

## Law Day Awards

### **Pro Bono Publico**

*Recognizing people providing donated legal services to those most in need.*

Law Firm:

Parsons Behle & Latimer

Young Lawyer:

Jonathan Felt

Student:

Elizabeth Thomas

### **Young Lawyers Division**

Young Lawyer of the Year:

Tyler Needham

Liberty Bell:

Sariah Donnahoo

### **Scott M. Matheson Award**

*Law-related youth education:*

Steven R. Paul

See details below.



**Utah State Bar.**  
Lawyers working for justice.

2017 Law Day Awards

# Pro Bono Publico Awards

*The Utah State Bar's Pro Bono Publico Awards recognize those who have provided or enabled the direct provision of legal services, free of charge, for Utah's most vulnerable citizens - people living in poverty, individuals with disabilities, veterans, seniors, minorities and victims of domestic violence. While the obstacles to equal access to justice continue to mount, the willingness of attorneys to help meet the legal needs of the indigent in their communities is important to those in need of service.*

## **Law Firm of the Year**

**Parsons Behle & Latimer with Brian Rothschild**



Parsons Behle & Latimer's tradition of pro bono work in Utah demonstrates importance of community service within a large firm. Parsons contributes to United Way, And Justice For All, and supports the Pro Bono Initiative at the S.J. Quinney College of Law. Moreover, the firm has an outstanding record for supporting pro bono work on an individual basis.

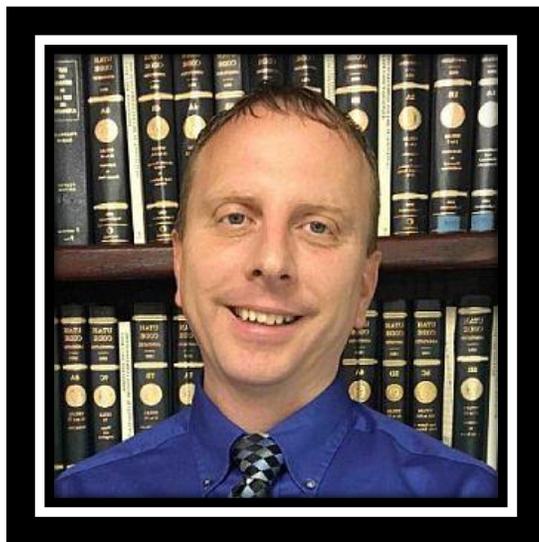
This year, Parsons committed to assigning volunteer attorneys once a month to provide pro bono legal services for pro se debtors at the Matheson Debt Collection calendar. The program, started by Charles Stormont and the 3rd District Pro Bono Committee, has been very successful, and the engagement of large law firms to commit to a regular contribution is a necessary part of the program as it expands.

Brian Rothschild, a shareholder in the firm, was instrumental in getting more attorneys at Parsons involved in the debt collection calendar. In addition to recruiting volunteers, Brian taught a training hosted at Parsons for attorneys volunteering at the calendar. Brian and many others at Parsons are dedicated volunteers, serving in pro bono projects ranging from adoptions, fair housing, personal injury, property rights, and guardianship cases.

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# Pro Bono Publico Awards

## **Young Lawyer of the Year:** Jonathan Felt



A graduate of Hamline University School of Law, Jonathan Felt is a promising young lawyer dedicated to improving the lives of others. Jonathan works out of his Ogden law office, and commits a great deal of his time to public service.

Along with assisting clients at Utah Legal Services in Ogden, he has taken numerous pro bono cases including divorce, QDRO, and custody cases.

Jonathan participates in the Domestic Lawyer's Academy program, and is passionate about serving families in Utah. Jonathan provides excellent legal assistance to those most in need.

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## **Law Student of the Year:**

Elizabeth (Liz) Thomas



Elizabeth Thomas is finishing her Juris Doctor at the S.J. Quinney College of Law in May of 2017, and is expecting certificates in both International and Environmental Law. Not only is Liz an exceptional student who has excelled in leadership positions as well as legal research in human rights and environmental justice, she is highly devoted to pro bono and public service work.

Having completed over 300 hours of volunteer work with the Rainbow Law Clinic, Human Rights Commission, Hartland Project, and the American Indian, Street Law, and Community Legal Clinics, Liz demonstrates all the qualities of a Pro Bono Publico award recipient.

Her kindness shines through in her interactions with classmates, professors, and the public. One professor has called her a “champion of the underserved” for her considerable efforts in Pro Bono initiatives and for her dedication to using the law to serve others and the planet.

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# Young Lawyers Division Awards

*The Young Lawyer of the Year Award is given by the Young Lawyers Division of the Utah State Bar to a young lawyer who exhibits outstanding professional excellence, service to the profession and the Bar, service to the community, and for the advancement of legal ethics and professional responsibility.*

## **Young Lawyer of the Year:** Tyler Needham



The Utah State Bar's Access to Justice Coordinator, Tyler Needham is dedicated to serving the community by forwarding the mission of the Bar to make legal services accessible to all. Tyler graduated from the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah in 2015, having served on the boards of Public Interest Law Organization, the Minority Law Caucus, and as the Student Director of the Street Law Clinic and a Student Fellow through the Pro Bono Initiative.

Since graduating, Tyler has devoted his legal work to pro bono initiatives statewide. Tyler has been improving pro bono engagement in other attorneys, and models excellence in pro bono services in his own work. His efforts to improve Pro Se Calendar legal clinics in Salt Lake City, West Jordan, and Bountiful, is a notable example of how Tyler is making the law more accessible.

Tyler works diligently to help with Young Lawyers Division programs including the work of the Tuesday Night Bar, Serving Our Seniors, and Wills for Heroes. One nominator writes that Tyler "exemplifies everything this award stands for."

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# Young Lawyers Division Awards

*The Liberty Bell Award is given by the Young Lawyers Division of the Utah State Bar to a non-lawyer (person or organization) for promoting better understanding of the Rule of Law, encouraging a greater respect for law and the courts, stimulating a sense of civic responsibility and contributing to good government in the community.*

## **Liberty Bell Award**

Sariah Donnahoo



Sariah Donnahoo is a licensed clinical social worker who works with the Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys. Sariah assists children in the juvenile justice system, helping them better understand the role of the law in their lives. Moreover, she does so with compassion, empathy, and professionalism.

Sariah plays an integral role in the firm, where she bridges the gaps between the child's needs and the law, doing so with utmost attention and care. Sariah goes above and beyond even in the most difficult of circumstances, and represents the most vulnerable of our community with respect and kindness.

Her colleagues at UJDA have commented both on her outstanding work with children, and her significant contributions to improving the lives of families in Utah

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# **Scott M. Matheson Award**

*In 1991, the Law-Related Education and Law Day Committee of the Utah State Bar created the Scott M. Matheson Award to commemorate Scott's contribution to law-related education in the State of Utah and to recognize annually individuals who have made outstanding contributions to law-related education for youth in the State of Utah.*

## **Law-related Youth Education:**

**Steve R. Paul**



Steven R. Paul received his B.A. from the University of Utah in 1991, after which he attended law school at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. He has been in private practice in Oregon and Utah since graduating from law school in 1995. Mr. Paul's legal practice focuses mainly on plaintiffs'-side litigation, estate planning, and small business representation, mostly in the construction trades. He is currently a partner in the Sandy-based law firm of Nelson Snuffer Dahle & Poulsen.

Steven has a long history of volunteer work in the law-related education field and in Law Day activities. He has been a pro tem judge for Salt Lake City Justice Court since 2006. His introduction to Utah Law Related Education came when his daughter's 7th-grade class at Redeemer Lutheran School in Salt Lake City entered the mock trial competition in 2003. Along with the two other "lawyer dads" in his daughter's class, Steven helped coach the Redeemer Lutheran School junior high team that year; and he was hooked. He has volunteered for nearly every year with the Mock Trial Program since 2003. Even when his kids no longer were participating as students, Steven signed on as a judge. He has tried to judge at least three mock trials each year since 2005. He has sat to judge mock trials at the Scott M. Matheson courthouse in Salt Lake City and has presided at mock trials in West Valley City, Sandy, and Holladay, as well.

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In addition to his service for Utah Law Related Education, Steven has volunteered for the Law Day Run going back to 2001! Since those early years of the Law Day Run, Steven has been in charge of the course set up. Except for the first year when the race went straight up 100 South and wiped out most of the runners, the course has been a success! Steven has been pivotal to the growth and success of the Law Day Run and has seen it grow from fewer than 200 participants to over 1,000 in 2016.

A graduate of Hamline University School of Law, Jonathan Felt is a promising young lawyer dedicated to improving the lives of others. Jonathan works out of his Ogden law office, and commits a great deal of his time to public service. Along with assisting clients at Utah Legal Services in Ogden, he has taken numerous pro bono cases including divorce, QDRO, and custody cases. Jonathan participates in the Domestic Lawyer's Academy program, and is passionate about serving families in Utah. Jonathan provides excellent legal assistance to those most in need.