

Hon. John Baxter



Judge of the Year

Judge John Baxter has served in the Salt Lake City Justice Court since July 2002. He founded and presides over Veterans' Court and Salt Lake City's Homeless Court.

He chaired the Utah Judicial Council's Standing Committee on Access to Resources for Self-Represented Parties for nine years. He has served on the Utah Supreme Court's Committee on Privacy and Public Access to Records, the Advisory Committee on Professionalism, the Standing Committee on Judicial Outreach, and the Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure. He serves on the Utah State Bar New Lawyer Training Program Committee and is a member of the Salt Lake County Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC).

Judge Baxter has received the 2019 Justice Court Service Award, the 2017 Jimi Mitsunaga Excellence in Criminal Law or Pro Bono Award from the Utah Minority Bar Association, and the Above and Beyond the Call Award from the Department of Veteran's Affairs Salt Lake City Health Care System.

He is a member of the Utah State Bar and the State Bar of California. Judge Baxter's legal practice included public defense of parents in dependency cases in Utah's Juvenile Courts and as a trial attorney with the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association. He served in the United States Marine Corps and deployed to the Republic of Viet Nam. Most importantly, he has been married to the remarkable Alexa for 45 years.

UTAH STATE BAR®

2019 Summer Convention Awards