

Patricia W. Christensen

Lifetime Service Award

After more than four decades as a litigator, director and past president of Parr Brown Gee & Loveless, Patricia Christensen is excited to be serving *Of Counsel* to the firm, and transitioning from the full-time practice of law to full-time community volunteer and public policy work, working with the Utah Citizens' Counsel to help identify, analyze and articulate the challenges facing our state and its people, and collaborating with community leaders to craft solutions for a brighter tomorrow, in which the rights and dignity of every human being are respected and protected.

This new chapter comes on the heels of more than forty years of service to the legal profession, beginning in the 1970s with service to the Utah State Bar on the Legal Specialization Committee (1979–1982), as a Bar Examiner (1982–1985), on the Legislative Affairs Committee (1988–1989), the Ethics Advisory Opinion Committee (1986–1992), the Annual Meeting Committee (1992–1993), the Courts & Judges Committee (1993–1996), the Litigation Section Advisory Committee (1995–1997), as a Senior Advisor to the Office of Professional Conduct (2010–2015), and as a Mentor in the New Lawyer Training Program (2009–Present).

She was also a founding member of Women Lawyers of Utah in 1982, has served on its Executive Committee, off and on, since 1987, served as President (1988–1989), as Chair of the Committee to Implement Recommendations of the Gender and Justice Task Force Report (1989–1993), as Chair of the Judicial Appointments Committee (1986–1988, 2008–2009), on the Advisory Board for the Initiative on Advancement and Retention of Women Lawyers (2007–Present), on the Historian's Committee (2015–Present), and as Senior Advisor to the Board (2012–Present).

She also served as a Judge *Pro Tem* for the Third District Small Claims Court from the time it was created until it was phased out upon creation of the Justice Court, as a volunteer attorney Guardian *Ad Litem* for the Third District Court, on the Salt Lake County Bar Executive Committee (1979–1987), on the Board of Utah Legal Services (1981–1983), on the Board of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, with the Utah Volunteer Lawyer Project (1980–1996), as a Master of the Bench with the American Inns of Court – Sutherland Inn II (1992–1996), and as an arbitrator and mediator of product liability claims with the Private Adjudication Center at Duke University (1992–2003).

From 1993 to 2018, Pat served as Parr Brown's Liaison to *Meritas* Law Firms Worldwide, the largest organization of independent full-service commercial law firms in the world, and served on the *Meritas* Board of Directors from 1997–2001, as Chair of its U. S. Litigation Section (1995–1999), as founder and Chair of its U.S. Western Region (1994–2000), on the Presidential Search Committee (2005–2006) and as Chair of Section and Industry Group Leaders (2004–2008).

Her community activities have included service on the Board of Rowland Hall – St. Mark's School (1987–1993), the Community Development Board for the University of Utah College of Nursing (1990–1998), as Co-Chair of the University of Utah College of Nursing's Comprehensive Capital Campaign (1994–1996), the Board and Executive Committee of the National Society to Prevent Blindness-Utah Affiliate (1985–1990), the Board and Executive Committee of *IVUmed* (2004–2019), the Board and Executive Committee of the Educational Resource Development Council at the University of Utah (2006–Present), the Executive Committee of the Utah Women's Forum (2009–2011) and as its President (2010–2011), as Legal Advisor to the Women President's Organization, Utah Chapter (2005–2016), on the Friends Committee for the National Association of Women Judges (2016), on the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church (1987–2013), and as its Chair from 2008–2012.

A social justice advocate since she was a teenager, Pat is also a Life Member of the NAACP, and a sustaining member of the ACLU, Voices for Utah Children, Planned Parenthood, YWCA – Utah, The Women's Giving Circle, 100 Women Who Care, and a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

She has been honored with Utah's Woman Lawyer of the Year Award (1992), as the Dorathy Merrill Brothers Award Recipient (1996), the Women Lawyers of Utah Mentoring Award (2011), the Federal Bar Association's Distinguished Service Award (2016), the Utah State Bar's Charlotte L. Miller Mentoring Award (2017), and YWCA-Utah's Outstanding Achievement Award in Law (2018).

She is a widow with two grown sons, who just welcomed her first grandchild, and has never been happier in her life.



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