



# Utah State Bar®

645 South 200 East, Suite 310 • Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-3834

Telephone: 801-531-9077 • Fax: 801-531-0660

<http://www.utahbar.org>

March 26, 2020

**John C. Baldwin**  
Executive Director

**Board of Bar Commissioners**

**Herm Olsen**  
President  
Hillyard Anderson & Olsen  
Logan

**Heather M. Farnsworth**  
President-elect  
Match & Farnsworth  
Salt Lake City

**John W. Bradley**  
Utah Attorney General's Office  
Ogden

**Steven R. Burt, AIA**  
Public Member  
Entelen Design Build  
Salt Lake City

**Mary Kay Griffin, CPA**  
Public Member  
Mayer Hoffman McCann  
Salt Lake City

**Chrystal Mancuso-Smith**  
Pia Anderson Moss Hoyt  
Salt Lake City

**Marty E. Moore**  
Peck Hadfield Baxter & Moore  
Logan

**Mark O. Morris**  
Snell & Wilmer  
Salt Lake City

**Mark W. Pugsley**  
Ray Quinney & Nebeker  
Salt Lake City

**Michelle Quist**  
Kunzler Bean & Adamson  
Salt Lake City

**Thomas W. Seiler**  
Robinson Seiler Anderson & Fife  
Provo

**Cara M. Tangaro**  
Tangaro Law Firm  
Salt Lake City

**Heather L. Thuet**  
Christensen & Jensen  
Salt Lake City

**Kristin K. Woods**  
Attorney at Law  
St. George

**Governor Gary R. Herbert**  
350 N. State Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 142220  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

Dear Governor Herbert,

I am writing as President of the Utah State Bar. It is my privilege to represent the 12,000 lawyers licensed to practice law in Utah who are working tirelessly to provide critical legal services during this national health emergency. From advising families confronting child support or custody, housing, or employment challenges; to individuals who may be ill with critical estate planning needs; to families trying to carry out health care directives of loved ones; to businesses and financial institutions dealing with the economic impacts on owners, employees, and customers; to adults or children threatened by domestic violence; to people involved in our criminal and civil court systems, Utah's lawyers help our citizens as they address unexpected challenges and solve problems surfacing only in the wake of the spread of the coronavirus.

As you well know, state and local jurisdictions are now promulgating orders designed to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect their residents and vulnerable populations. Governors in numerous states, and city and county officials across the country, have already issued executive orders requiring residents to stay at home and, if residents must leave, to stay at least six feet from others. These directives include exemptions that allow "essential services" to continue operations in support of critical infrastructure sectors in their geographic regions. State and local leaders have also used their discretion to define who is included in their essential workforces. Many orders include professional or legal services as essential services in their directives. If you recommend a statewide "stay at home" order, I ask you to include legal services in any definition of "essential services" contained in that order.

Our citizens and the business community must have access to the legal services they need, when they need them most, in this time of crisis. And it is also critical that "legal services" not be defined as just "legally mandated" legal services. This limitation would have a severe impact on Utah's lawyers' ability to practice. There are many who are in very small firms or who are sole practitioners who do not have sufficient remote technology set up at home.

Prohibiting access to their offices would drastically impair their ability to serve their clients on critical needs including, and certainly not limited to, those mentioned above. There are also many smaller legal offices in remote areas of the state with even fewer technological resources who are more likely serving people of very unique needs and meager means whose access to justice may be even more limited now.

I appreciate the difficult decisions you are making to protect our citizens. Thank you for your leadership during this pandemic and for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Herm Olsen".

Herm Olsen  
President