positive each of the seven times the survey has been conducted since 2006. No other court in the nation has conducted this study as consistently as Utah.

Highlights of the survey include: 94 percent said court staff paid attention to their needs, with 96 percent saying they were treated with courtesy and respect by staff. Ninety-three percent indicated the court forms they needed were easy to understand, and 94 percent said they understood what happened in their case.

The statement "I felt safe in the courthouse" garnered the highest score, with 98 percent of participants rating it as adequate or better.

The Access and Fairness Survey is conducted biennially in each of the state's 38 district and juvenile courthouses for one full court day. Attorneys, jurors, law enforcement, litigants and their families and friends, paralegals, social service agency staff, victims and witnesses are asked to take the survey as they leave the courthouse.

Survey results for all years are available on the Utah State Courts' website at www.utcourts.gov.

Help is just a call or click away

The Self-Help Center is a free service of the Utah State Courts providing services through a toll-free telephone helpline, email, text, and the Courts' website. Many people in Utah cannot afford an attorney or choose not to hire one. The Self-Help Center helps these people help themselves.

Help is available to anyone who contacts the center. The Self-Help Center assists people with cases at every court level; including justice, juvenile, district, and appellate courts; and responds to questions about all legal issues. The center's staff attorneys are able to assist people directly in English and Spanish, and numerous other languages through certified interpreters.

In FY 2017, the SHC responded to more than 19,000 inquiries. The Self-Help Center:

- Demystifies the law by explaining legal processes in plain English
- Promotes efficiency in the legal system by giving individuals information on legal requirements and next steps in their cases, and providing court forms and help completing forms
- Makes the courts open and accessible by furnishing clear explanations of many legal issues and requirements on the courts' website
- Connects people with other resources including pro bono and low-cost legal services, legal aid programs, lawyer referral services, mediation, law libraries, and government agencies
- Educates the public on court self-help resources and how individuals navigate the legal system

For more information on resources available for self-represented parties, please visit www.utcourts.gov/selfhelp



Licensed paralegal practitioners means greater access to justice

The Utah Supreme Court anticipates admitting its first Licensed Paralegal Practitioner in 2018. This will make Utah the second state in the country to embrace this new profession—a profession with the goal of improving access to justice for all Utahns.

In May 2015, the Utah Supreme Court appointed a task force to study whether qualified non-lawyers should be permitted to provide legal advice and assistance to clients in certain areas of law without the supervision of a lawyer. Despite the tremendous service that lawyers provide to their clients, and efforts of the Utah State Bar to provide legal services to under-served clients, the Utah Supreme Court was concerned that there were still many people who needed legal assistance, yet did not have a lawyer to help them.

The Limited Legal Licensing Task Force quickly took up its work, and in November 2015, it issued a historic report, recommending that the Utah Supreme Court create a new legal professional, one who could practice law on a limited basis. This new Licensed Paralegal Practitioner (LPP) would have more training and responsibilities than a normal paralegal, but would not be a lawyer.



LPPs will be able to help clients with debt collection, eviction cases, and certain family law matters. The task force found an LPP can be a cheaper alternative for people who can't afford a lawyer, or who don't want to spend their money on one. An LPP will be able to assist clients by doing such things as filling out court-approved forms, filing and serving the forms, advising clients how a court order affects their rights and obligations, representing a client in settlement negotiations, and helping clients prepare a written settlement agreement. An LPP, however, cannot represent a client in the courtroom.

The Utah Supreme Court next appointed a steering committee to implement the task force's recommendations. The steering committee is working to develop the basic infrastructure for the program, which includes defining minimum educational requirements, learning objectives and required curricula, licensing, mentoring, continuing education, service to the community, and rules of professional responsibility and discipline.

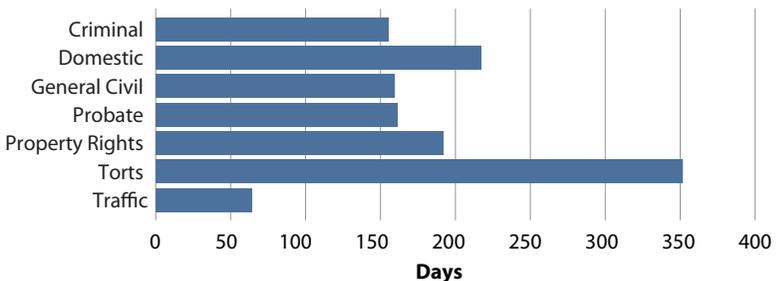
The steering committee expects to complete its work in early 2018, making it possible for Utah to see its first paralegal practitioners in the fall of 2018.

Keeping a measure on performance

For more than a decade, the Utah Judicial Council has been systematically monitoring court performance. During this time, performance and process improvement have become a regular part of court operations. To measure access and fairness, court patrons are surveyed every other year about their court experience. Survey results are provided to local courts to highlight successes and determine where improvements are needed. To address case management efficiency, courts regularly review their progress in moving cases toward timely resolutions. Management teams share information with judges on performance measures and cases taking longer than the typical time for resolution are reviewed to determine if court intervention by case managers is required. An important component to the performance measurement process is that the results are posted to the public on the courts website, which demonstrates the commitment of the courts to transparency in its operation.

Average Age of Pending Cases - All Districts

Tracking the age of cases helps the court ensure cases are disposed in a timely manner. Cases pending longer than recommended timelines may indicate the need for court intervention.



These measures and others are available for public viewing at www.utcourts.gov/courtools/

Judicial performance evaluations and judicial selection

In Utah, we are fortunate to have a merit-based system for selecting and retaining our judges. This system ensures our judges' ability to make decisions based on the rule of law. The Judicial Article of the Utah Constitution, revised effective July 1, 1985, established merit selection as the exclusive method of choosing a state court judge. As stated in the Utah Constitution: "Selection of judges shall be based solely upon consideration of fitness for office without regard to any partisan political consideration." This is unlike many other states where campaign contributions, sometimes to the tune of millions of dollars, and politics play key roles in who serves on the bench.

The five steps in the Utah merit selection process are nomination, appointment, confirmation, evaluation, and retention election.

The process for appointing state court judges is managed by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. The Governor appoints a bipartisan committee of lawyers and non-lawyers for each judicial district, including the appellate courts. These committees are called judicial nominating commissions. Commission members review the applications for vacant judicial positions and select candidates to interview. After it has conducted the interviews, the Commission refers five names (for district and juvenile court judges) or seven names (for appellate court judges) to the Governor. The Governor appoints one of the nominees who must then be confirmed by a majority of the Utah State Senate.

The process for selecting justice court judges is similar to the process for selecting state court judges. A key difference, though, is that the appointing authority is the municipality or county rather than the governor.

Each judge will stand for an unopposed retention election at the first general election held more than three years after his or her appointment. After the first retention election, Supreme Court justices stand for retention in an unopposed election every tenth year; all other judges do so every sixth year.

Prior to retention, the Utah Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC) evaluates Utah's judges on their performance and recommends to voters whether a judge should be retained. JPEC reports the results on the commission website, www.judges.utah.gov, and in the Voter Information Pamphlet posted on the Utah State Elections Page (elections.utah.gov).

The five steps in Utah's merit selection process are one reason among many that Utah is considered a model court system both domestically and internationally. By using a comprehensive merit selection and retention process, Utah ensures that only the highest caliber judges serve the people of this great state.

Holding Utah's attorneys to high professional standards

Utah's Constitution gives the Utah Supreme Court the responsibility to regulate the practice of law. This fall, the Utah Supreme Court formed a committee to review a report by the American Bar Association (ABA) on ways to improve the functions of the Utah Bar's Office of Professional Conduct (OPC). The report is the result of a comprehensive review, including a site visit by a team of experts assembled by the ABA.

Chaired by Third District Judge James Blanch, the committee is comprised of judges, attorneys, and court staff. The committee is studying the 109-page report issued by the ABA's Standing Committee on Professional Discipline. The court committee will consider recommendations made in this report and make recommendations to the Utah Supreme Court on the attorney discipline process. "To assure the public's trust, attorney discipline should be fair and independent. We look forward to working with the court to improve Utah's process," said Utah State Bar President John Lund, a member of the committee. A report with recommendations is anticipated to be sent to the Utah Supreme Court by July of 2018. The ABA report can be found at: https://www.utcourts.gov/resources/reports/docs/ABA-OPC_Report.pdf

Smarter sentencing leads to better outcomes

Historically, sentencing decisions have been primarily focused on the “level” or seriousness of the crime committed. However, studies show there is a better, more effective method to sentencing. Evidence-Based Sentencing (EBS) is the application of methods proven to reduce the likelihood a defendant will re-offend, and to hold them accountable. EBS applies a set of sentencing practices that include identifying an offender’s risk to re-offend, matching risk factors to supervision levels, and providing proven treatment services and programs tailored to an individual offender’s specific risks, and treatment needs. The primary goal of EBS is to focus time and resources on the offender who is not likely to succeed without intensive services, and expend minimal resources on low-risk offenders.

EBS provides judges information to consider regarding potential supervision and treatment conditions with the aim to reduce an offender’s risk of reoffending, but does not refer to the decision regarding an offender’s appropriate punishment.

EBS practices promote interventions that have proven to improve public safety, reduce crime, re-offenses, and probation failures; promote offender accountability and avoid future victimization. EBS practices also show promising fiscal benefits such as freeing up prison and jail beds for more serious offenders by effectively supervising lower risk offenders in the community and reduce social, economic, and family costs associated with crime and imprisonment.



Utah State Courts strive to advance access to fair, equal, and efficient justice through implementation of evidence-based practices which focus on an offender's risks and needs in order to prevent further criminal activity and increase overall public safety.

In 2017 Utah State Courts received federal grant funds through the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to conduct "Smarter Sentencing" workshops around the state. Workshop participants consist of multidisciplinary stakeholders including judges, probation officers, prosecuting attorneys, defense counsel, law enforcement, substance abuse and mental health representatives, and court staff. Thus far, these collaborative workshops have included 98 judges and stakeholders.

Changes to juvenile justice mean fewer court referrals and focus on prevention

In the spring of 2017, the passage and implementation of HB239, *Juvenile Justice Amendments*, led to significant changes to the juvenile justice system.

The legislation was the culmination of an intensive, six-month review of juvenile justice data and information to assist the workgroup with its recommendations for legislative change. Members of the Juvenile Court bench and Juvenile Court administration, along with partner juvenile justice agencies, served on the workgroup. The underlying philosophy of the workgroup's efforts included keeping low risk youth out of the juvenile justice system; working with moderate risk youth in their homes, schools, and communities; and providing targeted responses to high risk youth who may need to be removed from their communities and placed in secure facilities because of public safety risks. Dollars now used for out-of-home placements could then be repurposed and shifted to "front-end" services for low risk youth for prevention services to keep these youth out of the juvenile justice system.

HB239 affected the Utah Juvenile Court in myriad ways. First, school districts are no longer able to refer low level delinquent acts, status offenses, and habitual truancy cases to the Juvenile Court. Instead, the schools are able to work with the youth through local restorative justice programs and intervention services. This way, youth with low level, school-based, and school discipline violations are not "criminalized" and pushed into the juvenile justice system. Fewer school-based referrals come to the Juvenile Court now, but serious offenses are still referred to the Juvenile Court.

Second, the Juvenile Court's nonjudicial adjustment process was expanded to include more allowable offenses and more opportunities for youth to participate, even those with repeat offenses. Again, the idea here is that youth are not pushed further into the juvenile justice system that involves more severe consequences. Instead, youth work with Juvenile Court probation officers through structured interventions, services, consequences, and restitution commitments.

Third, caps were placed on fines, fees, and community service hours on cases petitioned to the Juvenile Court. This way youth are not overwhelmed by com-

mitments that in many cases they are unable to fulfill and keep them tied to the juvenile justice system.

Finally, HB239 provided a very structured decision-making process for judges to follow for high risk youth who committed serious offenses as they are considered for out-of-home placements such as community placement and secure care.

The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, which includes representation from the Juvenile Court including judges, administration, and probation representatives, is tasked with overseeing the implementation of HB239. The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee developed a website and resources to provide information and assistance to schools, law enforcement, prosecutors and others affected by HB239. To spread the message and raise awareness of HB239, the Oversight Committee sponsored a series of HB239 roadshows initially targeting schools, school resource officers, and law enforcement agencies. Judges, Juvenile Court administrators, trial court executives, and chief probation officers served on HB 239 roadshow panels to talk about the HB239 changes to the juvenile justice system and respond to questions. A roadshow took place at least once in each of Utah's eight judicial districts.

While change is often challenging and the impact on the Juvenile Court is great, the long-term impact of HB239 on Utah youth is promising. The Juvenile Court is committed to the underlying philosophy and tenets of HB239 and the Juvenile Court will work hand-in-hand with our partners to make certain that the promise of juvenile justice reform is realized.

Putting more information into judges' hands will mean better pre-trial release decisions

Every day our judges face the difficult decision about whether a person arrested for a crime should stay in jail while awaiting trial, or whether they can be safely released. In order to make these decisions, judges rely on their own instincts and on very limited information they are provided by law enforcement in a brief probable cause statement. Judges do not have access to an offender's criminal history or any other information related to their risk to flee or to commit a new offense. Without the benefit of this sort of individualized risk assessment, many times judges must default to a bail schedule to set release conditions – a chart that designates a specific money amount for each criminal charge.

As a result, people who pose a significant public safety risk are able to post bail and go on to commit other crimes. In contrast, low-level, nonviolent, and often lower-income defendants who are unlikely to commit a new crime, are kept behind bars. This creates hardship for low-level offenders and reduces the public's safety. Research shows that even a short stay in jail can have negative consequences for individuals, families, and communities. It can cause a person to lose their job, housing, and even custody of his/her children. Faced with these pressures, pretrial defendants often plead guilty to crimes they may not have committed just so they can get back to work and their families.

After years of careful study, Utah courts are working to implement a validated pretrial risk assessment tool called the Public Safety Assessment (PSA). The tool uses evidence-based, objective, criminal history information to predict the likelihood that an individual will engage in new criminal activity if released, and to predict the likelihood that he/she will fail to appear for a future court hearing. In addition, it flags those defendants who present an elevated risk of committing new violent criminal activity while awaiting trial.

Judges are not required to follow the recommendation of the PSA; rather, judges will continue to rely on their instincts and vast experience on the bench, as well as this new information. Monetary conditions of release set in accordance with the bail schedule may still be used when appropriate. The PSA will help judges make better informed decisions in order to protect public safety.

COURT FACILITY UPDATE



Price Courthouse

Utah operates 41 courthouses throughout the state from Logan to Monticello. Ensuring that these facilities meet the needs of an ever-changing population is paramount to providing Utah citizen’s access to justice.

We are currently building new courthouses in Provo (4th District Utah County) and Price (7th District Carbon County).

The Price courthouse replaces the existing courthouse that is outdated and out of compliance with current security, ADA and general courthouse guidelines. The new courthouse will be 32,000 square feet. It will have three courtrooms, secure prisoner holding and transport areas, Juvenile Probation offices, secure employee and judicial work areas, mediation conference rooms, and secure public entrance and waiting areas. This facility will replace the current facility, built in 1986.



Provo Courthouse

The Provo facility will replace and consolidate three facilities in Utah County that are outdated and no longer provide adequate program space. The new courthouse will be 230,000 square feet. It will have 18 courtrooms, secure prisoner holding and transport areas, Guardian Ad Litem offices, Juvenile Probation offices, secure employee and judicial work areas, mediation conference rooms, and secure public entrance and waiting areas. This facility will consolidate the Orem Juvenile, Provo Juvenile, and Provo District courthouses.

Patrons utilizing the new courthouses will benefit from the improvements to safety and security. The Price courthouse is scheduled to open in July 2018, and January 2019 for the Provo courthouse.

During the 2018 Legislative Session the courts will request funding to design and construct a new facility in Sanpete County, Manti, in the 6th District.

AWARDS & HONORS

Honorable Lyle R. Anderson, Seventh District,
Judicial Excellence Award,
Utah State Bar

Gabriella Archuleta, Court Improvement
Coordinator, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah
Judicial Council

Johnizan Bowers, Judicial Educator, Meritorious
Service Award, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable Ann Boyden, Third District, *Judge
Kathleen Nelson Award*, Utah Fall Substance
Abuse Conference

Honorable Samuel A. Chiara, Eighth District,
Judicial Excellence Award, Utah State Bar

Lisa A. Collins, Clerk of Court, Utah Court of
Appeals, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial
Council

Honorable Lynn W. Davis, Fourth District, *Judicial
Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Chief Justice Matthew Durrant, Utah Supreme
Court, *Judicial Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Rene GiaComazza, Clerk of Court, Fifth District
Juvenile, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial
Council

Honorable Ryan M. Harris, Utah Court of Appeals,
Judicial Excellence Award, Utah State Bar

Liesl Jacobson, Children's Services Coordinator,
Service to the Courts Award, Utah Judicial Council

Brent Johnson, General Counsel, Administrative
Office of the Courts, *Judicial Administration
Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable Thomas L. Kay, Second District,
Judicial Excellence Award, Utah State Bar

Lee Ann Heim Mueller, eFiling Specialist, Third
District, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial
Council

Sally Koch, Judicial Assistant, Third District,
Records Quality Award, Utah Judicial Council

Wallace S Odd II, First District Mental Health Court,
Service to the Courts Award, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable Gregory K. Orme, Utah Court of
Appeals, *Judicial Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Ashley Palmer, Case Manager, Fifth District
Juvenile, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial
Council **Sheila Penrose**, Court Visitor Volunteer,
Third District, *Service to the Courts Award*, Utah
Judicial Council

Honorable Derek P. Pullan, Fourth District,
Judicial Excellence Award, Utah State Bar

Honorable Reuben Renstrom, Riverdale, South
Ogden, Woods Cross, Harrisville, South Weber
Justice Courts, *Quality of Justice*, Utah Judicial
Council

Honorable Catherine Roberts, Salt Lake City
Justice Court, *Quality of Justice*, Utah Judicial
Council

Honorable Stephen Roth, Utah Court of Appeals,
Judge of the Year, Utah State Bar

Stewart Ralphs, Executive Director, Legal Aid
Society, *Amicus Curiae Award*, Utah Judicial
Council

Honorable Todd M. Shaughnessy, Third District,
Judicial Excellence Award, Utah State Bar

Kelly Snow, Judicial Assistant III, Eighth District,
Meritorious Service Award, Utah Judicial Council

Susan Vogel, Staff Attorney, Self Help Center,
Meritorious Service Award, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable Frederic Voros, Utah Court of Appeals,
Judge of the Year, Utah State Bar

Tracy J. Walker, Clerk of Court, Third District,
Meritorious Service Award, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable W. Brent West, Second District, *Judicial
Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Honorable G. Michael Westfall, Fifth District,
Judicial Excellence Award, Utah State Bar

Diane L. Williams, Internal Auditor, Administrative Office of the Courts, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable Thomas L. Willmore, First District, *Judicial Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Emily Wing Smith, Volunteer Mentor, Village Project Mentor Program, Third District, *Service to the Courts Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Fourth District Provo Juvenile Court Truancy

Team, Victor Enriquez, Jode Porter, Tammy Baker, Chris Cook, Jason Johnson, Cheryl Wright, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Members of the AOC Case Planning Committee,

John Bowers, Angie McCourt, Tiffany Rupe, *Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Judges Who Retired From the Bench in 2017

Justice Christine Durham, Supreme Court

Honorable Stephen Roth, Appellate Court

Honorable J. Frederic Voros, Appellate Court

Honorable Charles Behrens, Third District Juvenile Court

Honorable Jeffrey Burbank, Second District Juvenile Court

Honorable Scott Hadley, Second District Court

Honorable Samuel Mcvey, Fourth District Court

Honorable C. Dane Nolan, Third District Juvenile Court

Honorable Clinton Balmforth, Alta and South Jordan Justice Courts

Honorable Beesley, Plain City Justice court

Honorable Wayne Cooper, Clarkston Justice Court

Honorable Ivo Peterson, Moroni, Ephraim, Manti, Gunnison, fountain Green, Fairview, Spring City and Mt. Pleasant Justice Courts

Honorable Catherine E. Roberts, Salt Lake City Justice Court

Honorable Marsha Thomas, retired 2016, Taylorsville Justice Court

Honorable Steven Wallace, Orderville Justice Court

In Memoriam

Honorable Robert Hilder, retired, Third District Court

Honorable Martin J. Nay, retired, Panguitch City Justice Court

Honorable Linda Murdock, retired, Helper and East Carbon Justice Courts

Honorable Seth Rigby Wright, retired, Monticello Justice Court

COURT GOVERNANCE AND



Utah Judicial Council

The Utah Judicial Council is established in the Utah Constitution and directs the activities of all Utah courts. The Judicial Council is responsible for adopting uniform rules for the administration of all courts in the state, setting standards for judicial performance, and overseeing court facilities, support services, and judicial and nonjudicial personnel. The Judicial Council holds monthly meetings typically at the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City. These meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations of Judicial Council meetings are available at www.utcourts.gov/admin/judcncl/sched.htm.

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, chair,
Utah Supreme Court
Judge Kate A. Toomey, Court of Appeals,
vice chair

Judge Augustus Chin, Holladay Justice Court
Judge Mark R. DeCaria, Second District Court
Judge Paul Farr, Sandy City Justice Court
Judge Thomas M. Higbee, Fifth District Court
Justice Thomas R. Lee, Utah Supreme Court
Judge David C. Marx, Logan and Hyde Park
Justice Courts
Judge Mary T. Noonan, Fourth District
Juvenile Court
Judge Kara Pettit, Third District Court
Judge Derek P. Pullan, Fourth District Court
Judge Todd M. Shaughnessy, Third District Court
Rob Rice, Esq., Utah State Bar
Richard Schwermer, secretariat, State
Court Administrator

ADMINISTRATION

Utah State Courts Boards of Judges

The Utah State Courts has four boards of judges representing each court level that meet monthly. The boards propose court rules, serve as liaison between local courts and the Judicial Council, and plan budget and legislative priorities.

Board of Appellate Court Judges

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, chair,
Utah Supreme Court

Associate Presiding Judge Michele M. Christiansen,
Utah Court of Appeals

Judge Diana Hagen, Utah Court of Appeals

Judge Ryan Harris, Utah Court of Appeals

Justice Deno Himonas, Utah Supreme Court

Associate Chief Justice Thomas R. Lee, Utah
Supreme Court

Judge David M. Mortensen, Utah Court of Appeals
Presiding Judge Gregory K. Orme, Utah
Court of Appeals

Justice John A. Pearce, Utah Supreme Court

Justice Paige Petersen, Utah Supreme Court

Judge Jill M. Pohlman, Utah Court of Appeals

Judge Kate Toomey, Utah Court of Appeals

Cathy Dupont, board staff, Appellate Court
Administrator

Board of District Court Judges

Judge Andrew Stone, chair, Third District Court

Judge Bryan Cannell, First District Court

Judge Sam Chiara, Seventh District Court

Judge Noel S. Hyde, Second District Court

Judge Christine Johnson, Fourth District Court

Judge Barry Lawrence, Third District Court

Judge Thomas Lowe, Fourth District Court

Judge Eric Ludlow, Fifth District Court

Commissioner Kim Luhn, Third District Court

Judge John Morris, Second District Court

Shane Bahr, board staff, District Court
Administrator

Board of Juvenile Court Judges

Judge Ryan Evershed, chair, Eighth District
Juvenile Court

Judge Angela Foncesbeck, First District
Juvenile Court

Judge Julie Lund, Third District Juvenile Court

Judge Jim Michie, Third District Juvenile Court

Judge Robert Neill, Second District Juvenile Court

Judge Douglas Nielsen, Third District
Juvenile Court

Judge F. Rick Smith, Fourth District Juvenile Court

Dawn Marie Rubio, board staff, Juvenile Court
Administrator

Board of Justice Court Judges

Judge Reuben J. Renstrom, chair, Harrisville City,
Riverdale City, South Ogden City, South Weber
City, and Woods Cross City Justice Courts

Judge Brent Bullock, Lindon and Pleasant Grove
Justice Courts

Judge Jon Carpenter, Wellington and Price
Justice Courts

Judge Brent Dunlap, Parowan City, and
Iron County Justice Courts

Judge Paul Farr, Herriman, Lehi, and Sandy City
Justice Courts

Judge David Marx, Logan and Hyde Park
Justice Courts

Judge Reed Parkin, Orem City Justice Court

Judge Catherine E. Roberts, Salt Lake City
Justice Court

Judge Vernon F. Romney, Provo Justice Court

Judge Brook Sessions, Wasatch County
Justice Court

James Peters, board staff, Justice Court
Court Administrator

Presiding Judges

The presiding judge is elected by a majority vote of judges from the district and is responsible for effective court operation. The presiding judge implements and enforces rules, policies, and directives of the Judicial Council and often schedules calendars and case assignments. The presiding judge works as part of a management team in the district, which includes the trial court executive and clerk of court.

Utah Supreme Court-Chief Justice

Matthew B. Durrant

Court of Appeals-Judge Gregory K. Orme

First District Court-Judge Kevin K. Allen

First District Juvenile Court-Judge

Angela F. Fonnesebeck

Second District Court-Judge W. Brent West

Second District Juvenile Court-Judge

Sherene Dillon

Third District Court-Judge Randall Skanchy

Third District Juvenile Judge Julie V. Lund

Fourth District Court-Judge James Brady

Fourth District Juvenile Court-Judge

Suchada P. Bazzelle

Fifth District Court-Judge John Walton

Fifth District Juvenile Court-Judge

Thomas M. Higbee

Sixth District Court-Judge Wallace A. Lee

Sixth District Juvenile Court-Judge Paul D. Lyman

Seventh District Court-Judge Douglas Thomas

Seventh District Juvenile Court-Judge

Mary L. Manley

Eighth District Court-Judge Edwin T. Peterson

Eighth District Juvenile Court-Judge Ryan Evershed

Court Executives

The Utah State Court's trial court executives are responsible for day-to-day supervision of non-judicial administration of the courts. Duties include hiring and supervising staff, developing and managing a budget, managing facilities, managing court calendars, and developing and managing court security plans.

Appellate Courts-Cathy Dupont

First District and Juvenile Courts-Brett Folkman

Second District Court-Larry Webster

Second District Juvenile Court-Travis Erickson

Third District Court-Peyton Smith

Third District Juvenile Court-Neira Siaperas

Fourth District Court-Mark Urry

Fourth District Juvenile Court-James Bauer

Fifth District and Juvenile Courts-Joyce Pace

Sixth District and Juvenile Courts-Wendell Roberts

Seventh District and Juvenile Courts-Terri Yelonek

Eighth District and Juvenile Courts-Russell Pearson

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for organizing and administering all of the non-judicial offices of the Utah State Courts. Activities include implementing the standards, policies and rules established by the Utah Judicial Council. The Court Administrator Act provides for the appointment of a State Court Administrator with duties and responsibilities outlined in the Utah Code. Appellate, district, juvenile, and justice

court administrators and local court executives assist State Court Administrator Richard Schwermer in performing these duties and responsibilities. Also assisting the state court administrator are personnel in finance, human resources, internal audit, judicial education, law, planning, public information, rules, and technology. Mediators, Office of the Guardian ad Litem, a District Court capital case staff attorney, and two Juvenile Court law clerks.

For more information on Utah's State Court System, go to www.utcourts.gov.

BY THE NUMBERS

All Funds including General Funds & Federal Funds

2018 Total Appropriated
State of Utah Budget:
\$18,574,605,200



2018 Appropriated State of Utah Budget
(excluding Courts): \$18,412,547,800

**2018 Appropriated Judicial Budget:
\$162,057,400**

General Funds only

2018 Total Appropriated
State of Utah Budget:
\$2,467,303,000



2018 Appropriated State of Utah Budget
(excluding Courts): \$2,333,345,300

**2018 Appropriated Judicial Budget:
\$133,957,700**

Supreme Court FY'17

	Filings
Civil Appeals	249
Criminal Appeals	60
Interlocutory Appeals	74
Other	57
Writ of Certiorari	117
Total Filings557
Transferred to Court of Appeals	425
Transferred from Court of Appeals	27
Retained for decision	159
Total Dispositions202

Court of Appeals FY'17

(Including transfers from Supreme court)

	Filings
Administrative Agency	79
Civil Appeals	278
Criminal Appeals	275
Domestic Civil Appeals	55
Interlocutory Appeals	89
Juvenile Appeals	85
Other	39
Total Filings900
Total Dispositions844

District Court FY'17

	Filings	Dispositions
Criminal	42,111	44,334
Domestic	20,870	20,958
General Civil	68,232	73,513
Probate	9,891	9,045
Property Rights	8,135	8,222
Torts	1,990	2,072
Traffic/Parking	15,308	18,648
Total	166,537	176,792

Juvenile Court Referrals FY'17

	Total
Felonies	1,572
Misdemeanors	12,517
Contempt	3,441
Infractions	804
Juvenile Status	3,103
Adult Offenses	1,390
Dependency-Neglect_Abuse	3,541
Termination of Parental Rights	894
Domestic/Probate	817
Total	28,079

Justice Court FY'17

	Filings	Dispositions
Misdemeanors	68,273	67,142
Small Claims	28,820	28,658
Traffic	331,743	336,515
Total	428,836	432,315



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
450 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114