

PAUL M. SIMMONS

Lawyer of the Year



Paul Simmons is an attorney at Dewsnup King Olsen Worel Havas Mortensen. Before that, he clerked for the Honorable Bruce S. Jenkins of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah and was a partner at Switter Axland Armstrong & Hanson.

He has enjoyed an extensive career as both an attorney and a legal scholar, with expertise in complex brief writing and appeals. He has briefed or argued more than 50 appeals in Utah and federal courts. Among the more significant reported decisions in which he has appeared as counsel include *Normandeu v. Hanson Equipment*, 2009 UT 44, 215 P.3d 152; *Judd v. Drezga*, 2004 UT 91, 203 P.3d 135; *Parks v. Utah Transit Auth.*, 2002 UT 55, 53 P.3d 473; *Sanns v. Ford Motor Co.*, 2004 UT App 203, 94 P.3d 301; and *House v. Armour of Am., Inc.*, 886 P.2d 542 (Utah Ct. App. 1994), *aff'd*, 929 P.2d 340 (Utah 1996).

Mr. Simmons has edited and contributed articles to the Utah Trial Journal and other publications, including articles on medical malpractice verdicts, strict products liability and comparative fault, and preservation of issues for appeal.

He currently serves on the Utah Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Model Utah Jury Instructions and the Utah State Bar's Governmental Relations Committee. He previously served for 14 years on the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah's Advisory Committee on the Local Rules of Practice, from 1989 to 2003.

He is widely recognized by his peers and by other professionals in being named to many of the nation's most highly recognized listings of top lawyers including Best Lawyers in America, Martindale-Hubbell® Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, Mountain States Super Lawyers, and Utah Business magazine's listing of the Legal Elite. He also has received awards from various professional groups including the Utah Trial Lawyers Association (Super Star award) and the Utah State Bar, for service to the Litigation Section's Voir Dire project, and as co-recipient of the Bar's Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year and Outstanding Mentor awards.

First admitted to practice in all Utah state courts more than 30 years ago, he has been admitted to the bars of federal courts throughout the country, including the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th and 10th Circuits, and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern & Western Districts of Arkansas, District of Colorado, Western District of Michigan, and the District of Utah.

A native of California, Paul graduated magna cum laude from Brigham Young University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in Spanish. After working as an editor for several years, he returned to school and received his juris doctorate from the University of Utah College of Law in 1985, where he was a member of the Utah Law Review and the Order of the Coif legal honor society.

Mr. Simmons is also a member of the American Bar Association and its Litigation and Torts and Insurance Practice sections. In addition, he is a member of and serves on the Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) and the Utah Association for Justice (UAJ) and is a fellow of the Pound Civil Justice Institute.

2017 Summer Convention Awards

Past Recipients – Lawyer of the Year

1970	Dean F. Brayton	1990	Norman S. Johnson
1970	Arthur B. Watkiss	1991	Herschel J. Saperstein
1971	Harold P. Fabian	1992	Hardin A. Whitney
1971	LeRoy B. Young	1993	William B. Bohling
1972	Samuel C. Powell	1994	Joseph Novak
1973	Grant H. Bagley	1995	Gordon L. Roberts
1973	Melvin C. Harris	1996	Dale A. Kimball
1974	Calvin Behle	1997	Gayle F. McKeachnie
1975	Clifford L. Ashton	1998	Leonard J. Lewis
1976	Sam Cline	1999	Irene Warr
1977	George W. Latimer	2000	D. Frank Wilkins
1978	Ira A. Huggins	2001	Alan L. Sullivan
1979	F. Gerald Irvine	2002	L. Brent Hoggan
1979	Calvin W. Rawlings	2003	Jay E. Jensen
1980	Rex J. Hanson	2003	Rodney G. Snow
1980	Walter G. Mann	2004	George B. Handy
1981	Ray R. Christensen	2005	James S. Jardine
1981	John H. Snow	2006	Max D. Wheeler
1982	Rex E. Lee	2007	Oscar W. Mc Conkie
1983	William G. Shelton	2008	Charles R. Brown
1984	Harold G. Christensen	2009	Paul T. Moxley
1985	Edward W. Clyde	2010	Randy L. Dryer
1986	Stephen B. Nebeker	2011	Robert B. Sykes
1987	Carman E. Kipp	2012	Gary R. Crane
1988	James B. Lee	2013	Peter Stirba
1988	Ellen M. Maycock	2014	Charlotte L. Miller
1989	Donald B. Holbrook	2015	Ronald J. Yengich
1989	Randon W. Wilson	2016	Annette Jarvis Bruce A. Maak
1990	Brian R. Florence		

2017 Summer Convention Awards

LIMITED SCOPE SECTION

Section of the Year

Chair: Virginia L. Sudbury

We are honored to receive this award from the Utah State Bar! This valued award is made to the section which serves the Bar's mission as a "united, inclusive" organization. The very notion that forms the basis of our Limited Scope Section underscores this goal. Members from all substantive practice areas are invited to be part of our section, with the shared goal of providing legal services to those who may not otherwise be able to have representation under traditional models. We provide incisive, discreet and finely targeted legal assistance – and these transcend specific practice areas. As an added benefit, and in keeping with the Bar's award criteria noting an "united, inclusive" section, the membership of the Limited Scope Section includes attorneys in many and varied practices areas. Thus, we get the opportunity to build bridges, relationships, and camaraderie across the expanse of the Bar's membership.

2017 Summer Convention Awards

Past Recipients – Section of the Year

1985	Securities Law Section
1987	Energy, Natural Resources and Environmental Law Section
1988	Administrative Law Section
1989	Young Lawyer Section
1990	Litigation Section
1991	Family Law Section
1993	Litigation Section
1995	Litigation Section
1997	Young Lawyers Division
1998	Legal Assistants Division
2001	Legal Assistants Division
2002	Young Lawyers Division
2003	Family Law Section
2004	Young Lawyers Division
2005	ADR Section
2006	Litigation Section
2007	Paralegal Division
2008	Young Lawyers Division
2009	Appellate Practice Section
2010	Military Law Section
2011	Young Lawyers Section Elder Law Section
2012	Estate Planning Section
2013	Solo, Small Firm & Rural Section
2014	Intellectual Property Section
2015	Young Lawyers Division
2016	Bankruptcy Section

2017 Summer Convention Awards

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee of the Year

**Co-Chairs: John Bogart
Jaqualin Friend Peterson
Cameron Beech**

The Governmental Relations Committee (GRC) is charged with the task of assisting the Utah State Bar with its legislative advocacy based on the directive of the Board of Commissioners, as set forth in Rule 14-106, Supreme Court Rules of Professional Practice.

To accomplish this task, the GRC keeps a robust schedule. During each legislative session, the GRC meets weekly to review and analyze numerous bills and make recommendations on pending legislation. The GRC is made up of representatives of each section of the Utah Bar and the Committee Chairs, which makes it one of the broadest based committees in the Bar. Sections are asked to designate a representative for the Committee who will devote their time and expertise to providing section-specific legislative review and analysis and feedback from section membership to the Committee or to legislators. This translates into countless hours of collective work beyond the Committee's weekly meetings. The GRC is further assisted by Foxley & Pignanelli, a local government relations firm retained by the Bar to provide lobbying and government relations services. Their contributions have greatly enhanced the reach of the Committee.

The GRC strives to ensure that its views are consistent with its mandate. The GRC's scope is limited to issues concerning the courts, the administration of justice, the practice of law, and matters of substantive law on which the collective expertise of lawyers has special relevance and/or which may affect an individual's ability to access legal services or the legal system. In this regard, the positions the GRC may take are: support or opposition, or no position if a bill is not sufficiently relevant to the Bar's mission to warrant taking a position. In practice, though the GRC reviews numerous bills each year, the support or oppose position is limited to a relatively small number of bills and is generally reserved for legislation which is viewed as central to the interests of the Bar and which appears to have some viability in the Legislature.

This year the GRC was instrumental in alerting the Bar to a bill that would have removed the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice's ability to establish evaluation criteria for applicants to the bench. This included "diversity" as a factor. The bill ultimately failed in committee due to the collective efforts of the GRC, the Bar Commission, and the many attorneys who contacted their Legislators to express concern about the bill. Other notable efforts by the GRC this year include supporting the addition of a Fifth District Court Judge, supporting enhanced sexual assault victims' access to justice by mandating DNA testing of all sexual assault kits, and supporting a lower threshold to file for post-conviction DNA testing. The GRC also provided feedback on the Indigent Defense Commission Amendments bill, resulting in a change to the wording clarifying which parties shall be provided counsel in juvenile delinquency and child welfare proceedings. These are just a few examples of the GRC's impact.

The Bar is indeed fortunate to have the GRC and its many volunteers. We appreciate your commitment to service. It is because of the dedicated efforts of the GRC's members that the Bar has been able to build a positive and trusting relationship with the Legislature, to be more informed, and take effective action.

2017 Summer Convention Awards

Past Recipients – Committee of the Year

- 1986 Legislative Affairs Committee
- 1987 Law Related Education and Law Day Committee
- 1988 Continuing Legal Education Advisory Committee
- 1989 Bar Journal Committee
- 1990 Bar Examiner Committee
- 1992 Ethics and Discipline Committee
- 1993 Legislative Affairs Committee
- 1994 Ethics Advisory Opinion Committee
- 1995 Delivery of Legal Services Committee
- 1996 Needs of Children Committee
- 1997 Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
- 1998 Courts and Judges Committee
- 1999 Client Security Fund Committee
- 2000 Admissions Committee
- 2002 Character and Fitness Committee
- 2003 Needs of the Elderly Committee
- 2004 Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
- 2005 Governmental Relations Committee
- 2006 Ethics Advisory Opinion Committee
- 2007 Utah Bar Journal Committee
- 2008 Admissions Committee
- 2009 New Lawyer Training Program Committee
- 2010 Bar Examiner Committee
- 2011 Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
- 2012 Pro Bono Commission
- 2013 Budget & Finance Committee
- 2014 Civics Education Committee
- 2015 Disaster Legal Response Committee
- 2016 Utah Leadership Academy

2017 Summer Convention Awards

HON. STEPHEN L. ROTH

Judge of the Year



Judge Stephen L. Roth was appointed to the Utah Court of Appeals in March 2010 by Governor Gary R. Herbert. Judge Roth served as a trial judge in the Third District Court from his appointment in January 2002 by Governor Michael O. Leavitt until his appointment to the Court of Appeals. After serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1970 to 1974, Judge Roth attended law school at Brigham Young University, where he was a note and comment editor on the Brigham Young University Law Review and graduated cum laude in 1977. He worked as an associate at the Seattle firm of Bogle & Gates from 1977 to 1978. He was an associate and then member of Snow, Christensen & Martineau in Salt Lake City from 1978 until 1991, doing primarily commercial litigation. From 1991 until appointed to the trial bench, Judge Roth served as an Assistant United States Attorney, working as a trial lawyer in the civil division of the United States Attorney's office. Judge Roth served as an adjunct professor in the trial advocacy program at the University of Utah College of Law from 2002 through 2007, on the Utah Supreme Court's Advisory Committee for Rules of Professional Conduct from 2003 to 2011, and as a member of the executive committees of the Safe at Home Coalition (now the Family Justice Center) and the Utah State Bar Litigation Section. He served as chair of the Judicial Council's Study Committee on Representation of Indigent Criminal Defendants and is past chair of the Commissioner Conduct Committee. Judge Roth is a member of the Judicial Conduct Commission, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the Court Facilities Planning Committee, and the Aldon J. Anderson American Inn of Court.

2017 Summer Convention Awards

HON. J. FREDERIC VOROS, JR.

Judge of the Year



Judge J. Frederic Voros, Jr. was appointed to the Utah Court of Appeals by Gov. Gary R. Herbert in September 2009 and currently serves as Presiding Judge. Judge Voros earned a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in 1975 and a law degree from its J. Reuben Clark Law School in 1978. He clerked for Justice Dallin H. Oaks on the Utah Supreme Court. Judge Voros served as general counsel to Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho, and practiced with Prince, Yeates & Geldzahler and Poole & Associates before joining the Utah Attorney General's Office in 1991, where he served as chief of the Criminal Appeals Division from 1999 to 2009. Judge Voros taught appellate advocacy as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, from 2001 to 2011. He chaired the Utah Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Professional Responsibility and later sat on the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Appellate Practice for 24 years. He is a member of the A. Sherman Christensen American Inn of Court and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

2017 Summer Convention Awards

Past Recipients – Judge of the Year

1970	Hon. Charles G. Cowley	1989	Hon. W. Brent West
1971	Hon. Maurice H. Harding	1990	Hon. Christine M. Durham
1972	Hon. Fred W. Keller	1990	Hon. A. Lynn Payne
1972	Hon. D. Frank Wilkins	1990	Hon. David E. Roth
1973	Hon. Calvin Gould	1990	Hon. David W. Sorenson
1974	Hon. David T. Lewis	1991	Hon. Cullen Y. Christensen
1975	Hon. Gordon R. Hall	1993	Hon. Bruce S. Jenkins
1976	Hon. Regnal W. Garff, Jr.	1994	Hon. John A. Rokich
1977	Hon. A. Sherman Christensen	1995	Hon. J. Thomas Greene, Jr.
1978	Hon. Zachary T. Champlin	1996	Hon. Leslie A. Lewis
1978	Hon. David K. Winder	1997	Hon. W. Brent West
1979	Hon. James S. Sawaya	1998	Hon. Tyrone E. Medley
1980	Hon. Aldon J. Anderson	1999	Hon. Lynn W. Davis
1980	Hon. J. Allan Crockett	1999	Hon. David Sam
1981	Hon. Richard J. Maughan	2000	Hon. Guy R. Burningham
1982	Hon. Melvin H. Morris	2001	Hon. Raymond M. Harding, Sr.
1983	Hon. J. Robert Bullock	2001	Hon. Sharon P. McCully
1984	Hon. John F. Larson	2001	Hon. Anne M. Stirba
1984	Hon. Dallin H. Oaks	2002	Hon. Stephen H. Anderson
1985	Hon. Aldon J. Anderson	2002	Hon. Jeril B. Wilson
1986	Hon. Dean E. Conder	2003	Hon. Ronald N. Boyce
1986	Hon. Sharon P. McCully	2004	Hon. William B. Bohling
1986	Hon. A. John Ruggeri	2005	Hon. Andrew Valdez
1986	Hon. I. Daniel Stewart	2006	Hon. Gordon J. Low
1987	Hon. Venoy Christoffersen	2007	Hon. Sandra N. Peuler
1987	Hon. Floyd H. Gowans	2007	Hon. Gregory K. Orme
1987	Hon. Gordon R. Hall	2008	Hon. Glenn K. Iwasaki
1987	Hon. Joseph E. Jackson	2009	Hon. Judith S. Atherton
1988	Hon. D. Dennis Frederick	2010	Hon. Robert K. Hilder
1988	Hon. Michael L. Hutchings	2011	Hon. Dee V. Benson
1988	Hon. Paul C. Keller	2012	Hon. Royal I. Hansen
1988	Hon. Michael D. Zimmerman	2013	Hon. Michael D. Lyon
1989	Hon. L. Kent Bachman	2014	Hon. James L. Shumate
1989	Hon. Scott Daniels	2015	Hon. Claudia Laycock
1989	Hon. Regnal W. Garff, Jr.	2016	Hon. C. Dane Nolan

2017 Summer Convention Awards