



Jeffrey J. Hunt

Shareholder

Jeffrey Hunt practices in the area of commercial litigation, with particular emphasis on First Amendment, media, and intellectual property law. Mr. Hunt has more than 25 years experience litigating complex commercial cases involving a wide variety of industries and legal issues, including copyright, trademark, and patent enforcement actions; injunctions; securities litigation; enforcement of non-competition, non-solicitation, and non-disclosure covenants for employers, foreign litigation and arbitration; and real property litigation. He has served as lead counsel on several high-stakes litigation matters for national and local companies. Mr. Hunt also has extensive experience representing direct sales and network marketing companies on a wide variety of legal issues, including complex litigation, state and federal regulatory compliance, and intellectual property enforcement actions.

In addition to his general commercial litigation practice, Mr. Hunt also is a nationally recognized First Amendment and media lawyer, having represented every major news organization in the state of Utah, as well as several national news organizations, including the Associated Press, CNN, Viacom, CBS, and Fox Television Stations, Inc. Mr. Hunt regularly represents media companies and individuals in state and federal courts, and counsels clients on defamation, privacy, intellectual property, freedom-of-information, First Amendment, anti-SLAPP, and related legal issues.

Mr. Hunt has long been recognized as a leading public advocate for open government in the state of Utah and for protecting the public's right to know. He helped draft Utah's open records statute - the Government Records Access & Management Act, known as "GRAMA," — and frequently litigates on behalf of the news media and individuals for public access to government records, meetings, and court proceedings. Mr. Hunt represented a coalition of Utah's leading news organizations in enacting the first reporter's privilege in Utah to protect confidential news sources and newsgathering material. Mr. Hunt also helped draft and enact Utah's first court rule allowing electronic media coverage of criminal and civil proceedings in Utah's trial courts.

Mr. Hunt earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Order of the Coif. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Iowa State University. Prior to law school, Mr. Hunt worked four years as a newspaper reporter,

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial Litigation Services

Appeals

Arbitrations

Class Actions

Contract Dispute Attorneys

Entertainment Law

Federal and State Courts

Insurance and Bad Faith

Intellectual Property Litigation

Internet Litigation

Media and First Amendment

Patent Litigation

Real Estate Litigation

Securities Litigation

EDUCATION

1990, J.D., University of Utah, Order of the Coif, Editor-in-Chief, Utah Law Review

1983, B.A., Journalism and Mass Communication, Iowa State University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Adjunct Professor, University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law

Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America

Fellow, American Bar Foundation

Past President, American Inns of Court, Sutherland Inn II

Past President, Salt Lake County Bar Association

Past President, Alumni Board of Trustees of the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law

Past Co-chair, Utah State Bar Mentor Training & Resource Committee

Past Chair, Utah Advisory Board of the Trust for Public Lands

Vice Chair, Utah Supreme Court Ethics and Discipline Committee (2014-2020)

Media Law Resource Center, Defense Counsel Section

Judicial Council Study Committee on Communications Technology in the Courtroom

Utah State Bar Examiner Review Committee, Constitutional Law

American Bar Association, First Amendment and Media Litigation Committee

Society of Professional Journalists

CLERKSHIPS

1991, for the Honorable David K. Winder, U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

including the at the *Quad-City Times* and *Deseret News*.

Mr. Hunt is an adjunct professor at the University of Utah S. J. Quinney College of Law and is a regular guest lecturer on First Amendment and Media Law at the University of Utah and Weber State University. In 1992, he founded the Utah Freedom of Information Hotline at Parr Brown, which provides free legal assistance to the public and journalists. He is a two-time recipient of the Roy B. Gibson Freedom of Information Award from the Utah Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and received an Honorary Publisher award from the Utah Press Association. In 2004, Mr. Hunt received the Service to Journalism Award from the University of Utah Department of Communications.

Mr. Hunt was ranked as a top Utah lawyer for First Amendment and media litigation by *Chambers USA - America's Leading Lawyers for Business* 2005-2020 editions. He was recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* 2011-2014 for achievements in Commercial Litigation and Media Law, and most recently was selected as a 2017 Benchmark Litigation Star. Mr. Hunt was selected for the 2006-2021 editions of *Best Lawyers in America* and was named "*Lawyer of the Year*" in the area of Litigation-First Amendment (2020), (2018), (2017), (2015), (2013), and (2012) by *Best Lawyers*. He has been continually recognized by *Mountain States Super Lawyers*, and most recently was recognized among the "Top 100" Super Lawyers in the Intermountain area for 2015 and 2020, and "Top 10" Super Lawyers in the Intermountain area for 2014. He has been continuously recognized as one of Utah's Legal Elite by *Utah Business* magazine in business litigation. Mr. Hunt was awarded an "AV preeminent Judicial Edition" rating by *Martindale Hubbell* for 2019. This distinction reflects the highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards by the confidential opinion of members of the Judiciary.

Publications and Speaking Engagements:

The Facts Behind the Media Coverage, the Sentence that Launched a Recall

Court Review, The Journal of the American Judges Association, Volume 55, Issue 1, 2019

"Roundtable with Leading Legal Minds"

Direct Selling Association 2014 Global Regulatory Conference, Washington, D.C., October 16, 2014

"Getting to Know your GRAMA: First Principles and Practice Tips"

Utah Municipal Attorneys Association Conference, St. George, Utah, May 5, 2014

Co-author, "Survey of Utah Media Libel Law"

Media Law Resource Center

Co-author, "Survey of Utah Media Privacy Law"

Media Law Resource Center

Co-author, "Survey of Utah Employment Privacy Law"

Media Law Resource Center

Getting to Know Your GRAMA (Government Records Access and Management Act): Practice Tips and Pointers

Paralegal Section, Utah State Bar, February 13, 2013

Banned Books Week Lecture: Censorship and the First Amendment
The Kings English Bookstore, Salt Lake City, October 2, 2012

"Saving GRAMA: Open Records and the Battle over H.B. 477"

San Diego, California, Utah State Bar Annual Convention, July 7, 2011

"GRAMA and the Battle over H.B. 477"

Utah Appellate Court Conference, Homestead Resort, Midway, Utah, June 22, 2011

Leaks, Leakers, and the Law

First Amendment Day Speech, Iowa State University, April 6, 2011

H.B.477 and the Government Records Access & Management Act (GRAMA)

Save GRAMA Presentation, March 30, 2011

Benefits of the Mentor and New Lawyer Relationship

Utah State Bar Annual Meeting, Sun Valley, Idaho, July 17, 2010

What You Need to Know About Public Records and Open Meetings

Lorman Seminar, September 16, 2008

Utah's Sunshine Laws: Understanding Your GRAMA and the Open Meetings Act

Association of Public Attorneys Conference, February, 2007

Co-author, "Open Government Guide: Open Records and Meetings in Utah"

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, 2006

Freedom of Information in a Post-911 World

Keynote speech at the Society of Professional Journalists Regional Conference, April 9, 2005

"Utah Open Government Guide and Media Law Handbook"

Utah Headliners Chapter Society of Professional Journalists and Utah Foundation for Open Government (Co-edited with Michael P. O'Brien) (2003)



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Salt Lake City, Utah



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