

## SPEAKER BIOS



**Brie Brass**, [Deputy City Attorney at South Salt Lake](#)

Brie Brass is the Deputy City Attorney for South Salt Lake City, where she represents the city at administrative law hearings for enforcement actions the city has taken related to business licensing, land use issues and violations of building, fire and other city codes. Brie was previously the City Attorney for Syracuse City and the Assistant City Attorney in Clearfield City where she represented and advised code enforcement in both jurisdictions. Brie has been a member of the Utah Bar since 2011. She received her undergraduate degrees from the University of Utah and her JD from Gonzaga University School of Law. Brie is married with three children and three dogs. She spends her free time searching for cleats that no one puts in the same spot ever, reviewing math beyond her comprehension level, carpooling, making snacks (they're never full!) and imagining a day where she will find more exciting hobbies.



**Dani Cepernich**, [Of Counsel at Spencer Fane](#)

Dani Cepernich is a lawyer with the firm Spencer Fane Snow Christensen & Martineau. She represents special districts, cities, counties, water users associations, irrigation companies, ranchers, individuals, and businesses in all aspects of Utah water law. Dani additionally serves municipalities and counties in the land use context, including providing advice in connection with land use applications, assisting in the drafting of development agreements and ordinances, and representing these governmental entities in land use litigation. She is also a respected appellate lawyer, representing clients in civil and criminal appeals in state and federal courts. She regularly presents appellate updates to industry groups and associations within the legal community and publishes Utah Appellate Summaries in the Utah Bar Journal bi-monthly.



**Matt Church**, [Partner at Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar](#)

Matthew D. Church is a partner at Manning Curtis Bradshaw & Bednar. His legal practice focuses on many different aspects of municipal government defense. Matt uses his active litigation practice to give municipalities a unique perspective on pre-litigation issues. Matt's primary practice areas are civil rights claims, land-use appeals, and premises liability claims. In addition, Mr. Church provides training to governmental entities and their officers regarding the Utah Governmental Immunity Act, Section 1983 claims, and other liability related topics.



**Kathleen Clark, [Law Professor at Washington University](#)**

Kathleen Clark is a Law Professor at Washington University and practices law in Washington, DC, focusing on government ethics, legal ethics and the law of whistleblowing. She previously worked as Counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and as Special Counsel to the Attorney General of the District of Columbia, writing an Ethics Manual for the District's 32,000 employees. She has written about government lawyers who have blown the whistle on perceived misconduct, Congressional lawyers involved in intelligence oversight, and Justice Department lawyers who facilitated the Bush Administration's torture of prisoners. Her academic work has been cited in hundreds of articles and books, and her legal analysis is regularly cited in the media. Clark earned a B.A. in Physics & Philosophy from Yale College and a J.D. from Yale Law School. She currently serves on the D.C. Bar's Committee on Innovations in Legal Practice.



**Paul Dodd, [Civil Litigator at West Jordan City](#)**

Paul Dodd is an experienced litigation attorney and has been the civil litigator for the City of West Jordan for 10 years. He represents and defends the city in Federal and State Court on claims such as contract disputes, zoning, personal injury, wrongful death, employment law, eminent domain, 1983 claims and many other types of claims that are made against the city. Paul is married and has 8 children and is an avid BYU football fan.



**Matt Ence, [Shareholder at Snow Jensen & Reece](#)**

Matt Ence is a shareholder at Snow Jensen & Reece with over 20 years of experience in real estate development, land use, and municipal law. Matt leads the firm's special district team, which in the last four years has created or represented over fifty Public Infrastructure Districts throughout the state. He has contributed to several bills related to special districts and public finance, including HB 113, the Infrastructure District Act, which passed the legislature this year. He served two terms on the city council in his hometown of Santa Clara, and for the last seven years has served as the Santa Clara city attorney. Matt's work in both the private and public spheres has provided him expertise that is uniquely applicable to this developing area of the law in Utah



**David Quealy, Senior City Attorney at Salt Lake City**

Dave Quealy is a Senior City Attorney with the Salt Lake City Attorney's Office. He currently represents the Salt Lake City Legislative Affairs Division and was previously counsel for the Salt Lake City Department of Airports which owns and operates the Salt Lake City International Airport and two other airports. Prior to joining Salt Lake City, Dave worked as the Deputy City Attorney for the City of West Jordan overseeing the civil, litigation, and risk management divisions of the city attorney's office. He has also worked as a civil litigator for Salt Lake County and an Assistant Attorney General assigned to UDOT eminent domain matters.



**Amanda Karras, Executive Director at the International Municipal Lawyers Association**

Amanda Karras is the Executive Director / General Counsel of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. In this capacity, Ms. Karras oversees IMLA's governance and staff. Ms. Karras also oversees IMLA's legal advocacy efforts with the United States Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, and state appellate courts by reviewing and evaluating requests for IMLA's amicus assistance, advising the legal advocacy committee regarding potential amicus cases and their significance to local government, coordinating case strategies with IMLA's amicus authors, and drafting and revising amicus briefs. Ms. Karras has also co-taught a course on local government law at George Washington University Law School. Prior to joining IMLA, Ms. Karras worked for Ropes & Gray, LLP, a Boston firm, and later with Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP. Ms. Karras received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Colby College and earned her Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School, graduating magna cum laude.



**Ryan Loose, City Attorney at South Jordan City**

Ryan W. Loose is the South Jordan City Attorney. Ryan has worked for South Jordan for 18 years the last 9 years as City Attorney. Ryan's practice includes all areas of municipal law. Ryan has also served as an employment, business license, and land use hearing officer for several cities along the Wasatch front.



**Nate Mitchell, Of Counsel at Hoggan Lee Hutchinson**

After graduating from S.J. Quinney College of Law in 2013 and serving a clerkship for the United States District Judge Robert J. Shelby from 2014-2015, Nate Mitchell worked as an associate and then shareholder at the law firm of Snow Christensen & Martineau, where his practice focused on land use and defense of governmental entities. His practice included defending claims under Utah's Impact Fee Act, litigating eminent domain and inverse condemnation cases, and assisting clients with a range of land use issues, including enforcement of local ordinances, referendum issues, annexation challenges, conditional use applications, exactions, and section 1983 claims. Nate recently changed firms and now works for Hoggan Lee Hutchinson, which specializes in real estate and business law in Park City.



**Ryan Robinson, City Prosecutor at West Valley City**

Ryan Robinson is the prosecutor at West Valley City where he's practiced since 1999. He ran the city's administrative code enforcement program for several years before being promoted to Chief Prosecutor. Ryan also provides prosecution services with his team at Riverton and Woods Cross which use the justice court for their code enforcement strategy.



**Steven Schaefermeyer, Planning Director at South Jordan City**

Steven Schaefermeyer has been the Director of Planning for the City of South Jordan since 2017. He began his career in city planning at Draper City before attending law school. After law school Steve clerked for a U.S. Magistrate Judge and worked for Smith Hartvigsen, PLLC where he represented clients in land use and water law matters. He returned to municipal work in 2014 and became the Assistant City Attorney for South Jordan. Steve is grateful for his varied experiences with local planning and legal issues and enjoys the challenge of working in a dynamic and growing community.





**Todd Sheeran, [City Attorney at Herriman City](#)**

Since graduating from law school, Todd has been a municipal attorney who has represented cities and towns with populations between 500 to 100,000. Todd is the city attorney for Herriman, Utah, which is a fast-growing, medium-sized city near Salt Lake City. From zoning regulations to reasonable accommodations, and from contracts to public comment policy, Todd has consistently demonstrated an exceptional ability to provide insightful and practical legal guidance. Todd is currently the president of the Utah Municipal Attorney Association and a board member of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. When not working, Todd enjoys spending time with his wife, Marlene, and three kids.



**Jared Tingey, [Legal Director at the Utah League of Cities and Towns](#)**

Jared Tingey is a practicing attorney who has spent his whole career advocating for and advising government clients in legal matters. He started his career as a Deputy County Attorney for Duchesne County advising all County departments in civil matters. After four years in Duchesne, he moved back to the Wasatch Front and began working for West Jordan City as a Senior Assistant City Attorney. In July of last year, Jared became the League's in-house Legal Director. In his new role, he actively participated and lobbied during the legislative session and has enjoyed his interaction with city staff and elected officials. A fun fact about Jared is that he served in all UMAA Board positions within the span of one year.



**Kristin VanOrman, [Shareholder at Strong & Hanni](#)**

Kristin has been practicing law for over 25 years. She has successfully tried and arbitrated hundreds of cases in both state and federal courts. Her practice focuses on labor and employment law, government liability and transportation. Her employment practice covers employment law, harassment, investigations, and employment training. She has also dealt with a variety of government liability cases including civil rights/section 1983 claims, land use, eminent domain, labor and employment issues, general negligence and personal injury actions and general municipal law matters. She has experience with a variety of transportation cases including auto, personal injury, brain injury, wrongful death, and premises liability.



**Paul Warner, [Retired U.S. Magistrate Judge](#)**

Paul Michael Warner is a retired Chief United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Utah. He was appointed on February 19, 2006. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Brigham Young University in 1973. He graduated in the Charter Class of the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU in 1976. In 1984, he received a Masters degree in Public Administration from the Marriott School of Management at BYU. Judge Warner previously worked as a trial lawyer for the United States Navy, a litigator for the Utah Attorney General's office, and an attorney for the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Utah. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his legal service, including the Utah State Bar Lifetime Service Award. He is also a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.



**Stuart Williams, [City Attorney at Clearfield City](#)**

Stuart Williams was awarded his Juris Doctorate in 2000 from Texas Tech School of Law after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1996. While receiving his education, Mr. Williams completed an internship in the Consumer Protection Division of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, and a legal clerkship in the Appellate Division of the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office. Since passing the bar in 2001, Mr. Williams has continuously served as a public attorney, representing five municipalities, and is currently the Clearfield City Attorney. During this time, Mr. Williams drafted and oversaw the adoption of ordinances necessary to change two municipalities from a criminal code enforcement system to a civil code enforcement system. Additionally, Mr. Williams was a direct supervisor of a civil code enforcement department, and he continues to advise code enforcement personnel and work with city council members to help educate and manage expectations.



**Kasey Wright, [Partner at Wright Law Firm](#)**

Kasey Wright has represented municipalities in civil and criminal matters for over two decades. Much of Kasey's career was spent with the Utah County law firm, Hansen Wright and its predecessors. During his time with Hansen Wright, he was the American Fork City Attorney for 10 years, the Highland City Attorney, and the prosecutor for several other cities. In 2018, Kasey opened a solo practice in his hometown of Nephi and is currently the Nephi City Attorney. In addition to his municipal representation, Kasey has extensive experience in civil litigation and school law. Kasey graduated from the J. Reuben Clark Law School in 2001 and received his B.A. degree in Communications from BYU in 1998. He has been married to KristiAnn for 28 years and they have four daughters, three son-in-laws, and two grandchildren.



**Scott Young**, [Partner at Spencer Fane](#)

Scott Young is a partner at Spencer Fane | Snow Christensen & Martineau, formerly Snow Christensen & Martineau. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 2005 and following a clerkship with United States District Court Judge Dee Benson, he began defending government entities and employees in civil rights disputes. He has defended cases involving claims for violation of free speech, due process, excessive force, and other constitutional provisions. Scott has served as the President of the Utah Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the Utah Bar's Constitutional Law Section. He has also presented to audiences across the country, including several forums for federal judges, on the statistical analysis of judges. Scott has hitchhiked through the Palestinian territories, completed an Ironman and two Boston marathons, cycled around the Sea of Galilee, and spent countless nights rocking children to sleep while reading his favorite children's book, *The Giant Jam Sandwich*.