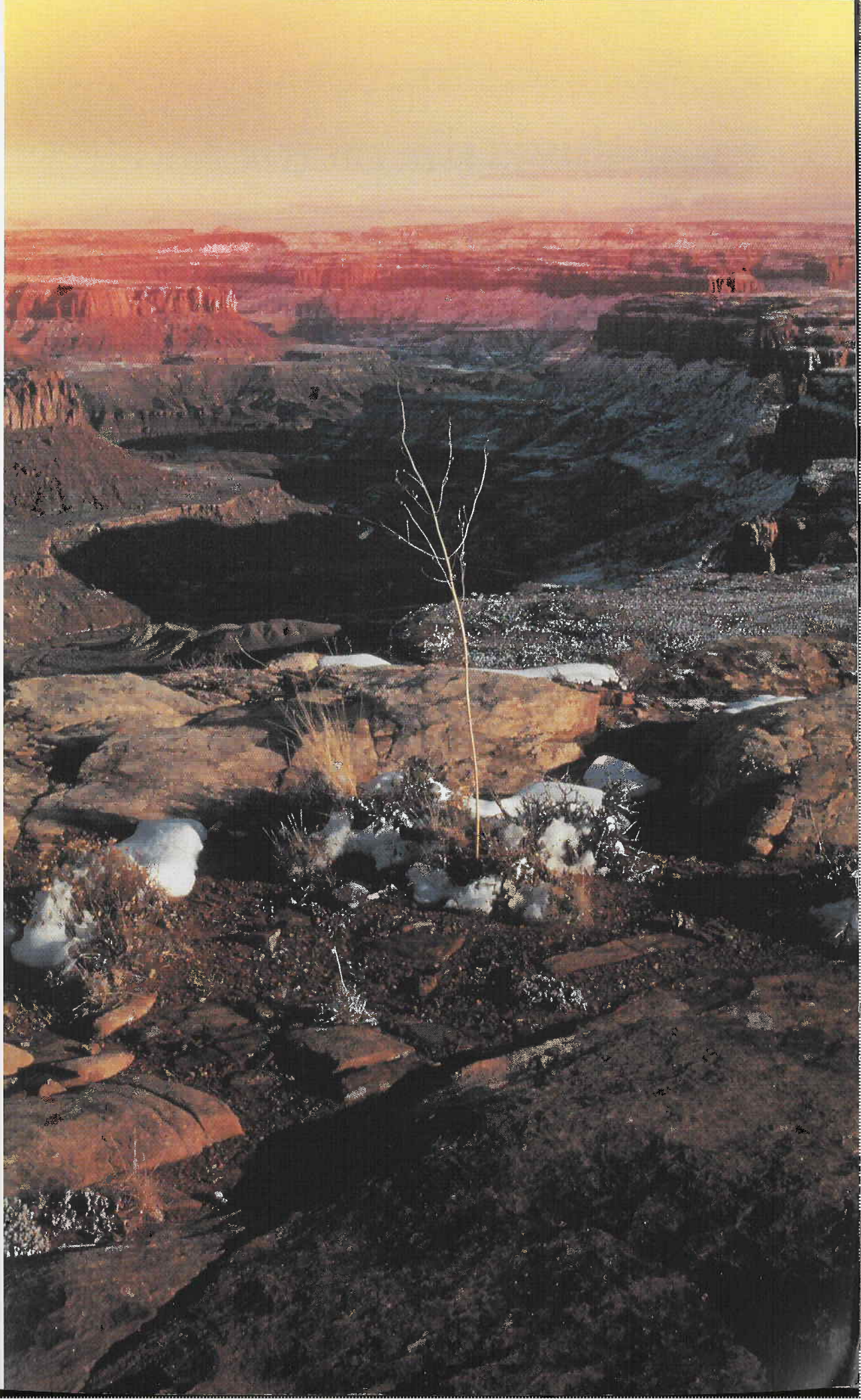


Utah Bar JOURNAL

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Table of Contents

Letter to the Editor	4
The President's Message: The Future of Our Profession: The Impact of MDPs and E-Commerce by Charles R. Brown	7
The Fallacy of Using Screens, Walls, Cones of Silence, and Other Methods to Avoid Conflicts of Interest by Charles A. Gruber	10
Succession Planning: Crucial Preventive Medicine by Steven G. Johnson	14
When Can I Retire? by Lawrence R. Barusch	17
State Bar News	22
Case Summaries	30
Utah Bar Foundation	40
Legal Assistants Division	41
CLE Calendar	44
Classified Ads	46

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: Overlooking Dirty David River from Burr Point (near Hanksville, Utah) by Kent M. Barry, Assistant Attorney General, Child Protective Division, Provo, Utah.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

At the last Bar Commission meeting, two members of the task force charged with examining election of Bar Commissioners and the President reported to the Commission. The task force mentioned that they would also recommend abolishment of the *ex officio* members and one of the public members of the Commission, because the Commission is "unwieldy." This recommendation came as a complete surprise to Women Lawyers of Utah (WLU), one of nine *ex officio* members.

WLU believes that the Commission should not adopt this recommendation, made without input from the affected groups or public comment.

Women comprise less than 20% of the Bar, and still confront discrimination and difficult choices not faced by others. Moreover, while a few individual women have won election to the Commission, as a group women remain under-represented at the top of the profession. Having even a non-voting seat on the Commission provides an opportunity to listen and be heard that would not otherwise exist.

WLU understands that Bar President Charles Brown will recom-

mend that the Minority Bar and the Young Lawyers Division maintain their *ex officio* seats, with other *ex officio* members placed on an "advisory committee." WLU believes the Commission should reject this proposal as well.

An "advisory committee" without official status as a Commission Member cannot bring the meaningful interaction that comes with *ex officio* membership. Members of the Bar are welcome to sit in on Bar Commission meetings; relegating the *ex officio* members to an advisory committee would give them nothing more than all members of the Bar already have.

The Bar created *ex officio* memberships to ensure that groups traditionally under-represented in the power structure of the Bar be included in the deliberative process. That decision should not be reversed without appropriate input and thoughtful deliberation, and for a better reason than the size of the commission.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors
Women Lawyers of Utah

The Utah Bar Journal

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2. No one person shall have more than one letter to the editor published every six months.
3. All letters submitted for publication shall be addressed to Editor, *Utah Bar Journal* and shall be delivered to the office of the Utah State Bar at least six weeks prior to publication.
4. Letters shall be published in the order in which they are received for each publication period, except that priority shall be given to the publication of letters which reflect contrasting or opposing viewpoints on the same subject.
5. No letter shall be published which (a) contains defamatory or obscene material, (b) violates the Rules of Professional Conduct, or (c) otherwise may subject the Utah State Bar, the Board of Bar Commissioners or any employee of the Utah State Bar to civil or criminal liability.
6. No letter shall be published which advocates or opposes a particular candidacy for a political or judicial office or which contains a solicitation or advertisement for a commercial or business purpose.
7. Except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the acceptance for publication of letters to the Editor shall be made without regard to the identity of the author. Letters accepted for publication shall not be edited or condensed by the Utah State Bar, other than as may be necessary to meet these guidelines.
8. The Editor, or his or her designee, shall promptly notify the author of each letter if and when a letter is rejected.

Cover Art

Members of the Utah State Bar who are interested in having their photographs of Utah scenes published on the cover of the *Utah Bar Journal* should contact Randall L. Romrell, Esq, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah, 2890 East Cottonwood Parkway, Mail Stop E70, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121, (801) 333-5691. Send a print, transparency, or slide of each scene you want to be considered. If you would like your photograph returned, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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