

Pro Bono Publico – Law Student of the Year

Britney Mortensen

Britny got her start as the Pro Bono Initiative Hartland Student Director where she taught refugee citizenship classes, and recruited other law students to volunteer. Currently she is in charge of the Community Legal Clinic in Ogden. She served as the President of the Student Immigration Law Association in 2017, and the Vice-President of the Minority Law Caucus in 2017-2018.

She received the CALI Award in Administrative Law in 2017 and the Outstanding Achievement Award in Immigration Law in 2017. Ms. Mortenson has accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Justice, Eloy Immigration Court in Arizona. She will start her Judicial Law Clerk position this September.

Nick Hafen

Nick Hafen has served at BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School as the president of the Public Interest Law Forum (PILF) and has been outstanding in this position. Nick attended the Equal Justice Conference in San Diego in 2018 to learn more about pro bono service. He also is actively engaging with organizations in the community to collaborate and find out more about opportunities for law students to perform pro bono service. Most recently Nick attended the 3rd District Debt Collection Pro Se Calendar where he is currently studying the complex issues facing debtors in Utah.

Pro Bono Publico – Law Firm of the Year

Dorsey & Whitney

Dorsey & Whitney is a leader in the pro bono community not only in word, but in deed as well. They have a policy for their associates that allows them to contribute up to 50 hours per year of their billable hours through pro bono service. Dorsey & Whitney has reached out to and collaborated with the Pro Bono Commission to make sure they are involved in service where it is needed most. In 2015 Dorsey began work with Catholic Community Services on the Asylum Pro Bono Program where attorneys assisted individuals seeking asylum from various dangerous regions of the world. Beginning in 2018, Dorsey agreed to provide a team of 4 attorneys once a month to staff the 3rd District eviction pro se calendar at Matheson courthouse. Dorsey's attorneys have also been actively engaged in ongoing training in housing issues and will continue to be advocates for the underrepresented.

Pro Bono Publico – Young Lawyer of the Year

Eli McCann

In April 2014, Eli took over the laboring oar of an excessive force case filed by an inmate pro se. Eli did the yeoman's share of work, handling most discovery; three summary judgment motions, briefing and arguing the State's appeal to the 10th Circuit; and, the petition for certiorari and related provisional briefing to the United States Supreme Court. While cert was ultimately denied, the matter advanced through a preliminary review and to consideration by the Court's September 24, 2018 conference.

Along the way, the individual died. Troubled by the loss, and undaunted, Eli continued prosecution of the case on behalf of the individual's son and daughter. All told, Eli logged 543.7 hours from April 2014 through October 2018, taking several depositions, briefing and arguing two motions for summary judgment, briefing and arguing before the 10th Circuit Court, and briefing the petition for cert to the US Supreme Court.

In addition to all this, Eli McCann is Kirton McConkie's Tuesday Night Bar team lead, responsible for recruiting fellow firm attorneys to volunteer at the Tuesday Night Bar every other month.

Tamara Rasch

Besides doing excellent work on any case she is accepts pro bono, Tamara is often willing to pick up a protective order cases with very short notice. These are cases that not many attorneys volunteer for, and having someone to cover when Utah Legal Services has a conflict (either a conflict of interest or a scheduling conflict) makes an enormous difference to the clients, who are in desperate need of protection from abuse. She also consistently volunteers for an impressive number of cases; in the last 5 years, she has volunteered for 18 pro bono cases with ULS alone, two of which are still ongoing.