

# Law Related Education

## Scott Matheson Award Todd Olsen



Todd M. Olsen, an attorney with the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, has been named the Scott M. Matheson Award Winner. The award was created in 1991 by the Law-Related Education and Law Day Committee of the Utah State Bar. It commemorates Matheson's contribution to law-related education in the State of Utah by recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to law-related education for youth in the State of Utah.

Olsen received his J.D. from the S. J. Quinney College of Law in 2006. He has worked in the Salt Lake County District Attorney's office for over ten years. Having prosecuted cases from speeding to homicide, he is most proud of his work in the Drug Court program, helping individuals overcome their addictions and get their lives back.

Before he was a prosecutor, Todd defended parents who were at risk of losing their parental rights in child welfare cases filed by the Division of Child and Family Services. He is a firm believer in the power of the law to do good and has found a career path that allows him to do so every day. Todd has judged mock trials for over twelve years and has had many memorable experiences with the students. He will never forget one of those experiences when he was judging a junior high school mock trial.

"On cross-examination, a very nervous young attorney approached the lectern but could barely see over it. I watched him clutch his notes with shaking hands and hesitantly start questioning the witness," Olsen said. "An unexpected objection was made, and I could see that it had caught him completely off guard. He stood there in silence, looking so uncomfortable that I was worried he was going to pass out.

"Suddenly he came alive. He responded to the objection and resumed questioning the witness with increasing confidence. By the time he was finished, he looked as though he had been doing this for years."

Olsen says that's one reason he loves the mock trial program. It helps the young people grow, he says. Olsen judges multiple trials every year and has greatly contributed to law-related education in Utah