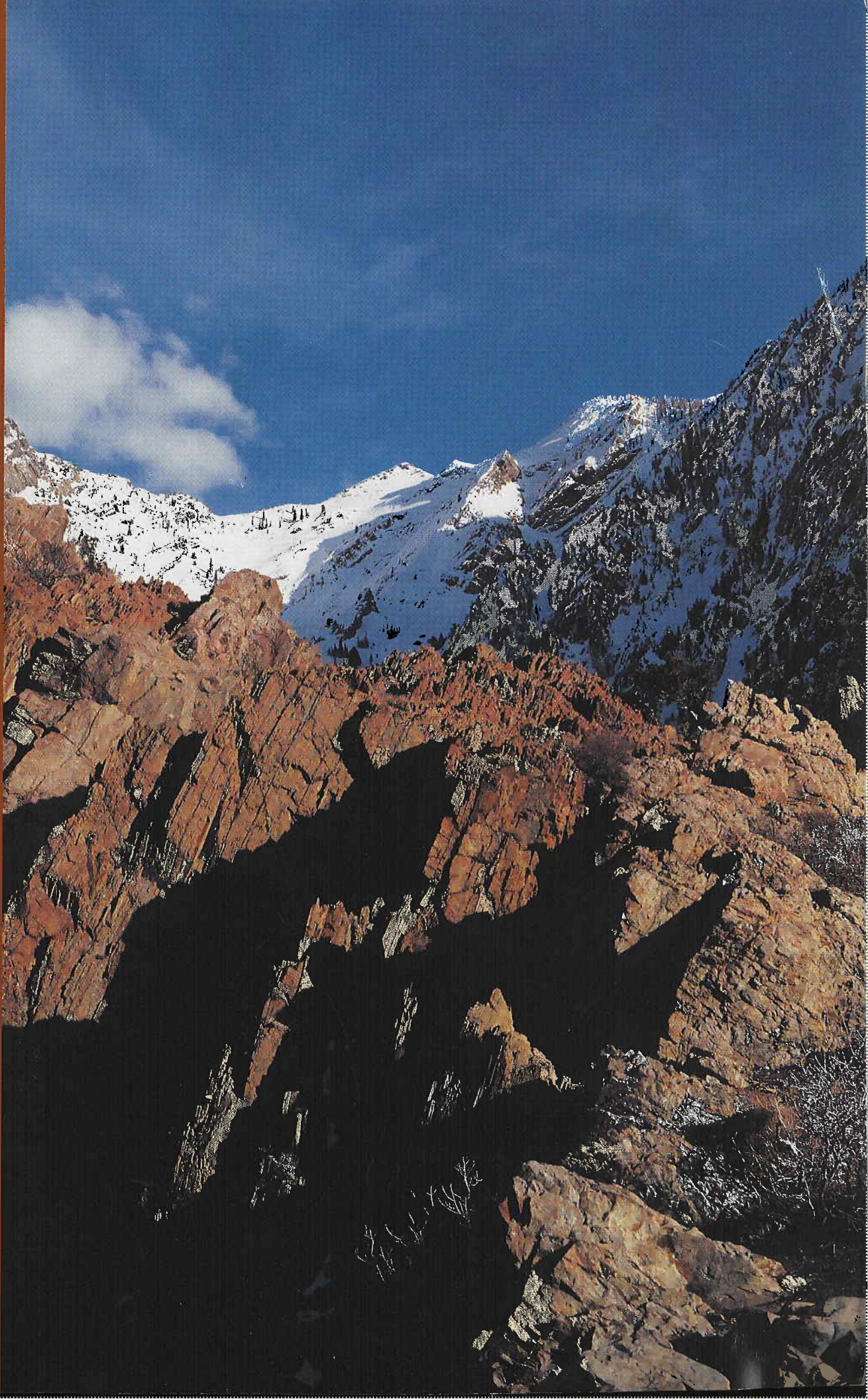


Utah Bar JOURNAL

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VISION OF THE BAR: *To lead society in the creation of a justice system that is understood, valued, respected and accessible to all.*

MISSION OF THE BAR: *To represent lawyers in the State of Utah and to serve the public and the legal profession by promoting justice, professional excellence, civility, ethics, respect for and understanding of, the law.*

COVER: Stairs Gulch, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah by Kerry P. Eagan, Utah State Bar member, Chief Administrative Officer of Lancaster County, Nebraska.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read with interest President Brown's message about "Access to Justice Issues." I noted that there is a plan to take \$60,000 in "seed money" from the Bar and another \$30,000 from United Way "to retain consultants to evaluate the mechanism and logistics of a central intake unit"

Rather than give the money to "consultants," why not use it to *pay* for pro bono legal services? That is one sure way to make those services available, and the program would be easy to administer. The Bar Commission could simply "fix" fees for certain types of pro bono services and publish the schedule of fees in the *Bar Journal*.

I have a feeling that it would be easier to get attorneys to provide pro bono services if they knew they were getting something. If there were no takers, nothing would be lost in trying.

I am sure that \$90,000 would not come close to eliminating the need for pro bono services, but it wouldn't hurt. And it might actually set an example that would encourage other contributors, me included. I would much rather see that money go to some hard-working lawyer who is helping a pro bono client than some "consultant" who does nothing to actually deliver pro bono services.

Donald L. Dalton

Letter to the President

Editor's Note: Bar President Charles R. Brown asked the Bar Journal to print the following letter on this important topic, along with his response.

Dear President Brown,

On September 24, 1999, the Utah State Bar Commission met in Ogden, Utah at [a] regularly scheduled meeting, and by a vote of 7 to 4, committed the over six thousand members of the Utah Bar Association to financing legal services for the poor and indigent out of our bar dues. To be fair to the Commission, the vote specifically authorizes a \$60,000.00 appropriation to be used to set up a body or organization, independent of the bar association to screen potential pro bono litigants and refer them to indigent legal services agencies. However, it is clear that the philosophy of many of the commissioners is such that they fully intend to commit the Utah Bar Association to funding indigent legal services from bar dues now, and in the future.

In our view, this decision is unfortunate. Little or no attempt was ever made by the Bar Commission to canvass or survey the members of the association and ask for input over such an important move. This action demonstrates that some bar commissioners have become too far removed from the day-to-day realities that the average lawyer and member of the association face. At best, such an action took place out of ignorance. At

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