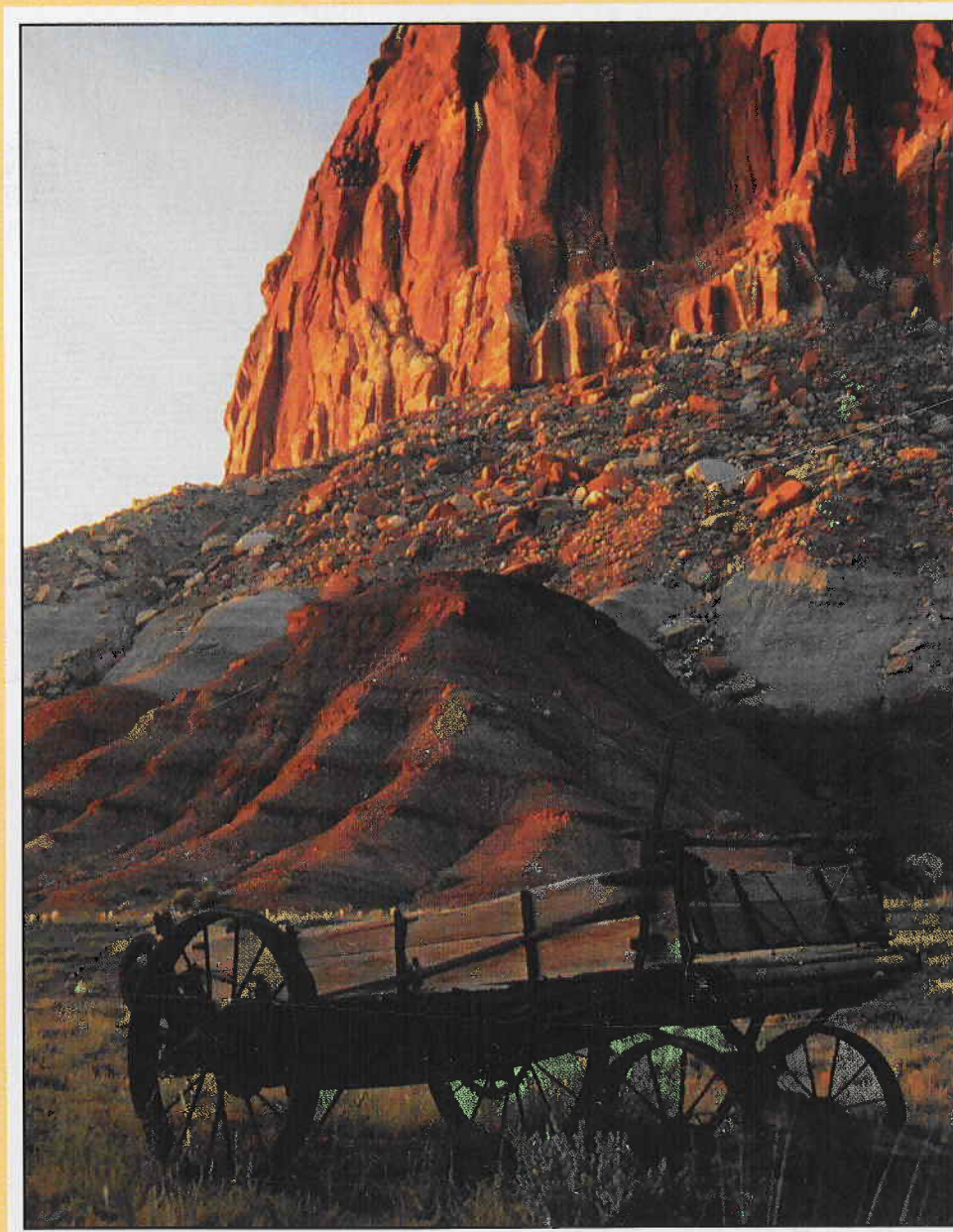


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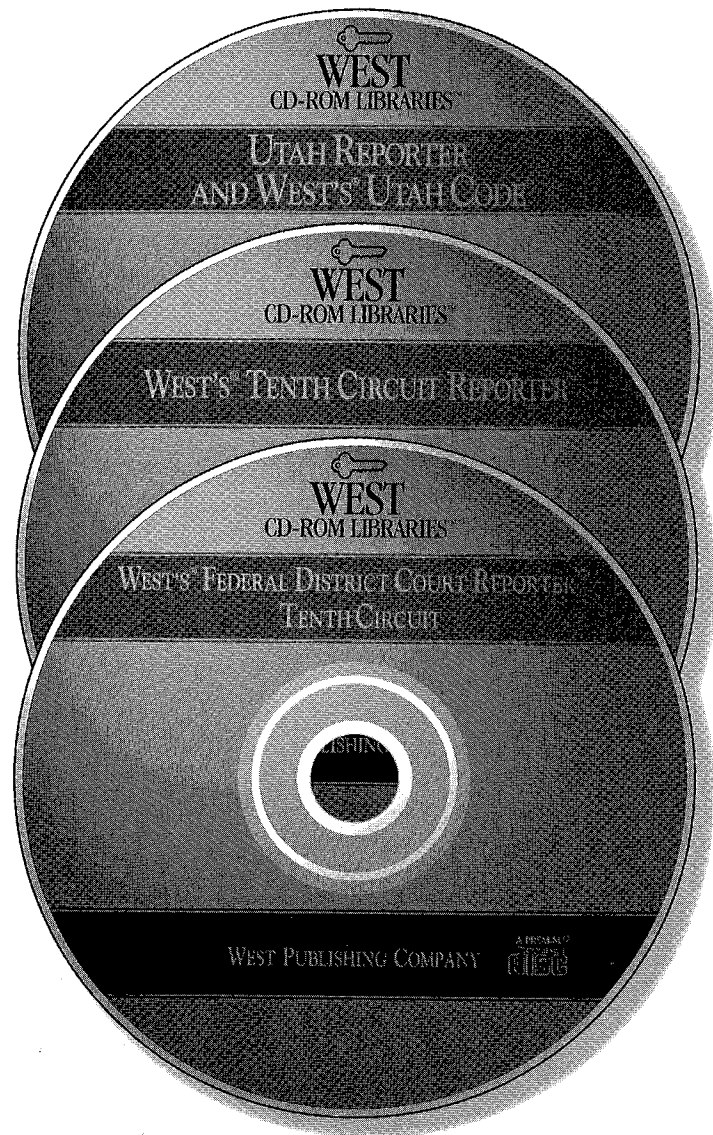
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MISSION OF THE BAR: To represent lawyers in the State of Utah and to serve the public and the legal profession by promoting justice, professional excellence, civility, ethics, respect for and understanding of, the law.

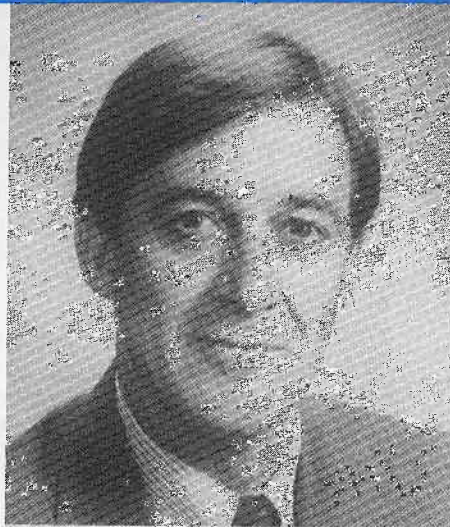
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COVER: Farm implement displayed in the orchards of Fruita, Capitol Reef National Park, by Kent M. Barry, Esq., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members of the Utah Bar who are interested in having photographs they have taken of Utah scenes published on the cover of the *Utah Bar Journal* should contact Randall L. Romrell, 2523 Arnett Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84109, 278-8084. Send both the slide, transparency or print of each photograph you want to be considered.

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President's Message

By Dennis V. Haslam

As the Bar's fiscal year draws to a close, I want to report to you some of the more significant activities undertaken by the Bar Commission and Bar staff over the last year. This summary is not in any particular order of importance for, as you know, all Bar matters are important.

• **Youth Education Project.** In conjunction with the Bar's Speaker's bureau, the Law Day Committee, Law Related Education Committee and the Young Lawyers Division, the Bar Commission launched a project this past year for the purpose of educating our youth about the role of law in society. We have arranged for distribution through the state's high schools of a booklet published in conjunction with Utah Children entitled *Rights Responsibilities Relationships, Your Rights as a Young Person in Utah*. Over 56% of the high schools in the state have participated in this program by having lawyers teach law related classes in our schools. Lawyers bolster the image of the profession by engaging in programs that serve the public interest. This is one of those programs.

• **Access to Justice Task Force.** The Bar Commission has filed a petition with the Utah Supreme Court requesting the court to authorize the creation of an Access to

Justice Task Force. As you know, funding for Legal Services Corporation has been drastically reduced by Congress, and many low income citizens in the state of Utah may go without legal services. Delivery of legal services to the poor has become a crisis in our state and throughout the country. The Board of Bar Commissioners has requested the Supreme Court to authorize the creation of the task force to evaluate the delivery of legal services to the poor and coordinate funding and volunteer efforts. Over 1,000 lawyers have offered their services to our pro bono effort. We need to match those lawyers with the clients who need them.

• **Unauthorized Practice of Law.** The Bar has been successful in prosecuting unauthorized practice of law cases during this past year. Those persons engaging in unauthorized practice pose a serious threat to the public and especially to those innocent clients who are duped into paying for legal services to a person unqualified to provide them. We will maintain a vigilant eye on unauthorized activities and pursue those cases where necessary.

• **Office of Attorney Discipline.** Last year, the Commission received a report containing an evaluation of the Office of Attorney Discipline. During this past year, the Commission hired Stephen Cochell as Chief

Disciplinary Counsel. Under the leadership of Executive Director John Baldwin and Steve Cochell, the Commission has begun implementation of the recommendation from that report. Additionally, the Bar Commission has emphasized the need for the Office of Attorney Discipline to focus early on the serious cases, and go to trial whenever necessary. We must insure that the public is protected from attorneys who engage in unethical conduct. During this past year, the Office of Attorney Discipline has gone to trial on two very serious cases and obtained suspensions or disbarment. Chief Disciplinary Counsel will continue to vigorously pursue those lawyers who steal from their clients and who engage in fraudulent and unethical activities.

• **Legal Assistant's Division.** The Supreme Court has authorized the creation of a division of the Bar for voluntary membership by legal assistants. We believe there are over 300 legal assistants working in the state of Utah who would be interested in joining this division. It will create more cohesion in the profession, improve the quality of services provided to clients and insure that ethical standards are maintained.

• **Continuing Legal Education.** The Bar Commission and staff have sought to improve the quantity and quality of contin-

