## **Business and Chancery Court (BCC) Frequently Asked Questions:**

- What is the Business and Chancery Court?
  - The Business and Chancery Court (BCC) was created by the Utah Legislature in 2023 with <u>House Bill 216</u> and it opened its doors officially on October 1, 2024.
  - We are located in the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse at 450 South State Street;
    Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.
  - We have limited and statewide jurisdiction, so we may have cases from anywhere in Utah.
- How can I contact the Business and Chancery Court?
  - Our mailing address is:

Business and Chancery Court 450 South State Street Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-0241

Our phone number is:

801-238-7867

Our email address is:

BCCornishteam@utcourts.gov

- What are the benefits of the Business and Chancery Court?
  - The establishment of the Business and Chancery Court in Utah, as outlined in UCA 78A-5a-102, marks a significant advancement in the state judicial system, aimed at efficiently addressing complex business disputes and equitable claims. This specialized court serves to streamline legal processes for commercial matters, providing a dedicated forum for resolving intricate issues such as corporate governance, blockchain issues, disputes over intellectual property, and other business-related litigation. By focusing on these areas, the court enhances the predictability and effectiveness of legal resolutions, ultimately fostering a more robust business environment in Utah. The Business and Chancery Court is a trial court with limited and statewide jurisdiction over actions and claims as described in Section 78A-5a-103.
- Who is the Judge for the Business and Chancery Court?
  - Judge Rita Cornish has been appointed and confirmed to serve as the first Utah
    Business and Chancery Court Judge. [See <u>Business and Chancery Court</u> webpage]
- How do I get my case into your court?
  - Case Already Exists in the District Court:
    - File a Motion in the District Court to have it transferred to our court. [See <u>URCP Rule 7</u>]
      - The motion can be stipulated to, or can be argued and left up to the District Court judge to make a determination.
    - When a motion is granted authorizing the transfer, the judicial assistant in the District Court will transfer the case to our court.

- A filing fee of \$500 will be payable to the Business and Chancery Court **after** the case is transferred. We will inform the party responsible for the filing fee on how to pay. We will also notify all parties as to the new case number and our information.
- Case Not Filed Yet:
  - New cases may be eFiled directly into our court.
  - Use the same process as filing into the District Courts. [See <u>eFiling</u> <u>Information Page</u>]
- How much does it cost to file in your court?
  - The civil filing fee \$375.00 [See <u>78A-2-301</u>] This fee is due when a complaint is filed directly in the Business and Chancery Court.
  - The Business and Chancery Court fee \$500.00 [See <u>78A-2-301.1</u>] This fee is due when a complaint is filed directly in the Business and Chancery Court and when a district case is transferred to the Court.
  - The Business and Chancery Court has a cover sheet that will be available soon.
- What cases are eligible for the Business and Chancery Court?
  - O Any cases seeking monetary damages of at least \$300,000 or seeking solely equitable relief. These cases also need to address disputes involving breach of contract, the internal affairs or sales and mergers of a business organization, misappropriation of intellectual property or trade secrets, disputes arising from blockchain technology, and other business-focused disputes. List of statutory claims that the Business and Chancery Court can address:
    - Breach of Contract
    - Breach of Fiduciary Duty
    - Contracts or Contract: Employment Discrimination
    - Dispute Over Internal Affairs or Governance of a Business Organization
    - Sale, Merger, or Dissolution of a Business Organization
    - Sale of Substantially all the Assets of a Business Organization
    - Receivership or Liquidation of a Business Organization
    - Liability or Indemnity Between or Among Owners of the Same Business Organization
    - Dispute Over Liability or Indemnity of an Officer or Owner of a Business Organization
    - Tortious or Unlawful Act Committed against a Business Organization
    - Dispute Between a Business Organization and an Insurer Regarding a Commercial Insurance Policy
    - Contract or Transaction Governed by Title 70a, Uniform Commercial Code
    - Misappropriation of Trade Secrets
    - Misappropriation of Intellectual Property

- Noncompete agreement, a Nonsolicitation agreement, or a Nondisclosure or Confidentiality agreement
- Relationship Between a Franchisor and a Franchisee
- Purchase or Sale of a Security or an Allegation of Security Fraud
- Dispute Over a Blockchain, Blockchain Technology, or a Decentralized autonomous Organization
- Violation of Title 76, Chapter 10, Part 31, Utah Antitrust Act
- Contract with a Forum Selection Clause for a Chancery, Business, or Commercial Court of this State or any Other State
- Case may additionally include:
  - with a malpractice claim concerning services that a professional provided to a business organization
  - that is a shareholder derivative action
  - seeking a declaratory judgment as described in <u>Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 4, Declaratory Judgments</u>
- Will the Business and Chancery Court have jury trials?
  - No, the Business and Chancery Court will not conduct jury trials. [See 78A-5a-104]
- What if I want a jury trial?
  - By filing a complaint in the Business and Chancery Court, a plaintiff waives their right to a jury trial on all claims and issues raised in the complaint. They consent to the court as the trier of fact as set forth in Utah Code section <u>78A-5a-104</u>. [See <u>URBCP Rule 38(b)(1)</u>]
  - A defendant may demand a trial by jury on any issue triable of right by a jury by filing with the court and serving on the other parties a jury trial demand no later than the date on which such defendant files its initial responsive pleading. If the defendant does not timely file a jury trial demand, the defendant waives the right to a jury trial for the claims asserted in the complaint. [See <u>URBCP Rule</u> 38(b)(2)]
    - If the defendant files a jury demand, the case will no longer be heard by the Business and Chancery Court. The Court may have concurrent jurisdiction with the District Court on cases where a jury demand is filed.
  - In its jury trial demand, a party: (A) must identify the county in which the party contends the case should be tried pursuant to Utah Code section 78B-3-307; and (B) may specify the issues which the party wants tried to a jury. The court will deem the party to have demanded trial by jury for all triable issues if no specification is made pursuant to this rule. [See <u>URBCP Rule 38(b)(5)</u>]
- Where can I see decisions made by the BCC?
  - Per <u>78A-5a-301</u>, all final decisions and orders issued will be published on the <u>Utah State Court website</u>.