FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UTAH STATE BAR STATEMENT ON JUDICIARY SELECTION AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY SJR 8

The Utah State Bar fully supports Utah’s current merit system as the best way to select a competent, independent judiciary. This system allows the governor to choose from a pool of highly qualified lawyers who go through an intensive review process, followed by Senate confirmation. States that have adopted the direct election process for judges have experienced a multitude of unintended consequences. Governor Herbert and his predecessors, regardless of political party, have done an excellent job in submitting qualified names for confirmation. Judges stand for retention on a regular basis, giving the public an opportunity to remove underperforming judges. The Bar feels an independent, impartial, and apolitical judiciary is a key component in good government. The current system of judicial selection has served Utah well in creating a highly respected judicial system for Utah’s residents.

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