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 30 years experience litigating complex commercial cases involving a wide variety of industries and legal issues, including intellectual property; injunctions; securities; enforcement of non-competition and non-solicitation 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 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 media 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 a 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, including the at the *Quad-City Times* and *Deseret News.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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VCard

PRACTICE AREAS

- Media and First Amendment
- Commercial Litigation Services
- Appeals
- Arbitrations
- Utah Class Action Attorneys
- Contract Dispute Attorneys
- Entertainment Law
- Federal and State Courts
- Insurance and Bad Faith
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Internet Litigation
- Patent Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Securities Litigation

EDUCATION

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

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

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 is regularly ranked as a top Utah lawyer for business litigation and First Amendment and media litigation by *Chambers USA – America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. He has been continually recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* for achievements in Commercial Litigation, Media, Entertainment, Energy, and was selected as a 2017 Benchmark Litigation Star. Mr. Hunt was included in the 2006-2024 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Communications Law, Entertainment Law – Motion Pictures and Television, First Amendment Law, Litigation – First Amendment, and Media Law. He has been recognized as Best Lawyers® Utah "Lawyer of the Year" for Litigation-First Amendment for multiple years. He has been continually recognized by *Mountain States Super Lawyers*, and recently was recognized among the "Top 100" Super Lawyers in the Intermountain area for 2014-2021, 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 and constitutional law. Mr. Hunt has an "AV Preeminent Judicial Edition®" rating by *Martindale Hubbell*. 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:

- "Judge dismisses lawsuit against Millard County newspaper"
  KSLTV.com
- "Utah Jazz, Russell Westbrook Did Not Defame Couple After Courtside Spat, Appellate Panel Affirms"
  Law.com, January 2024
- Jailed over Facebook taunts: Free-speech battle hits 1st Circuit
  Courthouse News Service, October 2021
- Co-Presented, Justice Thomas, the First Amendment, and Media Freedoms
  University of Utah College of Law, May 2021
- Utah's sunshine nearly disappeared 10 years ago. Here's why open record laws matter
  Deseret News, March 2021
- 10 Questions to a Media Lawyer: Jeff Hunt
  MLRC MediaLawLetter, February 2021
- 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
- Co-author, “Open Government Guide: Open Records and Meetings in Utah”
  Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
- 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

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