

# 2018 Law Day Comment

*By Rep. Brian King*

Our government, based on checks and balances, can sometimes create a system that is argumentative and combative. It often seems that political discussions, especially at the federal level, are marred by conflict between political parties, government agencies, and the three branches of our government. However, the qualities that make most people dislike politics are often the same qualities that ensure our government functions well. In my role as House Minority Leader, I play an important part in providing opposition and alternative views to those that the majority party presents. As with so many things, moderation is key; bringing together extremes on both sides of the aisle often creates the best policy in our state legislature. As the leader of the loyal opposition, I work to bring a voice to those who are otherwise excluded from policy discussions.

The three branches of our government have specific powers and responsibilities. Just as the minority and majority parties provide alternative solutions and represent different perspectives, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches have unique responsibilities that occasionally come into conflict. We saw this recently in the veto override session that the Utah Legislature held on April 18. During this session, the Legislature determined that SB 171 and the associated budget appropriation in HB 3 clarified the governor's role to execute the law while upholding the legislature's role to create law. SB 171 clarified the legislature's ability to intervene in legal actions challenging the constitutionality or validity of legislation passed by the legislature. It is important for the judiciary to hear the full range of arguments associated with different issues. SB 171 ensured that the judiciary will hear additional voices about different perspectives on questions and issues involving the legislature.

In my experience, both as an attorney and as a legislator, access to more information leads to better results. When I am working on a complex issue in my personal practice, it is important that I find all the relevant facts and create the best argument based on this breadth of knowledge. The same is true in my role as a legislator. Public policy relies on clear evidence and robust discussion as well as a desire to work towards a better future. When all branches of government are working towards this goal, it benefits Utahns now and in future generations.